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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

To: Senator Peggy Rotundo, Senate Chair
Representative Drew Gattine, House Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

From: Senator Joseph Rafferty, Senate Chair JR (LR)
Representative Kelly Murphy, House Chair KM (LR)
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Date: March 5, 2025

Re: LD 210, An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027

Following the jointly held public hearing on February 7, the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs held three separate meetings on its portion of LD 210, the biennial budget: a general budget overview on February 10, a work session on Department of Education (DOE) initiatives on February 12, and a work session on higher education and cultural affairs initiatives on February 24. The attached report-back document contains the results of the Committee’s votes on each initiative. The Committee did not vote on any initiatives characterized as “informational only,” nor did the Committee vote on any Part D initiatives or language.¹

After deliberation and votes on initiatives under the Committee’s jurisdiction, each party represented on the Committee appreciates the opportunity to offer the following comments on matters related to the biennial budget.

¹ Part D initiatives and language were under the Committee on Housing and Economic Development’s jurisdiction and were not part of the Committee on Educational and Cultural Affairs’ public hearing, but were included in EDU’s report-back template as informational items.

The Democratic caucus was pleased to hear DOE Commissioner Pender Makin confirm at the public hearing that the proposed budget not only includes adequate funding for Child Development Services but also reflects the significant investments made during the 131st Legislature with regard to tuition reimbursements for special purpose private preschools. This area had been a top priority for the Democrats during the 131st Legislature and the Democratic members of the Committee emphasize the importance of continuing those investments.

In regards to reference #1136, which reduces funding after the conclusion of a pilot program to help Maine students avoid homelessness, the Democrats voted this initiative “OUT” of the budget with the hope that the \$1,500,000 funding be continued in each upcoming fiscal year. The program has been very successful and the Democrats wish to see it continue operating.

The Democratic caucus also offered an amendment to Language Part C, the calculation of the total cost of funding public education, as it relates to community schools. The proposed amendment would double the allotted funding for community schools from \$250,000 to \$500,000. Community schools provide critical wraparound services that lead to improvements in Maine students’ academic, social, emotional, and physical wellbeing – community school services ultimately set up Maine students for success as they grow up and enter adulthood. Increasing this investment would allow more school administrative units (SAUs) to open community schools in their respective communities.

In addition to supporting Language Part EEEE and the initiative providing funding to Maine’s seven community colleges to continue offering student scholarships through the Maine free community college tuition program, the Democratic caucus also voted to include the \$7,300,000 initiative from the Governor’s original proposed supplemental budget to provide funding for Maine’s seven community colleges to continue offering scholarships through the Maine free community college tuition program (see ref. # 261 of the EDU Committee’s supplemental budget report-back document, attached).

The Committee unanimously voted OUT Language Part CCCC related to the Maine State Grant Program with the intent that the program eligibility remains the same as is currently in law. Alongside their vote, the Democrats wish to express that the Maine State Grant Program has been in effect in its current iteration for many years and that it is working well for Maine students’ use at the Maine college or university of the student’s choosing. Furthermore, as there are no savings realized or any fiscal impacts at all, the Democrats believe the change limiting use to public institutions only is unnecessary.

The Democrats also request that funding for Maine Public is brought into alignment with the ongoing funding proposed in LD 692 to better meet the requirements for a public safety emergency broadcast messaging service.

Finally, the Democrats wish to acknowledge the budget constraints that face the State at this point in time. However, the Committee has just begun its work on the nearly 200 anticipated bills it will receive this session, and the Democrats believe there are several important initiatives among these bills that will most certainly be included in the Committee’s special appropriations table priority memo later this spring. The Committee looks forward to communicating those priorities to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs when the time comes.

In general, the Republican caucus believes that there should be a 5-10% reduction across the portions of the budget under the Committee's jurisdiction. The Republican caucus is also displeased with the decision to characterize some initiatives as "informational only" and the decision to not hold votes on these during the Committee's work sessions – a deviation from legislative budget practices in the past. Had the Committee held votes on Part D, the Republicans would have taken the position that these programs should not be prioritized over teacher salary increases and increased support for reading, writing, and arithmetic content in schools. Republican members of the Committee would also like to note that multiple requests were made for information on various account balances, and this information was never brought back to the Committee.

The Republican caucus is generally opposed to the numerous instances of position transfers and creation of new positions within the Department of Education – the Republicans on the Committee believe that this is an area where savings could be found rather than ultimately increasing costs. The Republican caucus believes that the new DOE positions created in the budget are not aligned with the mission and vision of the department, and therefore opposes all new positions. Moreover, the Republican caucus expresses great concern over position transfers and reclassifications that are made without authorization by the Legislature, particularly in cases where federal funding for a position is ceased and the position is instead funded with General Fund dollars. Republicans also sought to determine the breakdown of funding for each position (i.e. cost of benefits vs. salary), however, this information was not provided.

The Republican caucus did not vote in support of any initiatives that had so-called "placeholder" deposits (i.e. a \$500 appropriation to keep the fund open) – this is an attempt to allow for prioritizing what education funds are being spent on when it comes to final decisions on spending. The Republicans are frustrated to not be able to support certain budget requests because too many positions and other funds are already locked in and not up for negotiation.

In regards to Language Part KK, Republicans are unable to support the transfer of \$21,000,000 to the Preschool Special Education Program Fund – it is unclear why the General Purpose Aid program has such excessive funds to be able to transfer in the first place, and it is further unclear why these funds are not instead being used to trim the budget. Although there was unanimous support for Language Part II, the Republican caucus has similar concerns about those funds as well.

Republicans on the Committee did not vote in support of the Democrats' proposed amendment to Language Part C, which doubled the funding for community schools – without any accountability for how this money is spent, the Republicans' position is that this funding should be reduced to \$0. In regards to Part C as a whole, the Republicans are supportive of the total operating allocation for public charter schools (page 153 of the attached report-back document) and the total normal cost of teacher retirement.

Three members of the Republican caucus voted Language Part EEEE OUT. One member voted to amend Language Part EEEE to add the following eligibility requirements:

In order to receive 2 years of free community college, an eligible student must:

A. Obtain a certificate of completion, such as a high school diploma, from a State-based institution;

B. Maintain a 2.5 GPA;

C. Sign an agreement swearing that the eligible student will stay and work in the State for a period of at least 2 years; and

D. May only access the free college waiver for no longer than 150% of the stated completion time for the program of study.

Finally, the Republican caucus would like to note that their support for reference #980, which provides one-time funding for maintenance of a fleet of school buses in the unorganized territories, is contingent upon the funds not being used for electric school buses.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity to weigh in on the portions of the biennial budget under its jurisdiction and to bring forward these comments. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to ask the Committee chairs or leads, or raise them during our upcoming in-person report-back session.

Sec. A-5. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MAINE

Maine Community College System - Board of Trustees 0556

Initiative: Provides funding to continued operations at Maine's seven community colleges to support Maine's Paid Family and Medical Leave net employee premiums.

