



# 126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

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Legislative Document

No. 413

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H.P. 289

House of Representatives, February 12, 2013

### An Act To Expand Eligible Project Costs in Development Districts

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Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative GATTINE of Westbrook.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, VILLA of Harrison, Senator:  
HASKELL of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §5225, sub-§1, ¶C**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2011, c.  
3 675, §3, is amended to read:

4 C. Costs related to economic development, environmental improvements, fisheries  
5 and wildlife or marine resources projects, recreational trails or employment training  
6 within the municipality or plantation, including, but not limited to:

7 (1) Costs of funding economic development programs or events developed by  
8 the municipality or plantation or funding the marketing of the municipality or  
9 plantation as a business or arts location;

10 (2) Costs of funding environmental improvement projects developed by the  
11 municipality or plantation for commercial or arts district use or related to such  
12 activities;

13 (3) Funding to establish permanent economic development revolving loan funds  
14 or investment funds;

15 (4) Costs of services to provide skills development and training for residents of  
16 the municipality or plantation. These costs may not exceed 20% of the total  
17 project costs and must be designated as training funds in the development  
18 program;

19 (5) Quality child care costs, including finance costs and construction, staffing,  
20 training, certification and accreditation costs related to child care;

21 (6) Costs associated with new or existing recreational trails determined by the  
22 department to have significant potential to promote economic development,  
23 including, but not limited to, costs for multiple projects and project phases that  
24 may include planning, design, construction, maintenance, grooming and  
25 improvements with respect to new or existing recreational trails, which may  
26 include bridges that are part of the trail corridor, used all or in part for all-terrain  
27 vehicles, snowmobiles, hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing or other related  
28 multiple uses;

29 (7) Costs associated with a new or expanded transit service, limited to:

30 (a) Transit service capital costs, including but not limited to: transit vehicles  
31 such as buses, ferries, vans, rail conveyances and related equipment; bus  
32 shelters and other transit-related structures; and benches, signs and other  
33 transit-related infrastructure; and

34 (b) In the case of transit-oriented development districts, ongoing costs of  
35 adding to an existing transit system or creating a new transit service and  
36 limited strictly to transit operator salaries, transit vehicle fuel and transit  
37 vehicle parts replacements; and

38 (8) Costs associated with the development of fisheries and wildlife or marine  
39 resources projects; ~~and~~

1 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §5225, sub-§1, ¶D**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 101, §15, is  
2 further amended to read:

3 D. Costs of constructing or improving facilities or buildings leased by State  
4 Government or a municipal or plantation government that are located in approved  
5 downtown tax increment financing districts; and

6 **Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §5225, sub-§1, ¶E** is enacted to read:

7 E. Costs of projects jointly approved by more than one municipality pursuant to an  
8 interlocal agreement under chapter 115.

9 **Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §5225, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 669, §1, is  
10 amended to read:

11 **2. Unauthorized project costs.** Except as provided in subsection 1, ~~paragraph~~  
12 paragraphs D and E, the commissioner may not approve as a project cost the cost of  
13 facilities, buildings or portions of buildings used predominantly for the general conduct  
14 of government or for public recreational purposes, including, but not limited to, city halls  
15 and other headquarters of government where the governing body meets regularly,  
16 courthouses, jails, police stations and other state and local government office buildings,  
17 recreation centers, athletic fields and swimming pools.

## 18 SUMMARY

19 This bill permits tax increment financing funds to be used to fund projects approved  
20 by more than one municipality under an interlocal agreement.