

## CHAPTER 24

### ALTERNATE RELOCATION ASSISTANCE

#### §951. Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to establish a policy for the treatment of persons displaced as a result of public use programs, funded in whole or in part by public entities, for persons to whom no assistance is available under federal law or any other provisions of state law. [PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).

#### §952. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]

**1. Displaced person.** "Displaced person" means any individual or entity who moves from a dwelling or place of business as a result of the acquisition, in whole or in part, of any interest in the land or the structure on which or in which that dwelling or place of business is located for a public use project:

- A. By public entity; [PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]
- B. As a result of a written order from a public entity to vacate the dwelling or place of business; or [PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]
- C. By any individual or entity on behalf of, under agreement with or with funding from a public entity. [PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]

This definition shall be construed so that persons displaced as a result of public action or public participation receive relocation benefits in cases where they are displaced as a result of an owner participation agreement or an acquisition carried out by a private individual or entity for or in connection with a public use project, where the public entity is otherwise empowered to acquire the property to carry out the public use.

[PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]

**2. Public entity.** "Public entity" includes the State, counties, municipalities, departments, agencies and any other political subdivisions of the State.

[PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]

**3. Public use project.** "Public use project" means a project developed with the assistance, cooperation, guidance or support of any public entity, the purpose of which is to provide facilities for the use of the public. It does not include any single business obtaining funding or security for private funding from the United States Small Business Administration.

[PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).

#### §953. Offer of assistance

**1. Written offer; terms.** Within 14 days after the acquisition of real property by a public entity or any person covered by the terms of this chapter and not less than 30 days prior to the date upon which the dwelling or place of business must be vacated, the public entity acquiring the land or building, ordering the dwelling or place of business vacated, or on whose behalf, under whose agreement or with

whose funding the acquiring person is acting, shall make a payment to compensate any person or entity who will become displaced for estimated:

- A. Actual reasonable expenses in moving the displaced person, the displaced person's family or the displaced person's business, farm operation or other personal property; [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §15 (COR).]
- B. Actual direct losses of tangible personal property as a result of moving or discontinuing a business or farm operation, but not to exceed an amount equal to the reasonable expenses that would have been required to relocate such property, as determined by the department; and [PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]
- C. Actual reasonable expenses in searching for a replacement business or farm. [PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]

Within 14 days after the displaced person has moved, and upon presentation of documentation of items listed in paragraphs A, B and C, the same public entity shall pay to the displaced person any actual reasonable expenses and losses in excess of the estimated payment made previously. If the estimated payment exceeds the actual reasonable expenses and losses, the displaced person may retain the difference.

[RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §15 (COR).]

**2. Moving expense allowance.** Any displaced person eligible for payments under subsection 1, who is displaced from a dwelling and who elects not to accept the payments authorized by subsection 1, may receive a moving expense allowance, determined according to a schedule established by the department, not to exceed \$300, and a dislocation allowance of \$200.

[PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]

**3. Fixed payment.** A displaced person eligible for payments under subsection 1 who is displaced from that person's place of business or from that person's farm operation and who elects not to accept the payment authorized by subsection 1 may receive a fixed payment in an amount equal to the average annual net earnings of the business or farm operation, except that such payment may not be less than \$2,500 nor more than \$10,000. In the case of a business, a payment may not be made under this subsection unless the department is satisfied that the business:

- A. Cannot be relocated without a substantial loss of its existing patronage; and [PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]
- B. Is not part of a commercial enterprise having at least one other establishment not being acquired by a public entity or individual, or private entity on behalf of, under agreement with or with funding from a public entity, that is engaged in the same or similar business. [RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §16 (COR).]

[RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §16 (COR).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW). RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. C, §§15, 16 (COR).

#### §954. Ineligible persons

Persons who are qualified to receive relocation benefits under chapter 23 and the United States Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, Public Law 91-646, are not eligible for benefits under this chapter. [PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 1981, c. 494 (NEW).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature and is current through October 15, 2024. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.