

STATE OF MAINE

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

—
S.P. 651 - L.D. 1643

An Act to Establish the Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §15303, sub-§6, ¶D, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 401, Pt. AAA, §3, is amended to read:

D. Shall coordinate its priorities with the applied research and development efforts of the University of Maine System insofar as those efforts are in the targeted technologies and encourage, when possible and appropriate, companies and research laboratories receiving funds from the institute to establish joint ventures with the university system; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §15303, sub-§6, ¶E, as amended by PL 2017, c. 109, §3, is further amended to read:

E. Shall cooperate with the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the University of Maine System and others in their efforts to ensure that a complementary system of support services, including, as needed and appropriate, incubators, business assistance, technology transfer, market research, patent research and similar services, is in place and available to companies and research laboratories receiving funds from the institute; and

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §15303, sub-§6, ¶F is enacted to read:

F. Shall support the Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center pursuant to section 15331.

Sec. 4. 5 MRSA c. 407, sub-c. 4 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 4

MAINE LIFE SCIENCES INNOVATION CENTER

§15331. Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center

1. Establishment; purpose. The Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center, referred to in this subchapter as "the center," is established within the institute to support life sciences

innovation, research, entrepreneurship and workforce development in the State. The center is established to serve the following purposes:

A. To leverage and expand the State's life sciences sector by supporting collaborative research, workforce training and entrepreneurial ventures and seeking capital investment;

B. To advance life sciences innovation and sector research across disciplines, including human and animal health, marine sciences, agriculture, forestry and data science;

C. To coordinate with public and private partners, educational and research institutions, nonprofit organizations and business stakeholders to strengthen the State's innovation efforts;

D. To investigate opportunities for grants, loans and other resources to support life sciences entities;

E. To develop strategies to attract federal, philanthropic and private investment;

F. To advise the Maine Technology Institute Director under section 15310 on matters related to life sciences innovation; and

G. To report regularly to the Legislature regarding the center's operations, activities and recommendations.

2. Membership. The center is composed of 10 members. The members include:

A. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the commissioner's designee, who serves as an ex officio, nonvoting member; and

B. Nine voting members appointed by the Governor, upon the recommendation of the Finance Authority of Maine and the institute, with expertise spanning the life sciences sector and its allied disciplines, including representatives of industry, life sciences entrepreneurs, research institutions, academia, hospitals, nonprofit organizations, investors and counties, including rural counties. Each member under this paragraph is entitled to one vote.

The Governor shall designate a chair from among the center's members to preside at, set the agenda for and schedule center meetings.

Center members shall disclose any direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any matter before the center and recuse themselves from any participation in the consideration of such a matter.

3. Operations. The following provisions govern the operations of the center.

A. The center shall meet as often as it considers necessary for the center to perform its work.

B. To the extent practicable, the center shall conduct its work in a manner that is open and accessible to the public.

C. The center may conduct its work through subcommittees.

4. Staff and administrative support. The institute shall provide staff as may be necessary to fulfill the center's mission and may seek assistance from other state agencies and private entities to accomplish the goals and work of the center.

5. Annual report. The center shall submit annually to the Governor, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters, no later than 120 days after the close of the center's fiscal year, a complete report on the activities of the center. The report must be made available to the public and must include the following for that fiscal year:

A. A description of the center's operations;

B. An accounting of the center's receipts and expenditures, assets and liabilities at the end of its fiscal year;

C. A listing of all investments, grants, loans and incentives provided by the center during the fiscal year;

D. A statement of the center's proposed and projected activities for the ensuing fiscal year; and

E. Recommendations regarding further actions that may be suitable for achieving the purposes of this subchapter.

After reviewing the report under this subsection, the joint standing committee may report out legislation relating to the report.

Sec. 5. Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center; interim report. The Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 15331 shall submit an interim report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters no later than 180 days after all members of the center have been appointed pursuant to Title 5, section 15331, subsection 2. The interim report must include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. A description of the center's operations;

2. Proposed and projected activities for the ensuing fiscal year; and

3. Recommendations for future actions necessary to achieve the center's goals, including a recommendation regarding whether the center should be changed to a quasi-independent state entity.

After reviewing the report under this section, the joint standing committee may report out legislation relating to the report.