



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1670

H.P. 1068

House of Representatives, April 13, 2023

**An Act to Strengthen Maine's Agriculture, Food and Forest
Economy by Funding the Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest
Products Investment Fund and Amending Related Provisions of
Law**

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and
Representatives: FAY of Raymond, GUERRETTE of Caribou, HALL of Wilton, PLUECKER
of Warren, Senators: HICKMAN of Kennebec, INGWERSEN of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §320-C, sub-§6, ¶F**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 483, Pt. KK, §2,
3 is amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read:

4 (2) Recommending program changes and improvements; ~~and~~

5 **Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §320-C, sub-§6, ¶F**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 483, Pt. KK, §2,
6 is amended by amending subparagraph (3) to read:

7 (3) Preparing a comprehensive report, in collaboration with the Department of
8 Economic and Community Development and other appropriate agencies and
9 organizational partners, on the performance, use and sustainability of funds and
10 supporting programs of the Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products
11 Investment Fund to submit to the commissioner; and

12 **Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §320-C, sub-§6, ¶F**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 483, Pt. KK, §2,
13 is amended by enacting subparagraph (4) to read:

14 (4) Collaborating with the Department of Economic and Community Development
15 and other appropriate agencies and organizational partners to ensure that
16 investment objectives are appropriately targeted and not duplicative and to
17 establish various grant and loan instruments as part of the fund.

18 **Sec. 4. Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to establish**
19 **positions.** The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall establish 2
20 positions within the department to support program design and annual implementation of
21 the Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund under the Maine
22 Revised Statutes, Title 7, chapter 10-C and coordination of technical assistance relating to
23 the fund.

24 **Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
25 allocations are made.

26 **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF**

27 **Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund N383**

28 Initiative: Provides funding to support public-private partnerships to facilitate strategic
29 investments in the State's agricultural, food and forest products processing and
30 manufacturing industries.

31 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
32 All Other	\$20,000,000	\$20,000,000
33		
34 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$20,000,000</u>	<u>\$20,000,000</u>

35 **SUMMARY**

36 This bill requires the Maine Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products
37 Infrastructure Investment Advisory Board within the Department of Agriculture,
38 Conservation and Forestry to collaborate with the Department of Economic and
39 Community Development and other appropriate agencies and organizational partners to
40 ensure that investment objectives are appropriately targeted and not duplicative and to

1 establish various grant and loan instruments as part of the Maine Agriculture, Food and
2 Forest Products Investment Fund. It appropriates \$20,000,000 per fiscal year to the fund.
3 It directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to establish 2 positions
4 within the department.