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LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1017, L.D. 1478, Bill, “An Act To Provide Support for Sustainable Economic Development in Rural Maine”

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

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

Whereas, investing in the rehabilitation and revitalization of nonproductive industrial and manufacturing sites will provide an economic boost to rural communities that have experienced severe economic decline and employment loss; and

Whereas, delaying the effective date of this bill will unnecessarily prolong the economic challenges faced by these rural communities; 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,'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13120-P, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Other use of program funds. The authority may use funds available for the program established in this section:

A. To implement the program established in this section; and

B. To provide technical assistance, planning grants and implementation grants to municipalities and other entities eligible for assistance under section 13120-R.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §§13120-R and 13120-S are enacted to read:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 **§13120-R. Rural Manufacturing and Industrial Site Redevelopment Program**

2 **1. Establishment; purpose.** The Rural Manufacturing and Industrial Site
3 Redevelopment Program is established within the authority to provide technical
4 assistance, planning grants and implementation grants for the rehabilitation, revitalization
5 and marketing of manufacturing and industrial sites in rural communities.

6 **2. Technical assistance and planning grants.** The authority may provide technical
7 assistance and grants for redevelopment and marketing of a nonproductive industrial or
8 manufacturing site to a municipality or the owner of the nonproductive industrial or
9 manufacturing site. In awarding grants and providing technical assistance under this
10 subsection, the authority shall give preference to nonproductive industrial or
11 manufacturing sites located in communities that have experienced severe economic
12 decline and employment loss due to the nonproductive nature of the site and insufficient
13 technical or planning personnel or resources.

14 A. The authority shall work collaboratively with other state agencies and regional
15 economic development organizations to provide technical assistance under this
16 subsection.

17 B. A municipality that receives technical assistance or a planning grant under this
18 subsection shall form a committee, whose membership includes but is not limited to
19 local residents and the owner of the nonproductive industrial or manufacturing site, to
20 provide advice regarding the redevelopment of the site.

21 C. If the authority is unable to provide technical assistance to a municipality or the
22 owner of a nonproductive industrial or manufacturing site that is qualified for
23 technical assistance under this subsection, as determined by rule, the authority may
24 provide a planning grant to the municipality or the owner of the nonproductive
25 industrial or manufacturing site.

26 D. The authority shall adopt rules related to the implementation of this subsection,
27 including rules regarding the application process and eligibility of applicants for
28 technical assistance and planning grants. Rules adopted under this paragraph are
29 routine technical rules pursuant to chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

30 **3. Implementation grants; rules.** The authority may provide grants for
31 implementing a project for the redevelopment and marketing of a nonproductive
32 industrial or manufacturing site located in a rural community that has experienced severe
33 economic decline and employment loss due to the nonproductive nature of the site. An
34 applicant for a grant must demonstrate the capacity to undertake the project with a
35 reasonable prospect of bringing it to successful completion.

36 The authority shall adopt rules, which are routine technical rules pursuant to chapter 375,
37 subchapter 2-A, related to the implementation of this subsection, including rules
38 regarding:

39 A. The application process for implementation grants; and

40 B. The criteria and scoring system for awarding implementation grants. The scoring
41 system must include, but is not limited to, an evaluation of the plan for redeveloping
42 and marketing the nonproductive industrial or manufacturing site, community support

1 for the project and consistency with any applicable regional economic development
2 plan.

3 **§13120-S. Inventory of nonproductive industrial or manufacturing sites**

4 By January 1, 2018 and annually thereafter, the authority, in consultation with the
5 Office of Business Development within the department, shall make or require an
6 inventory to be made of all nonproductive industrial or manufacturing sites in the State
7 that are available for redevelopment.

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

10 **SUMMARY**

11 This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft, and adds an emergency
12 preamble and an emergency clause. The amendment establishes the Rural Manufacturing
13 and Industrial Site Redevelopment Program within the Maine Rural Development
14 Authority to provide technical assistance, planning grants and implementation grants for
15 the redevelopment and marketing of nonproductive industrial or manufacturing sites in
16 rural communities. The authority may use funds from the Commercial Facilities
17 Development Program established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 13120-
18 P to fund the activities of the Rural Manufacturing and Industrial Site Redevelopment
19 Program.

20 The amendment also requires the authority, in consultation with the Department of
21 Economic and Community Development, Office of Business Development, to conduct an
22 inventory of all nonproductive manufacturing and industrial sites in the State that may be
23 eligible for assistance.

24 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

25 **(See attached)**