Ref. #: 258 One Time Committee Vote 6-4 AFA Vote _____

GENERAL FUND	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$209,609	\$0	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$209,609	\$0	\$0

Justification:

This initiative provides funding for the 1.0% payroll premium assessed to fund the Maine Paid Family and Medical Leave benefit, pursuant to 26 MRSA chapter 7, sub-chapter 6-C.

Maine Community College System - Board of Trustees 0556

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align with revenue projections from the December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

Ref. #: 259 One Time Committee Vote 6-4 AFA Vote _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	(\$219,077)	\$0	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	(\$219,077)	\$0	\$0

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue allocations with the Revenue Forecast.

Justification:

This initiative aligns allocation with December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

MCCS Free Community College - Two Enrollment Years Z335

Initiative: Provides funding for Maine's seven community colleges to continue offering student scholarships through the Maine free community college tuition program. Funding is necessary to maintain the existing program that covers 2024 and 2025 eligible high school graduates and those completing their general educational development (GED) exam or high school equivalency test (HiSET) as established in Public Law 2023, Chapter 412.

Ref. #: 261 One Time Committee Vote 6-4 AFA Vote _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$7,300,000	\$0	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$7,300,000	\$0	\$0

Notes:

See Part Q

Justification:

This initiative provides funding to continue the Maine free community college tuition program for eligible high school graduates and those completing their general educational development (GED) exam or high school equivalency test (HiSET) enrolled at the seven community colleges.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MAINE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$209,609	\$0	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$7,080,923	\$0	\$0
DEPARTMENT TOTAL- ALL FUNDS	\$7,290,532	\$0	\$0

Sec. A-3. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ARTS COMMISSION, MAINE

Arts - Administration 0178

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Personal Services	\$669,879	\$709,425	\$825,106	\$866,908
All Other	\$319,241	\$319,241	\$319,241	\$319,241
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$989,120	\$1,028,666	\$1,144,347	\$1,186,149

Justification:

The Maine Arts Commission was established by the Legislature in 1966 to encourage and stimulate public interest and participation in the cultural heritage and programs of our state and to expand the state's cultural resources. The Maine Arts Commission, an independent state agency, is governed by a Board appointed by the Governor for their interest in the arts and related fields. The Maine Arts Commission works to advance the arts by supplying services and results-oriented funding to artists, arts organizations, communities and schools, and helpful resources about the arts to the general public. The Maine Arts Commission will look for evidence that the public is a clear beneficiary; that available resources are being used efficiently; that additional resources are being leveraged to ensure success, sustainability, and commitment; and that the local capacity to carry on the work begun becomes greater as a result of these efforts.

Arts - Administration 0178

Initiative: Provides funding for the Department's share of the cost for the financial and human resources service center within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Ref. #: 563

Committee Vote:

7-4 IN

AFA Vote:

GENERAL FUND

All Other

2025-26

2026-27

\$8,203

\$11,371

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

\$8,203

\$11,371

Justification:

Service Centers within DAFS provide centralized accounting, payroll, budgeting and human resources services to departments and agencies. Service Centers are established as an internal service funds intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies for services provided. The Service Centers expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

Arts - Administration 0178

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide technology services provided by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Information Technology

Ref. #: 564

Committee Vote:

7-4 IN

AFA Vote:

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$8,727	\$8,727
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$8,727	\$8,727

Justification:

MaineIT is responsible for the delivery of safe, secure, and high-performing networks and systems to State Agencies for daily performance of their missions for the citizens of Maine. IT enterprise functions benefitting all state agencies are managed through this office to ensure consistency, volume discount efficiencies, and optimum performance and throughput. MaineIT is established as an internal service fund intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies for services provided. MaineIT expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs, including vendor increases, supply chain costs, and network and systems modernization and upgrades. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

Arts - Administration 0178

Initiative: Provides funding for the increased hours of one Public Service Coordinator I position from 42 hours to 80 hours biweekly to meet the operational needs of the Maine Arts Commission.

Ref. #: 565

Committee Vote: 8-3 IN AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$54,342	\$58,755
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$54,342	\$58,755

Justification:

This initiative provides funding to increase hours for one Public Service Coordinator I position from 42 hours to 80 hours biweekly to meet the operational needs of the Maine Arts Commission.

**ARTS - ADMINISTRATION 0178
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	6.000	6.000	6.000	6.000
Personal Services	\$669,879	\$709,425	\$879,448	\$925,663
All Other	\$319,241	\$319,241	\$336,171	\$339,339
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$989,120	\$1,028,666	\$1,215,619	\$1,265,002

**ARTS - GENERAL GRANTS PROGRAM 0177
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$357,051	\$357,051	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$357,051	\$357,051	\$500	\$500

Arts - Sponsored Program 0176

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000
Personal Services	\$384,688	\$397,765	\$435,274	\$463,885
All Other	\$759,000	\$759,000	\$759,000	\$759,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$1,143,688	\$1,156,765	\$1,194,274	\$1,222,885
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$102,168	\$102,168	\$102,168	\$102,168
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$102,168	\$102,168	\$102,168	\$102,168

Justification:

The Maine Arts Commission receives federal funds through a Partnership Agreement with the National Endowment for the Arts for administrative and personnel services costs. This account also provides funding for grants and supports special projects through a variety of specialized programs serving Maine people statewide. These programs support programming and funding for artists, school districts, community organizations and arts institutions, older adults, and traditional artists. Arts Education: The Arts Education program is a major focus of the Maine Arts Commission and a nationwide movement aiming to provide all students with opportunities to learn in and through the arts (dance, music, theater, visual arts and creative writing). Methods for reaching this goal include providing discipline-specific, sequential learning opportunities; integrating the arts into all curricular content areas; programs in institutions and detention centers; programs in child care centers; and after-school programs. This program includes the following: Congressional Art Awards, Maine Youth Excellence in Art Awards, the Maine Arts Assessment Initiative, New England Summit on Arts Education, and The Teaching Artist Program. Art in the Capitol: This program provides exhibitions in spaces throughout Maine's Capitol Complex. Creative Aging: This program is grounded in the belief that the arts play a powerful role in enhancing the quality of life of older adults. Designed to generate opportunities for lifelong learning, social engagement and mastery of skills, the program provides new creative possibilities for adults over 55. This program includes funding for Creative Aging Partnership Program grants and supports the Creative Aging Teaching Artists Directory. Percent for Art: The Percent for Art Act (27 MRSA, c.16) was enacted in 1979 to provide funds for the acquisition of public artworks for newly constructed or renovated state-funded buildings. The Maine Arts Commission manages the process but does not oversee the dollars connected to the Percent for Art Act. This program supports projects in public schools, community colleges and University of Maine facilities, and all state buildings that interface with the public. Under the law, an amount equal to one percent of the construction budget is set aside to purchase works of art. Poetry Out Loud: Poetry Out Loud is a national poetry recitation contest. After being selected through a statewide competition, Maine's winner joins representatives from other states and territories in Washington, DC to compete for the national title. The winner from Maine and their school receive a cash prize from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. Approximately 8,000 of Maine's high school students supported by over 200 teachers participate in this program annually. Traditional Arts: The Traditional Arts Program works with communities on strengthening and presenting their cultural traditions through apprenticeships, fellowships, program development and project support. Through direct support for artists as well as community-based projects, the program also brings recognition to those traditions that are so much a part of Maine's cultural landscape, whether it be Franco fiddling, Yankee boat building, Wabanaki ash basketry, Cambodian music or Sudanese dance. This program includes funding for the Traditional Arts Fellowships and Apprenticeships, as well as funding for community projects that support traditional cultures.

