



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

Legislative Document

No. 2026

H.P. 1356

House of Representatives, December 5, 2025

An Act Regarding Distributions from the Stipend Fund for Agricultural Fair Competitions and Events

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 3, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative PLUECKER of Warren.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, current law prohibits a distribution of funds from the Stipend Fund that takes into account prizes offered and paid by a licensee at an agricultural fair competition or event held other than during the period in which the fair is held; and

Whereas, changing the law to allow distributions from the fund to apply to fair competitions and events that occur during a 24-hour window prior to the period in which the fair is held would allow judges of fair competitions and events to volunteer in other capacities during the period in which the fair is held; and

Whereas, this change needs to take effect as soon as possible to ensure that it will apply to the upcoming fair season; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §86, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2025, c. 161, §3, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

In determining distribution under this subsection, an allowance may not be made on premiums offered and paid by a licensee at any competition or event held other than during the period in which its annual fair is held judged up to 24 hours prior to the licensed fair dates or during the licensed fair dates. Allowance may not be made or consideration given for lump sums, payments or premiums previously arranged and agreed upon for the presentation and display of any animals or products without regard to competition or event.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

This bill amends the law governing the distribution of funds from the Stipend Fund to agricultural fair licensees by allowing prizes paid for a competition or event judged up to 24 hours prior to the licensed fair dates to be considered in calculating the distribution.