**An Act to Amend the Law Governing the State Grant Program Administered by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission**

**STATE OF MAINE**

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**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD**

**Two Thousand Twenty-three**

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**H.P. 19 - L.D. 15**

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

**Sec.** **1. 27 MRSA §505, sub-§2, ¶D,** as enacted by PL 1983, c. 585, §2, is amended to read:

D. The director may administer a program of state financed grants for the ~~stabilization~~ preservation and restoration of ~~unique~~ historic ~~structures~~ properties consistent with the following conditions.

(1) An applicant for a grant must be either a governmental or a nonprofit organization.

(2) The historic ~~structure which~~ property that is the subject of the grant application must be listed on the National Register of Historic Places as ~~provided~~ authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 or have been nominated to the register by the commission.

(3) An applicant must provide assurance that public access to the ~~structure~~ historic property will be reasonably provided with respect to admission fees, visitation hours and physical accessibility, while maintaining the ~~historical~~ historic integrity of the ~~structure~~ historic property.

(4) Applications must address, to the satisfaction of the commission, the applicant's organizational and financial capacity to provide long-term maintenance of ~~that structure which~~ the historic property that is the subject of the application.

(5) Grants ~~shall~~ may not exceed 50% of the total expense of the proposed project, except that grants to ~~this~~ the State may be 100% of the total expense of the proposed project.

(6) All grants ~~shall be~~ are subject to final approval~~,~~ by the commission.

(7) Prior to final approval, the commission may require the applicant to execute a covenant to secure continued public access to and maintenance of the historic integrity of the ~~structure, and a right of first refusal for the State~~ historic property.

With respect to the quality of work to be performed through this grant program, the commission and the director ~~shall~~ must be guided by the United States Secretary of the Interior's Standards for ~~Rehabilitation~~ the Treatment of Historic Properties.