

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

An Act To Fund Community Health Centers

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1546-A is enacted to read:

§ 1546-A. Tobacco Tax Fund for Community Health

1. Tobacco Tax Fund for Community Health established. The Tobacco Tax Fund for Community Health, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established to address the urgent need to fund community health centers of the State as defined in section 2053, subsection 2-B. Expenditures from the fund must be made as provided in this section.

2. Transfers to fund. Beginning November 1, 2008, the State Controller shall transfer to the fund 1% of the tax levied under Title 36, section 4365.

3. Use of the fund. All money transferred to the fund by the State Controller must be used for community health centers as authorized by the Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority under chapter 413.

Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §4365, as amended by PL 2005, c. 457, Pt. AA, §1 and affected by §8, is further amended to read:

§ 4365. Rate of tax

A tax is imposed on all cigarettes imported into this State or held in this State by any person for sale at the rate of 100 mills for each cigarette. Payment of the tax is evidenced by the affixing of stamps to the packages containing the cigarettes. Beginning November 1, 2008, as a public health measure, 1% of the tax imposed under this section is dedicated to the Tobacco Tax Fund for Community Health established in Title 22, section 1546-A.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes the Tobacco Tax Fund for Community Health by dedicating 1% of the cigarette tax to help community health centers in this State.