**ARTS - SPONSORED PROGRAM 0176
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000
Personal Services	\$384,688	\$397,765	\$435,274	\$463,885
All Other	\$759,000	\$759,000	\$759,000	\$759,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$1,143,688	\$1,156,765	\$1,194,274	\$1,222,885

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$102,168	\$102,168	\$102,168	\$102,168
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$102,168	\$102,168	\$102,168	\$102,168

ARTS COMMISSION, MAINE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$1,215,619	\$1,265,002
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$1,194,774	\$1,223,385
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$102,168	\$102,168
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$2,512,561	\$2,590,555

Sec. A-9. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION, STATE

Maine Charter School Commission Z137

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$15,400	\$15,400	\$15,400	\$15,400
All Other	\$679,409	\$679,409	\$679,409	\$679,409
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$694,809	\$694,809	\$694,809	\$694,809

Justification:

The Maine Charter School Commission authorizes public charter schools in Maine. The commission may solicit, invite and evaluate applications from organizers of proposed public charter schools; approve applications that meet identified educational needs; deny applications that do not meet identified educational needs; create a framework to guide the development of charter schools; negotiate and execute sound charter contracts with each approved public charter school; monitor the performance and compliance of public charter schools and determine whether each charter contract merits renewal or revocation.

Maine Charter School Commission Z137

Initiative: Provides funding to align allocation with projected revenues.

Ref. #: 662

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$168,626	\$229,405
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$168,626	\$229,405

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue or Federal allocations with the available resources.

Justification:

Pursuant to Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15683-B, subsection 5, this initiative increases the funding for Maine Charter School Commission.

**MAINE CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION Z137
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$15,400	\$15,400	\$15,400	\$15,400
All Other	\$679,409	\$679,409	\$848,035	\$908,814
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$694,809	\$694,809	\$863,435	\$924,214

CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION, STATE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
 OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$863,435	\$924,214
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$863,435	\$924,214

Sec. A-11. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MAINE

Maine Community College System - Board of Trustees 0556

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$82,397,519	\$87,302,572	\$86,102,572	\$86,102,572
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$82,397,519	\$87,302,572	\$86,102,572	\$86,102,572
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$4,583,986	\$4,639,838	\$4,639,838	\$4,639,838
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$4,583,986	\$4,639,838	\$4,639,838	\$4,639,838
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY				
All Other	\$12,980,200	\$4,106,600	\$4,106,600	\$4,106,600
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$12,980,200	\$4,106,600	\$4,106,600	\$4,106,600

Justification:

Maine statute stipulates the mission of the Maine Community College System (MCCS): to provide associate degree, diploma and certificate programs directed at the educational, occupational and technical needs of the State's citizens and the workforce needs of the State's employers. The seven colleges within the MCCS are charged with creating an educated, skilled and adaptable labor force which is responsive to the changing needs of the economy of the State. The MCCS is designed to provide affordable access to higher education and to encourage and enable lifelong learning through partnerships and articulation agreements with high schools and four-year institutions. The seven colleges annually serve over 27,000 individuals through occupational, technical, and transfer programs; customized training; and non-credit offerings. Approximately 95 percent of MCCS students and trainees are Maine residents, and more than 90 percent of graduates are employed in Maine or continuing their education. With the lowest tuition in New England, the colleges provide an affordable entry point to higher education for Maine people seeking the skills needed to enter the workforce or to transfer to a four-year degree. The full MCCS budget includes state appropriation, student revenues, federal support (mostly for student financial aid) and other revenues. The MCCS budget supports Personal Services (54%), All Other (19%), financial aid (25%; supported through federal grants - mostly PELL) and minor capital repairs and improvements (3%). The increases in Personal Services reflect negotiated wage increases, health care costs, retirement costs (Maine Public Employees Retirement System) and other benefits. The capital budget is relatively flat, but necessary to support over 2 million square feet of academic classrooms, laboratories and administrative offices. While the MCCS appropriation request is for one line item (All Other), 72% of the appropriation funds wages, taxes and benefits and the remaining 28% pays for non-student financial aid costs such as supplies, heating costs and other utilities.

Maine Community College System - Board of Trustees 0556

Initiative: Provides funding for scholarships due to a projected increase in dedicated revenues from slot machine proceeds from the March 2024 Revenue Forecasting Committee report.

Ref. #: 3150

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$69,833	\$141,411
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$69,833	\$141,411

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue allocations with the Revenue Forecast.

Justification:

This initiative aligns funding with revenue as recommended in the March 2024 forecast of the Revenue Forecasting Committee. This initiative increases funding to be used for scholarships based upon projected dedicated revenue generated from slot machine proceeds as determined in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8, section 1036.

Maine Community College System - Board of Trustees 0556

Initiative: Provides funding to Maine's seven community colleges for Paid Family and Medical Leave premiums.

Ref. #: 3151

Committee Vote:

7-4 IN

AFA Vote:

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$876,051	\$915,865
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$876,051	\$915,865

Justification:

This initiative provides funding for the 1.0% payroll premium assessed to fund the Maine Paid Family and Medical Leave benefit pursuant to PL 2023, chapter 412.

Maine Community College System - Board of Trustees 0556

Initiative: Provides additional funding for annual inflationary cost increases associated with continuation of current Maine Community College System operations.

Ref. #: 3152

Committee Vote:

8-3 IN

AFA Vote:

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$3,444,103	\$7,025,970
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$3,444,103	\$7,025,970

Justification:

Provides additional funding for annual inflationary cost increases associated with continuation of current Maine Community College System operations.

Maine Community College System - Board of Trustees 0556

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align with revenue projections from the December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

Ref. #: 3153

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	(\$165,802)	(\$151,044)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	(\$165,802)	(\$151,044)

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue allocations with the Revenue Forecast.

Justification:

This initiative aligns allocation with December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

**MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM - BOARD OF TRUSTEES 0556
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$82,397,519	\$87,302,572	\$90,422,726	\$94,044,407
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$82,397,519	\$87,302,572	\$90,422,726	\$94,044,407
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$4,583,986	\$4,639,838	\$4,543,869	\$4,630,205
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$4,583,986	\$4,639,838	\$4,543,869	\$4,630,205
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$12,980,200	\$4,106,600	\$4,106,600	\$4,106,600
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$12,980,200	\$4,106,600	\$4,106,600	\$4,106,600

MCCS Free Community College - Two Enrollment Years Z335

Initiative: Provides funding for Maine's seven community colleges to continue offering student scholarships through the Maine free community college tuition program.

