

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

H.P. 1068 - L.D. 1670

**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**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund N383

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to support public-private partnerships to facilitate strategic investments in the State's agricultural, food and forest products processing and manufacturing industries. These funds are nonlapsing.

GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$500,000</u>