



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 823

S.P. 337

In Senate, March 4, 2025

An Act to Establish a Grant Program to Provide for Statewide and Equitable Access to Experiential Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Competition Programs

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot.

Cosponsored by Senators: GROHOSKI of Hancock, LIBBY of Cumberland, Representatives: BAGSHAW of Windham, DODGE of Belfast, HAGGAN of Hampden, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, MURPHY of Scarborough.

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

2 Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §15312 is enacted to read:

3 **§15312. Competitive grants for statewide experiential science, technology,**
4 **engineering and mathematics competition programs**

5 **1. Grant purposes.** The institute may award a grant through a competitive process to
6 an organization based in this State that demonstrates that the organization is going to use
7 the funds for a statewide experiential competition program for high school students in
8 science, technology, engineering and mathematics and that:

9 A. Maintains a formal affiliation with a national science, technology, engineering and
10 mathematics program to provide opportunities for students to present Maine-based
11 research to a national audience and facilitates participation in the national program by
12 students who meet qualification standards at no cost to the students or the schools they
13 attend;

14 B. Demonstrates a plan to broaden participation in student-led experiential science and
15 engineering research projects by creating professional development opportunities for
16 educators and learning opportunities for students who have not historically participated
17 in student-led experiential science and engineering research projects, in accordance
18 with the criteria described in subsection 3;

19 C. Demonstrates a plan to maintain a formal partnership with the University of Maine
20 System to provide high school students increased access to college-level courses and
21 consideration for scholarship opportunities;

22 D. Demonstrates a plan to evaluate the effects of sustaining and increasing engagement
23 with science, technology, engineering and mathematics at participating high schools;
24 and

25 E. Demonstrates a plan to make student-led experiential science and engineering
26 research projects accessible to an increasingly diverse student population, including
27 individuals typically underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and
28 mathematics professions, in accordance with the criteria described in subsection 3.

29 **2. Grant requirements.** An organization that receives a grant under this section shall:

30 A. Provide matching funds in the amount of the grant to be used for the same purpose
31 for which the grant was awarded; and

32 B. Deliver to the institute a report on the use of the grant money, including measurable
33 outcomes.

34 **3. Broadening participation.** An organization that receives a grant under this section
35 shall use the following criteria to make the program available to a diverse population of
36 students and schools, as required under subsection 1, paragraphs B and E. The organization
37 shall make the program available to students from:

38 A. Each of the State's 16 counties;

39 B. Public schools and private schools and to students who are homeschooled;

C. Schools that are eligible for schoolwide Title I benefits, as defined and identified by the United States Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics; and

D. Schools in cities, suburban areas, towns and rural locales, as defined and identified by the United States Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Office of Innovation 0995

Initiative: Provides ongoing funds to the Maine Technology Institute to award grants to an organization for certain activities related to statewide science, technology, engineering and mathematics competition programs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$75,000	\$75,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$75,000</u>	<u>\$75,000</u>

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes the Maine Technology Institute to provide grants for statewide experiential science, technology, engineering and mathematics competition programs.