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94-457

2021-2022 REGULATORY AGENDA

June 2021

AGENCY UMBRELLA UNIT NUMBER: **94-457**

AGENCY NAME: **Finance Authority of Maine**

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EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA: NONE

EXPECTED FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 RULE-MAKING ACTIVITY:

CHAPTER 307: Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit Program

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 10 M.R.S.A., §969-A(14), 10 MRSA §1100-T

PURPOSE: Amend the procedures, standards, fees, requirements, and criteria for participation in the program. Amendments will also implement legislative changes, if any.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Approval for Rulemaking by FAME Board: October 2021; Adoption Date: December 2021.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Businesses and investors participating in the Program.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: The Authority does not intend to employ consensus-based rule development.

CHAPTER 608: Tuition Waiver Program

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 10 M.R.S.A Chapter 110, including but not limited to §§969-A (14) and 1014, and 20-A MRSA, Sections 12551-12554 & 12571-12573.

PURPOSE: To implement rule changes for the program as a result of recently enacted legislation and to better assist those potentially eligible for Program participation.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Approval for Rulemaking by FAME Board: October 2021; Adoption Date: December 2021

AFFECTED PARTIES: Program participants.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: The Authority does not intend to employ consensus-based rule development.

CHAPTER 610: Rules for the Conduct of Educators for Maine Program

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 10 MRSA § 969-A (14), 20-A MRSA §12501 et seq.

PURPOSE: Amend the procedures, standards, fees, requirements, and criteria for participation in the program. Amendments will also implement legislative changes, if any, and may add a loan repayment component to the program.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Approval for Rulemaking by FAME Board: March 2022; Adoption Date: May 2022.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Program participants.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: The Authority does not intend to employ consensus-based rule development.

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CHAPTER 619: Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Revolving Loan Program

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: P.L. 2019, Ch. 447; 10 M.R.S.A. § 1100-AA

PURPOSE: To make changes needed as a result of recently enacted legislation and to better assist those potentially eligible for Program participation.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Approval for Rulemaking by FAME Board: August 2021; Adoption Date: October 2021.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Program participants.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: The Authority does not intend to employ consensus-based rule development.

CHAPTER 611: Maine Education Savings Program

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 10 M.R.S.A. § 969-A (14), 20-A M.R.S.A. § 11485

PURPOSE: To make changes needed as a result of recently enacted legislation, to implement potential program changes and to better assist those potentially eligible for Program participation.

SCHEDULE FOR ADOPTION: Approval for Rulemaking by FAME Board: January 2022; Adoption Date: March 2022.

AFFECTED PARTIES: Program participants.

CONSENSUS-BASED RULE DEVELOPMENT: The Authority does not intend to employ consensus-based rule development.

Added June 18, 2022

AMENDMENT TO REGULATORY AGENDA

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE

Pursuant to 5 MRSA §8064, the Finance Authority of Maine submits the following amendment to its current Regulatory Agenda:

1. A. **Rule Name:** Chapter 601, Amendment 12: Maine State Grant Program
 - B. **Statutory Basis:** 20-A M.R.S.A. § 11616(2); P.L. 2019, c. 343; P.L. 2019, c. 654
 - C. **Purpose of Rule:** Conforms the governing program rule with statutory changes made by the Legislature with respect to adult learners. The proposed rule defines “adult learner” and extends from ten semesters to twelve semesters the length of time during which an adult learner may avail themselves of the grant. It also makes certain technical changes with respect to punctuation and spacing in the current rule.
 - D. **Proposed Schedule:**

Approval by FAME Board: June 2022

Public Hearing: None proposed

Adoption: August 2022
 - E. **Potential Beneficiaries and Regulated Parties:** Maine’s adult learners wishing to return to higher ed and obtain assistance in paying for it. \$2,500 grants (full-time) or \$1,500 grants (part-time) available to encourage completion of degrees and to help meet workforce needs.
2. A. **Rule Name:** Chapter 618, Amendment 2: Maine Veterinary Medicine Loan Program
 - B. **Statutory Basis:** P.L. 2021, Ch. 725; 20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 12121-12125
 - C. **Purpose of Rule:** To conform the existing rule governing the Maine Veterinary Medicine Loan Program with statutory changes recently made by the Legislature pursuant to LD. 1885, *An Act to Increase Maine's Veterinary Workforce*, now P.L. 2021, ch. 725. The Legislature amended the program to: increase the number of loans that may be awarded (funding permitting) from two per year to eight per year, with overall aggregate program loans increased from eight to thirty-two, but at least half of these (and no fewer than two) must be awarded to livestock veterinary students, unless FAME does not receive enough applications, in which

case it may award remaining loans to other eligible applicants; increase maximum loan amounts from \$25,000 per year to \$35,000 per year; expand program eligibility to veterinarians who practice “emergency and critical care”; and expand program eligibility to veterinarians of any kind who practice in “underserved geographic regions” (priority must be given to Aroostook, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, and Washington Counties).

D. **Proposed Schedule:**

Approval by FAME Board: July 2022

Public Hearing: None proposed

Adoption: September 2022

- E. **Potential Beneficiaries and Regulated Parties:** Veterinary students interested in obtaining help paying for their education and possible loan repayment if subsequently employed in eligible facilities/areas. Also Maine veterinary practices/clinics, as well as large and small-breed animal owners seeking veterinary care in various parts of the state.