Ref. #: 3155

Committee Vote: 7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$12,500,000	\$12,500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$12,500,000	\$12,500,000

Justification:

This initiative provides funding to continue the Maine free community college tuition program for eligible high school graduates and those completing their general educational development (GED) exam or high school equivalency test (HiSET) enrolled at the seven community colleges. These funds should be added to our baseline going forward.

**MCCS FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - TWO ENROLLMENT YEARS Z335
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$12,500,000	\$12,500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$12,500,000	\$12,500,000

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MAINE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$102,922,726	\$106,544,407
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$4,543,869	\$4,630,205
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE	\$4,106,600	\$4,106,600
FISCAL RECOVERY		
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$111,573,195	\$115,281,212

Sec. A-14. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL, MAINE STATE

New Century Program Fund 0904

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$40,235	\$40,246	\$40,246	\$40,246
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$40,235	\$40,246	\$40,246	\$40,246
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$65,424	\$65,424	\$65,424	\$65,424
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$65,424	\$65,424	\$65,424	\$65,424

Justification:

The Maine Cultural Affairs Council represents seven statewide cultural, archival, and historical agencies. One objective of the Council's coordination effort is to secure funding for the New Century Community Program, to distribute to the agencies to provide support to projects in local communities. The seven agencies are the Maine Arts Commission, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, the Maine Library Commission, the Maine Humanities Council, the Maine Historical Society, the Archives Advisory Board and the Maine State Museum Commission.

New Century Program Fund 0904

Initiative: Reduces funding for the Department's share of the cost for the Financial and Human Resource Center within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Ref. #: 788

Committee Vote: _____

8-3 IN

AFA Vote: _____

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND		
All Other	(\$312)	(\$278)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	(\$312)	(\$278)

Justification:

Reduces funding for the Department's share of the cost for the Financial and Human Resource Center within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

**NEW CENTURY PROGRAM FUND 0904
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$40,235	\$40,246	\$39,934	\$39,968
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$40,235	\$40,246	\$39,934	\$39,968
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$65,424	\$65,424	\$65,424	\$65,424
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$65,424	\$65,424	\$65,424	\$65,424

State of Maine Bicentennial Celebration Z260

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

The baseline budget provides funding for the Maine Bicentennial Commission to prepare and administer a plan and program for the celebration of the State's bicentennial.

**STATE OF MAINE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION Z260
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

CULTURAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL, MAINE STATE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$39,934	\$39,968
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$65,924	\$65,924
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$105,858	\$105,892

Sec. A-21. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Adult Education 0364

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000
Personal Services	\$405,680	\$461,093	\$498,385	\$521,817
All Other	\$6,575,898	\$8,265,898	\$8,075,898	\$8,075,898
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$6,981,578	\$8,726,991	\$8,574,283	\$8,597,715
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$244,703	\$207,158	\$230,193	\$243,503
All Other	\$1,874,267	\$1,873,181	\$1,873,181	\$1,873,181
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$2,118,970	\$2,080,339	\$2,103,374	\$2,116,684
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY				
Personal Services	\$112,181	\$0	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$112,681	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

This program provides administrative and technical support and assistance for adult education programs statewide including adult and community education, adult basic education, adult high school diploma, high school equivalency diploma testing program, family literacy, job skills training and college transition programs.

**ADULT EDUCATION 0364
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000
Personal Services	\$405,680	\$461,093	\$498,385	\$521,817
All Other	\$6,575,898	\$8,265,898	\$8,075,898	\$8,075,898
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$6,981,578	\$8,726,991	\$8,574,283	\$8,597,715

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$244,703	\$207,158	\$230,193	\$243,503
All Other	\$1,874,267	\$1,873,181	\$1,873,181	\$1,873,181
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$2,118,970	\$2,080,339	\$2,103,374	\$2,116,684

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$112,181	\$0	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$112,681	\$500	\$500	\$500

Charter School Program Z129

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

Provides a base allocation in the event that federal funds are received to fund a Charter School Program that would primarily makes subgrants to charter schools according to federal regulations.

**CHARTER SCHOOL PROGRAM Z129
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Child Development Services 0449

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$49,833,321	\$51,622,725	\$51,622,725	\$51,622,725
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$49,833,321	\$51,622,725	\$51,622,725	\$51,622,725

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$2,433,483	\$2,433,483	\$2,433,483	\$2,433,483
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$2,433,483	\$2,433,483	\$2,433,483	\$2,433,483

Justification:

Child Development Services (CDS) provides leadership, management, coordination and supervision of programs and services provided in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to children with disabilities birth to 5 years old. Activities are directed at the goal of enhancing the performance of infants, toddlers and preschoolers with disabilities. CDS also works with contracted preschool programs, including private organizations and service providers. CDS proposes, reviews and participates in the legislative process regarding education and services of infants, toddlers and preschoolers with disabilities. It develops, promulgates and enforces regulatory requirements in alignment with state and federal statutes and regulations. It is responsible for the collection and analysis of early childhood data that are reported publicly in conformance with federal and state obligations.

Child Development Services 0449

Initiative: Provides funding for increases in staff costs attributed to collective bargaining.

Ref. #: 1001

Committee Vote: _____

8-3 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$1,378,865	\$1,436,808
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,378,865	\$1,436,808

Justification:

In fiscal year 2023-24, Child Development Services negotiated a three-year contract with the Maine State Employees Association for salary and benefit increases in fiscal years 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27. This initiative includes the projected cost of salary and benefit increases for the second and third years of the contract.

Child Development Services 0449

Initiative: Provides funding to bring allocation in line with available resources for the Infant, Toddlers & Families (Part C) grant.

Ref. #: 1002

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27

All Other	\$231,872	\$231,872
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$231,872	\$231,872

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue or Federal allocations with the available resources.

Justification:

The Department of Education receives an Infant, Toddlers & Families (Part C) grant. The objective of this grant is to provide grants to states to assist them to implement and maintain a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency system to make available early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. This initiative increases allocation to meet projected expenditures in fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27.

**CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES 0449
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$49,833,321	\$51,622,725	\$53,001,590	\$53,059,533
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$49,833,321	\$51,622,725	\$53,001,590	\$53,059,533

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$2,433,483	\$2,433,483	\$2,665,355	\$2,665,355
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$2,433,483	\$2,433,483	\$2,665,355	\$2,665,355

Climate Education Professional Development Pilot Program Fund Z361

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
Personal Services	\$108,053	\$113,918	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$8,998	\$8,998	\$8,998	\$8,998
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$117,051	\$122,916	\$8,998	\$8,998

Justification:

The Climate Education Program was established through Resolve 2021, chapter 178 and signed into law on May 3, 2022 by Governor Janet T. Mills. Resolve 2021, chapter 178, A Resolve To Establish a Pilot Program To Encourage Climate Education in Maine Public Schools, will provide grants for professional development for educators on climate science and support the preparation of courses on interdisciplinary climate education for a 3-year period.

