

STATE OF MAINE

—  
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

—  
S.P. 660 - L.D. 1861

**An Act To Establish the Safe Homes Program**

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

**Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §150-R** is enacted to read:

**§150-R. Safe Homes Awareness Month**

The month of September of each year is designated as Safe Homes Awareness Month and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation to raise awareness among the people of the State of the importance of safety in the home and of the existence of and assistance that is available from the Safe Homes Program established in Title 25, section 7001.

**Sec. 2. 25 MRSA Pt. 15** is enacted to read:

**PART 15**

**SAFE HOMES**

**CHAPTER 801**

**SAFE HOMES PROGRAM**

**§7001. Safe Homes Program**

**1. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Dangerous weapon" has the same meaning as in Title 17-A, section 2, subsection 9, paragraph C.

B. "Department" means the Department of Public Safety.

C. "Designated groups" means law enforcement agencies and associations, public schools, public preschool programs, foster homes, hospitals or other facilities in which newborns are delivered, veterans' programs and members of the public.

D. "Firearm" has the same meaning as in Title 17-A, section 2, subsection 12-A.

E. "Foster home" means a family foster home as defined in Title 22, section 8101, subsection 3.

F. "Prescription drug" has the same meaning as in Title 22, section 8731, subsection 3-A.

G. "Public preschool program" has the same meaning as in Title 20-A, section 1, subsection 23-A.

H. "Public school" has the same meaning as in Title 20-A, section 1, subsection 24.

I. "Safety device" means a device designed to secure a firearm, a dangerous weapon or prescription drugs, including but not limited to a firearms safety device, safe, lock or lockbox designed for securing firearms, dangerous weapons or prescription drugs.

**2. Program established.** The Safe Homes Program is established and is administered by the department to support the safe storage of prescription drugs, firearms and dangerous weapons in homes or public spaces by providing grants for purchasing safety devices in accordance with this section.

**3. Grants.** The Safe Homes Program, established under subsection 2, must provide grants to fund the purchase of safety devices.

A. Grants may be provided under this subsection to designated groups and nonprofit and community organizations serving designated groups.

B. The department shall administer the provision of grants pursuant to this subsection through an agreement with a statewide law enforcement association.

C. The department shall adopt rules to implement this subsection. The rules must include procedures for assisting applicants with the following: the application process; accepting applications; approving and disapproving applications; distributing funding, coupons or vouchers to successful applicants; and expenditures of funds. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**4. Safe Homes Program Fund.** The Safe Homes Program Fund is established as a nonlapsing fund to provide funding to achieve the purposes of this section. The fund consists of any funds received from private and public sources. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year must be carried forward to the next fiscal year. A small portion of the funding may be used by the department to fund administration of the grant program.

**Sec. 3. Report.** By January 1, 2023 the Commissioner of Public Safety shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters on plans for an education program to implement the Safe Homes Program established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, section 7001 and Safe Homes Awareness Month established by Title 1, section 150-R.

**Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Safe Homes Program Fund N949**

Initiative: Establishes the Safe Homes Program Fund to provide grants for purchasing safety devices for the safe storage of prescription drugs, firearms and dangerous weapons in homes or public spaces.

	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>		
All Other	\$0	\$500
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$500</u>
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>		
All Other	\$0	\$500
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$500</u>