



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

---

Legislative Document

No. 1793

---

H.P. 1334

House of Representatives, December 9, 2021

### **An Act To Support Statewide Economic Recovery through Strategic Investments**

---

Submitted by the Department of Economic and Community Development pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 7, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick.  
Cosponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo and  
Representative: DUCHARME of Madison.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13056-H**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 343, Pt. TTTT, §1, is repealed  
3 and the following enacted in its place:

4 **§13056-H. Maine Economic Development Fund**

5 **1. Establishment; purposes.** The Maine Economic Development Fund is established  
6 as a nonlapsing fund within the department to encourage and support economic and  
7 business growth, rural manufacturing and industrial site redevelopment and  
8 implementation of a strategic plan.

9 **2. Fiscal agent and duties.** The department is the fiscal agent of the State for all funds  
10 appropriated or allocated to the Maine Economic Development Fund. Fiscal duties include  
11 the disbursement of funds through grants to private companies for the purposes identified  
12 in subsection 1. Other duties include the accounting, evaluation and monitoring of all  
13 activities related to the Maine Economic Development Fund and all programs funded in  
14 whole or in part by grants from the Maine Economic Development Fund.

15 **3. Equity investments; loans; contractual arrangements.** In addition to the  
16 disbursement of funds through grants as described in subsection 2, the department may  
17 make, alone or in participation or cooperation with other persons, direct equity investments  
18 in, loans to or any other contractual arrangement allowed by law with private companies  
19 for the purposes identified in subsection 1. For each disbursement of funds made by the  
20 department in accordance with this section, the department may require satisfactory  
21 evidence of matching funds in an amount equal to the state funds invested in whatever form  
22 by the department by eligible recipients. Matching funds may be in the form of debt or  
23 equity but must be at risk in the private companies for a minimum of 5 years.

24 **4. Rulemaking.** The department shall adopt rules necessary to carry out this program.  
25 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in chapter  
26 375, subchapter 2-A.

27 **SUMMARY**

28 This bill authorizes the Department of Economic and Community Development,  
29 through the Maine Economic Development Fund, to make strategic investments, through  
30 loans or direct equity investments, in economic development projects that support  
31 economic and business growth, rural manufacturing and industrial site redevelopment and  
32 implementation of a strategic plan.