Climate Education Professional Development Pilot Program Fund Z361

Initiative: Continues one limited-period State Education Representative position, previously established by Resolve 2021, chapter 178 through June 30, 2026 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 1195 One Time Committee Vote: 7-4 IN AFA Vote: _____

	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS		
Personal Services	\$146,115	\$12,185
All Other	\$3,464	\$286
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$149,579	\$12,471

Justification:

Resolve 2021, chapter 178 provided funding to support a climate education grant program, including a limited-period position to develop and execute the grant program, as well as design resources and training in climate education across all content areas in pre-k through grade12 public education. The grant program began one year after it's scheduled start date due delays in hiring the Climate Education Specialist position. With the grant program now underway and with strong support for climate education in the Maine Climate Action plan, the department would like to extend the end date of the Climate Education Specialist position. This initiative continues the position through June 30, 2026 to continue supporting climate education for the intended 3-year pilot period.

**CLIMATE EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PILOT PROGRAM FUND Z361
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$108,053	\$113,918	\$146,115	\$12,185
All Other	\$8,998	\$8,998	\$12,462	\$9,284
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$117,051	\$122,916	\$158,577	\$21,469

Community Schools Program Z284

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

The Community Schools program has a base allocation in the event that funds are received to support community school implementation and expansion as authorized by Public Law 2019, chapter 434.

**COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PROGRAM Z284
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Criminal History Record Check Fund Z014

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$7,664	\$7,760	\$8,754	\$9,114
All Other	\$25,700	\$25,700	\$25,700	\$25,700
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$33,364	\$33,460	\$34,454	\$34,814

Justification:

This Criminal History Record Check Fund is a nonlapsing fund within the Department of Education established for the receipt of transfers from the Department of Public Safety to fund a portion of a position within the Department that issues certificates upon completion of criminal history record checks of educational personnel applicants.

**CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK FUND Z014
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$7,664	\$7,760	\$8,754	\$9,114
All Other	\$25,700	\$25,700	\$25,700	\$25,700
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$33,364	\$33,460	\$34,454	\$34,814

Digital Literacy Fund Z130

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$456,115	\$456,115	\$456,115	\$456,115
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$456,115	\$456,115	\$456,115	\$456,115

Justification:

The Digital Literacy Fund provides technical assistance to school administrative units to support the use of digital curricula including digital textbooks and open educational resources. It also provides an online clearinghouse for digital curricula to aid school administrative units with the selection and vetting of digital curricula.

**DIGITAL LITERACY FUND Z130
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$456,115	\$456,115	\$456,115	\$456,115
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$456,115	\$456,115	\$456,115	\$456,115

Early Childhood Infrastructure Z315

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY				
All Other	\$4,979,734	\$21,404	\$21,404	\$21,404
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$4,979,734	\$21,404	\$21,404	\$21,404

Justification:

The Early Childhood Infrastructure program provides grants to school administrative units to establish new or expanded public prekindergarten programs to increase the number of children accessing high-quality prekindergarten. Priority is given to programs that engage in community partnerships, provide longer duration of education, support inclusive programming and enroll socioeconomically disadvantaged students.

Early Childhood Infrastructure Z315

Initiative: Provides one-time allocation in Federal Expenditures Fund-ARP State Fiscal Recovery accounts.

Ref. #: 1167 One Time Committee Vote: 8-3 IN AFA Vote: _____

	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY		
All Other	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$500	\$500

Justification:

An allocation in these accounts will allow for continued expenditures through the end of the grant funds.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE Z315
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY				
All Other	\$4,979,734	\$21,404	\$21,904	\$21,904
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$4,979,734	\$21,404	\$21,904	\$21,904

Early Childhood Special Education Pathways Pilot Project Z410

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$125,951	\$3,425	\$0
All Other	\$0	\$874,049	\$0	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$3,425	\$0

Justification:

The early childhood special education pathways pilot project was established as a one-time accelerated graduate program developed around early childhood education to support teachers in obtaining a master's degree and to provide reimbursement for coursework and support in obtaining an endorsement on a professional teacher certificate for teachers of children from birth to 5 years of age with disabilities.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION PATHWAYS PILOT PROJECT Z410

PROGRAM SUMMARY

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$125,951	\$3,425	\$0
All Other	\$0	\$874,049	\$0	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$3,425	\$0

Education in Unorganized Territory 0220

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	23.500	23.500	23.500	23.500
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	23.390	23.390	26.540	26.540
Personal Services	\$3,643,579	\$3,809,523	\$4,377,187	\$4,584,671
All Other	\$10,212,381	\$13,069,048	\$11,912,381	\$11,912,381
Capital Expenditures	\$1,170,000	\$2,497,112	\$0	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$15,025,960	\$19,375,683	\$16,289,568	\$16,497,052
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	0.707	0.707	0.707	0.707
Personal Services	\$158,984	\$164,881	\$155,115	\$164,390
All Other	\$211,445	\$211,445	\$211,445	\$211,445
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$370,429	\$376,326	\$366,560	\$375,835
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$8,135	\$8,135	\$8,135	\$8,135
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$8,135	\$8,135	\$8,135	\$8,135

Justification:

The Education in the Unorganized Territory (EUT) program is authorized under Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 119. The purpose of the program is to provide educational programming and related support services to school age children whose parents reside in the unorganized territory of the state. Funding is provided to educate 816 students residing in unorganized territories, including 117 students in three EUT schools. The department operates these three schools and tuitions 699 additional students to 66 school administrative units. The funds expended from the General Fund budget for EUT educational services are replaced each fiscal year by local tax revenues raised through the Municipal Cost Component Act. These local tax funds are dedicated revenues which reimburse the General Fund for EUT and other state and county services provided to residents of the unorganized territory.

Education in Unorganized Territory 0220

Initiative: Provides funding to increase one seasonal Education Specialist III position from 48 weeks to 52 weeks annually.

Ref. #: 978

Committee Vote:

11-0 IN

AFA Vote:

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND		
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	(0.923)	(0.923)
Personal Services	\$10,569	\$14,994

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

\$10,569

\$14,994

Justification:

This initiative provides funding to increase one Education Specialist III position from 48 weeks to 52 weeks annually. This position provides administrative support and direction for all students receiving special education services through Education in the Unorganized Territory. This position ensures state and federal compliance related to special education for all students receiving education in the Unorganized Territory.

Education in Unorganized Territory 0220

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for maintenance of 3 state-owned schools in the unorganized territories.

