



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

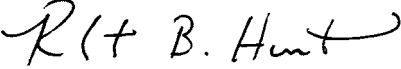
No. 1336

H.P. 871

House of Representatives, March 27, 2025

An Act to Establish the Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council

Reference to the Committee on Housing and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative SATO of Gorham.
Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc and
Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, EATON of Deer Isle, Speaker FECTEAU of
Biddeford, HEPLER of Woolwich, SINCLAIR of Bath, Senators: President DAUGHTRY of
Cumberland, DUSON of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington.

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

2 **Sec. 1. Council established.** The Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council,
3 referred to in this Act as "the council," is established. The council shall promote and
4 cultivate a cooperative sister-state relationship between Maine and the Prefecture of
5 Aomori, Japan in order to benefit the citizens of the sister states.

6 **Sec. 2. Members; compensation; meetings; terms.** The council consists of the
7 president of the Maine International Trade Center, established pursuant to the Maine
8 Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 945, or the president's designee and 14 members who
9 are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor, including:

- 10 1. One person with knowledge and experience in kindergarten to grade 12 education;
- 11 2. One person with knowledge and experience in public postsecondary education;
- 12 3. One person with knowledge and experience in private postsecondary education;
- 13 4. One person with knowledge and experience in business and international trade;
- 14 5. One person with knowledge and experience in the performing or visual arts;
- 15 6. One person with knowledge and experience in the humanities;
- 16 7. One person with knowledge and experience in the sciences;
- 17 8. One person with knowledge and experience in government;
- 18 9. One person with knowledge and experience in nonprofit organizations;
- 19 10. One person with knowledge and experience in international exchanges;
- 20 11. One person representing a nonprofit corporation based in the State supporting the
21 Maine-Aomori cooperative sister-state relationship; and
- 22 12. Three persons representing the general public.

23 The chair of the council, who is elected by the members of the council, shall preside
24 at, set the agenda for and schedule council meetings.

25 The council shall meet at least 3 times per year. Meetings must be open to the public.

26 Members of the council serve without compensation.

27 Members of the council serve 3-year terms, except that of the initial appointed
28 members, 5 serve one-year terms, 5 serve 2-year terms, and 4 serve 3-year terms.

29 **Sec. 3. Duties.** The council shall serve in an advisory capacity and has the following
30 duties.

31 1. The council shall advise and report to the Governor on the status of the Maine-
32 Aomori cooperative sister-state relationship.

33 2. The council shall identify and assess existing activities and exchanges with the
34 Prefecture of Aomori and devise strategies to develop cultural, educational and commercial
35 opportunities between the sister states.

36 3. The council shall identify sources of support for sister-state exchanges, programs,
37 projects and administrative assistance for the council. The council may seek and accept in-

1 kind support from outside sources and funding from outside sources to fully fund its
2 operations.

3 **Sec. 4. Official contact.** The president of the Maine International Trade Center
4 shall serve as the official Maine contact for the Maine-Aomori cooperative sister-state
5 relationship.

6 **Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
7 allocations are made.

8 **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**
9 **International Commerce 0674**

10 Initiative: Provides ongoing funds to support the Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory
11 Council.

12 GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
13 All Other	\$20,000	\$20,000
14		
15 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$20,000</u>	<u>\$20,000</u>

16 **SUMMARY**

17 This bill establishes in law the existing Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council,
18 which promotes and cultivates a cooperative sister-state relationship between Maine and
19 the Prefecture of Aomori, Japan. It includes an ongoing appropriation of \$20,000 in fiscal
20 years 2025-26 and 2026-27 to support the advisory council.