Ref. #: 979

One Time

Committee Vote:

10-1 IN

AFA Vote:

GENERAL FUND

All Other

2025-26

2026-27

\$150,000

\$150,000

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

\$150,000

\$150,000

Justification:

Education in the Unorganized Territory (EUT) operates 3 state-owned schools. The school buildings are between 50 and 60 years old and are currently undergoing significant upgrades to address health and safety deficiencies. This initiative provides ongoing funding to enhance the preventative maintenance programs and to maintain buildings and grounds.

Education in Unorganized Territory 0220

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for maintenance of a fleet of school buses in the unorganized territories.

Ref. #: 980

One Time

Committee Vote:

11-0 IN

AFA Vote:

GENERAL FUND

All Other

2025-26

2026-27

\$30,000

\$30,000

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

\$30,000

\$30,000

Justification:

The Education in the Unorganized Territory (EUT) has a fleet of school buses that are used to transport students in unorganized territories. This initiative provides funding to maintain the EUT bus fleet ensuring that no bus active in student transport fails to meet safety standards and compliance.

**EDUCATION IN UNORGANIZED TERRITORY 0220
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	23.500	23.500	24.500	24.500
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	23.390	23.390	25.617	25.617
Personal Services	\$3,643,579	\$3,809,523	\$4,387,756	\$4,599,665
All Other	\$10,212,381	\$13,069,048	\$12,092,381	\$12,092,381
Capital Expenditures	\$1,170,000	\$2,497,112	\$0	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$15,025,960	\$19,375,683	\$16,480,137	\$16,692,046

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	0.707	0.707	0.707	0.707
Personal Services	\$158,984	\$164,881	\$155,115	\$164,390
All Other	\$211,445	\$211,445	\$211,445	\$211,445
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$370,429	\$376,326	\$366,560	\$375,835

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$8,135	\$8,135	\$8,135	\$8,135
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$8,135	\$8,135	\$8,135	\$8,135

ELA and Workforce Training Z312

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500

Justification:

The Department of Education's office of adult education oversees competitive grants to adult education programs for English language acquisition and workforce training programs. Grant funds are used to support school administrative units in communities experiencing an increase in immigrant populations, reduce the waiting list for English language acquisition classes, increase the levels, frequency or intensity of English language acquisition instruction offered and to provide industry-specific English language acquisition combined with workforce training in the specific skill areas required for identified workforce needs of employers in Maine.

**ELA AND WORKFORCE TRAINING Z312
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500

FHM - School Breakfast Program Z068

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE				
All Other	\$213,720	\$213,720	\$213,720	\$213,720
FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE TOTAL	\$213,720	\$213,720	\$213,720	\$213,720

Justification:

The School Breakfast Program is a component of the Department of Education's Child Nutrition Program. This program distributes funds to school units as reimbursement for provision of breakfast to those students eligible for the reduced-price breakfast.

**FHM - SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM Z068
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE				
All Other	\$213,720	\$213,720	\$213,720	\$213,720
FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE TOTAL	\$213,720	\$213,720	\$213,720	\$213,720

Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services Z005

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500

Justification:

The Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services provides one-time funds to school administrative units, municipalities and counties in support of costs of local and regional initiatives to improve educational opportunity and student achievement through more efficient delivery of educational programs and services.

**FUND FOR THE EFFICIENT DELIVERY OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES Z005
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$63,893,687	\$92,610,521
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$63,893,687	\$92,610,521

Justification:

Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15671, subsection 1 requires funding the state share percentage of the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 at 55%. This amount represents the increased cost from fiscal year 2024-25 to maintain funding the state share percentage at 55%.

General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide technology services provided by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Information Technology.

Ref. #: 986

Committee Vote:

8-3 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$572,450	\$572,450
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$572,450	\$572,450

Justification:

MaineIT is responsible for the delivery of safe, secure, and high-performing networks and systems to State Agencies for daily performance of their missions for the citizens of Maine. IT enterprise functions benefiting all state agencies are managed through this office to ensure consistency, volume discount efficiencies, and optimum performance and throughput. MaineIT is established as an internal service fund intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies for services provided. MaineIT expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs, including vendor increases, supply chain costs, and network and systems modernization and upgrades. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Public Service Manager II position previously established in Public Law 2023, chapter 412 and reduces All Other to fund the position.

Ref. #: 987

Committee Vote:

7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$180,164
All Other	\$0	(\$180,164)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

Justification:

The Coordinator of Learning Through Technology provides vision, oversight and management of the Learning Through Technology program. This position is responsible for leading the mission and vision of all Learning Through Technology programs and initiatives such as the Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI), the Statewide Computer Science Education plan and the upcoming AI Guidance for Education. The position provides direct oversight and supervision of the Learning Through Technology team and administration of the \$14 million operating budget.

General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308

Initiative: Establishes one Public Service Coordinator I position and reduces All Other to fund the position.

Ref. #: 988

Committee Vote: 7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$126,737	\$137,217
All Other	(\$126,737)	(\$137,217)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

Justification:

The department's data warehouse provides data about Maine's students, education staff, schools and school administrative units (SAUs) in one location. This data can be filtered in multiple ways for comparisons across the state, SAUs, and schools, as well as changes over time. Data collected by the department is based on requirements from state and federal statutes. The data warehouse is a core component of the Maine Education Data Management System and the department's State Longitudinal Data System project. This position will serve as the Education Data Warehouse Manager and is integral to departmentwide data projects.

General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Education Specialist III position previously established by Financial Order 003854 F5 and reduces All Other to fund the position.

Ref. #: 989

Committee Vote: 7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$111,129	\$120,191
All Other	(\$111,129)	(\$120,191)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

Justification:

The Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI) Ambassador Facilitator ensures that the MLTI professional learning remains coordinated and relevant. The primary purpose of this position is to ensure alignment across the professional learning provided by the Distinguished Educators (MLTI Ambassadors), as well as to help to support the team in organizing and coordinating daily activities and aid in program-wide planning.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

(\$1,429,535) (\$1,380,256)

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue allocations with the Revenue Forecast.

Justification:

This initiative aligns allocation with December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Education Specialist III position to a Public Service Coordinator I position, increases the hours from 57 hours to 80 hours biweekly and transfers All Other to Personal Services to fund the reorganization.

Ref. #: 993

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$49,512	\$52,951
All Other	(\$49,512)	(\$52,951)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

Justification:

This position provides the coordination and management oversight of the logistical operation of the Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI). This position provides professional services work in planning, coordinating and administering the MLTI program, including program review, evaluation, monitoring and providing technical assistance to school administrative units. The position will have the additional responsibilities of overseeing MLTI's \$14 million budget as well as supervising two staff positions.

**GENERAL PURPOSE AID FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS 0308
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	21.000	19.000	23.000	23.000
Personal Services	\$2,733,814	\$2,674,361	\$3,605,347	\$3,792,021
All Other	\$1,373,708,033	\$1,414,538,198	\$1,478,216,957	\$1,506,730,646
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,376,441,847	\$1,417,212,559	\$1,481,822,304	\$1,510,522,667

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$24,721,192	\$25,019,955	\$24,215,919	\$24,906,334
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$24,721,192	\$25,019,955	\$24,215,919	\$24,906,334

the efficient use and sharing of educational resources; and to strengthen the relationship between higher education and the economic well-being and quality of life in New England. This initiative reduces the General Fund appropriation and provides an Other Special Revenue Funds allocation to pay annual dues to the New England Board of Higher Education. Ongoing funding will be provided through a transfer of funds from the National Board Salary Supplement Fund.

**HIGHER EDUCATION AND EDUCATOR SUPPORT SERVICES Z082
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	13.000	13.000	13.000	13.000
Personal Services	\$1,286,655	\$1,350,795	\$1,537,890	\$1,624,075
All Other	\$411,280	\$401,280	\$259,000	\$259,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,697,935	\$1,752,075	\$1,796,890	\$1,883,075

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$35,929	\$187,339	\$187,339
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$35,929	\$187,339	\$187,339

Higher Education Interpersonal Violence Advisory Commission Fund Z351

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$36,000	\$76,000	\$36,000	\$76,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$36,000	\$76,000	\$36,000	\$76,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

The purpose of the Interpersonal Violence Advisory is to collect information and disseminate accordingly to agencies that can provide services based on data.

**HIGHER EDUCATION INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE ADVISORY COMMISSION FUND Z351
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$36,000	\$76,000	\$36,000	\$76,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$36,000	\$76,000	\$36,000	\$76,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Innovative Instruction and Tutoring Grant Program Fund Z345

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

The Innovative Instruction and Tutoring Grant Program Fund was established to encourage the facilitation of innovative instruction and tutoring programs, including so-called high-impact tutoring, that address learning loss or unfinished learning through the use of project-based learning and other interdisciplinary approaches. Eligible local education providers throughout the State may be awarded grants upon approval of their applications.

**INNOVATIVE INSTRUCTION AND TUTORING GRANT PROGRAM FUND Z345
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Innovative Teaching and Learning Z394

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	13.000	13.000	13.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$1,655,611	\$1,843,042	\$1,930,562
All Other	\$0	\$180,440	\$180,440	\$180,440
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,836,051	\$2,023,482	\$2,111,002

Justification:

The Innovative Teaching and Learning team supports specific groups of underrepresented students and specific topic areas such as English speakers of other languages, Wabanaki studies, and Climate Education. This team works to increase school and student agency to provide the additional supports to each specific area while increasing the capacity at schools so that their area is eventually no longer underrepresented.

Innovative Teaching and Learning Z394

Initiative: Transfers one Interdisciplinary Instruction Specialist position from the School Facilities program, Other Special Revenue Funds to the Innovative Teaching and Learning program, General Fund and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 1200

Committee Vote:

7-4 IN

AFA Vote:

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$119,238	\$123,914
All Other	\$9,328	\$9,328
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$128,566	\$133,242

Justification:

With literacy test scores indicating a significant gap in student proficiency, a permanent Integrated Literacy Specialist is essential to lead targeted interventions and support strategies that can elevate literacy outcomes across all grade levels. As educators increasingly face challenges in engaging students with diverse literacy needs, the specialized expertise of an Integrated Literacy Specialist will ensure that professional learning opportunities are tailored to empower teachers with innovative, research-based literacy practices. In a society where literacy is foundational to both personal and professional success, a dedicated Integrated Literacy Specialist is crucial for developing a comprehensive cross-disciplinary approach that prepares all students to be literate, informed, and active citizens.

Innovative Teaching and Learning Z394

Initiative: Provides Federal Expenditures Fund allocation for the Innovative Teaching and Learning program.

Ref. #: 1201

Committee Vote:

7-4 IN

AFA Vote:

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500

Leadership Team Z077

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	23.000	26.000	25.500	25.500
Personal Services	\$2,766,527	\$3,104,983	\$3,656,950	\$3,842,408
All Other	\$767,028	\$813,079	\$808,079	\$808,079
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$3,533,555	\$3,918,062	\$4,465,029	\$4,650,487
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$156,705	\$157,626	\$173,138	\$184,636
All Other	\$2,233,712	\$2,233,712	\$2,233,712	\$2,233,712
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$2,390,417	\$2,391,338	\$2,406,850	\$2,418,348

Justification:

The Leadership Team program provides Maine schools with the dynamic and collaborative support needed to ensure quality pre-k through adult learning in the state. The program provides administrative and policymaking services, which support the operations of the Department of Education in the areas of statewide educational planning and innovation, Administrative Procedure Act and Freedom of Access Act compliance, state and federal legislative activity, agency budgeting and finance, strategic planning, communications, advocacy and outreach, and personnel. Each of the activities has broad responsibilities for supporting the work of Maine's pre-k through adult programming for education, elevating all other organizational units within the department, and representing and evolving the department within these areas of responsibility to best serve Maine schools.

Leadership Team Z077

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved range change of one Deputy Commissioner of Education position from range 38 to range 39.

Ref. #: 1025

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND		
Personal Services	\$2,570	\$2,643
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$2,570	\$2,643

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

Justification:

This position has major decision making authority over a large portion of the department budget. This role has seen increased responsibilities associated with managing through a pandemic including oversight of the substantial programmatic and fiscal responsibilities associated with over \$1 billion in emergency funding programs for the State of Maine's education system.

Leadership Team Z077

Initiative: Provides funding for the Department's share of the cost for the financial and human resources service center within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Ref. #: 1027

Committee Vote:

8-3 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$36,979	\$283,375
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$36,979	\$283,375

Justification:

Service Centers within DAFS provide centralized accounting, payroll, budgeting and human resources services to departments and agencies. Service Centers are established as an internal service funds intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies for services provided. The Service Centers expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

Leadership Team Z077

Initiative: Establishes one Office Specialist II position, eliminates one part-time Office Associate II position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 1028

Committee Vote:

7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.500	0.500
Personal Services	\$48,466	\$51,800
All Other	\$9,878	\$9,328
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$58,344	\$61,128

Justification:

This position will assist the Director of Procurement with departmentwide procurement procedures, records management and will provide technical assistance to the department regarding procurement processes. This position will prepare and submit invoices for payment, track and monitor agreements, review contracts for errors and completeness and monitor pending and incomplete documents in the state accounting system. The position is needed to assist with the increased amount of procurement work related to state and federal grants, to ensure a thorough review of state contracts and to provide procurement support to department teams that do not have an administrative support position.

Leadership Team Z077

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Public Service Coordinator I position from range 25 to range 27.

Ref. #: 1032

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
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Personal Services	\$8,299	\$9,030
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$8,299	\$9,030

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

Justification:

This position will serve as the Operations Project Coordinator to lead the coordination of operations, technology, communications, work processes, and general project management for the Office of Operations within the Leadership Team. This position will develop and implement strategies to increase the success of priority projects and processes, including development and utilization of technology resources. This position will also serve as a liaison and provide technical support coordination and project facilitation to the department.

Leadership Team Z077

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the cost of one Public Service Coordinator I position and related All Other costs from the School Finance and Operations program to the Leadership Team program within the same fund.

Ref. #: 1035

Committee Vote: 7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$142,267	\$148,080
All Other	\$9,328	\$9,328
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$151,595	\$157,408

Justification:

Records management departmentwide is the responsibility of the Office of Operations within the Leadership Team. This position serves as the department's subject matter expert on records maintenance and governance and will supervise any temporary staff assisting with this work. The position leads the application, updating and creation of department policies and procedures to facilitate the management of records, both physical and electronic, to support the legal, operational and risk management governance needs of the department. The position also serves as the liaison between the department and other state offices on this subject including Maine State Archives and MaineIT. This initiative transfers the position to the Leadership Team program to align funding with the appropriate program.

Leadership Team Z077

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide insurance coverage provided through the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Division of Risk Management based on claims experience, coverage increases, attorney fees on claims and actuarially recommended reserves.

Ref. #: 1036

Committee Vote: 10-1 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$20,906	\$20,906
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$20,906	\$20,906

Learning Systems Team Z081

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$129,587	\$133,588	\$144,747	\$153,755
All Other	\$2,774,086	\$2,774,086	\$2,774,086	\$2,774,086
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$2,903,673	\$2,907,674	\$2,918,833	\$2,927,841
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	18.000	14.000	14.000	14.000
Personal Services	\$2,527,122	\$2,141,270	\$2,192,905	\$1,983,743
All Other	\$113,161,287	\$109,083,687	\$109,081,034	\$109,081,034
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$115,688,409	\$111,224,957	\$111,273,939	\$111,064,777
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY				
All Other	\$871,428	\$83,629	\$83,629	\$83,629
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE RECOVERY TOTAL	\$871,428	\$83,629	\$83,629	\$83,629
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	9.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Personal Services	\$2,491,550	\$1,029,357	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$197,228	\$104,165	\$55,960	\$55,960
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP TOTAL	\$2,688,778	\$1,133,522	\$55,960	\$55,960

Justification:

The Office of Learning Systems coordinates, manages and supervises the services related to a wide array of instructional programs, activities, supports and requirements for all Maine learners and provides leadership to the field in its conduct of those functions. While its focus is on programs operated through Maine's public schools, its scope is primarily pre-school through grade 12. Its activities cover state, federal, private and foundation-funded educational activities through the secondary level. This office reviews and testifies on legislation regarding education and develops rules as directed by legislation; collects and analyzes student data for performance and other required elements; summarizes data for public reports and policy direction; and provides technical assistance and professional learning to school personnel on instructional strategies, best practice and program operations. In addition, this office provides support services; is responsible for grant processing and approvals for CTE; and enters into contractual and inter-agency agreements where appropriate for the delivery of services. The Office of Learning Systems staff plays a leadership role by providing a direct link from the field to the Maine Department of Education and by forging and supporting a variety of regional partnerships and collaborative efforts to enhance and support local school systems and CTE centers and regions. The office supports local school systems and Career and Technical Education centers and regions administrators, teachers, staff and communities across the state to implement and integrate the following: --Standards-based initiatives including the Maine Learning Results and Maine Early Learning and Development Standards, the knowledge and skills essential to prepare

Initiative: Provides funding to bring allocation in line with available resources for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program grant.

Ref. #: 1080

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$569,635	\$566,941
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$569,635	\$566,941

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue or Federal allocations with the available resources.

Justification:

The Department of Education receives the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program grant. The objective of this grant is to create community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. This initiative increases allocation to meet projected expenditures in fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27.

Learning Systems Team Z081

Initiative: Reallocates the cost of one Management Analyst II position from 100% Federal Expenditures Fund to 90% Federal Expenditures Fund and 10% General Fund within the same program.

Ref. #: 1081

Committee Vote: 7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services #1	\$10,966	\$11,412
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$10,966	\$11,412

Ref. #: 1082

Committee Vote: (same as above)

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services #2	(\$10,966)	(\$11,412)
All Other	\$10,966	\$11,412
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

Justification:

This position ensures consistency in process and procedures and continue to examine areas of efficiency and streamlining across all federal programs while supporting necessary staffing structures to process \$80 million in Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) federal funds across five grants, ensuring fiscal oversight, necessary technical assistance and compliance verification. This initiative reallocates a portion of the position cost to the General Fund to allow for work with non-federal funds and to provide departmentwide assistance and support as needed.

Learning Systems Team Z081

Initiative: Continues one limited-period State Education Representative position, one limited-period Education Specialist III position and 2 limited-period Education Specialist II positions previously continued in Public Law 2023, chapter 643 through December 31, 2026 and reduces All Other funding to fund the positions.

Ref. #: 1084 One Time Committee Vote: 7-4 IN AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$210,393	\$307,861
All Other	(\$210,393)	(\$307,861)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

Justification:

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) received a preschool development grant in December 2022. DHHS is partnering with the Department of Education to ensure children and their families will receive the services they need through an efficient, data-driven and evidenced-based system so that all children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed. These positions support the work of the grant through targeted outreach and support for families, expansion of community-based pre-k partnerships, early childhood education workforce development and integration of early childhood data across state agencies. This initiative continues four positions through the end of the grant and provides funding for related costs.

Learning Systems Team Z081

Initiative: Provides one-time allocation in Federal Expenditures Fund-ARP State Fiscal Recovery accounts.

Ref. #: 1085 One Time Committee Vote: 8-3 IN AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$2,000	\$2,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$2,000	\$2,000

Justification:

An allocation in these accounts will allow for continued expenditures through the end of the grant funds.

Learning Systems Team Z081

Initiative: Reduces funding to align allocation with available resources.

Ref. #: 1089 Committee Vote: _____ AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	(\$3,000,969)	(\$2,710,451)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	(\$3,000,969)	(\$2,710,451)

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue or Federal allocations with the available resources.

Justification:

The department receives funding through a three-year Department of Health and Human Services Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five renewal grant. This initiative reduces allocation to align funding with the available grant award.

**LEARNING SYSTEMS TEAM Z081
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$129,587	\$133,588	\$155,713	\$165,167
All Other	\$2,774,086	\$2,774,086	\$2,774,086	\$2,774,086
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$2,903,673	\$2,907,674	\$2,929,799	\$2,939,253
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	18.000	14.000	14.000	14.000
Personal Services	\$2,527,122	\$2,141,270	\$2,392,332	\$2,280,192
All Other	\$113,161,287	\$109,083,687	\$105,936,704	\$106,122,978
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$115,688,409	\$111,224,957	\$108,329,036	\$108,403,170
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$871,428	\$83,629	\$85,629	\$85,629
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$871,428	\$83,629	\$85,629	\$85,629
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	9.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Personal Services	\$2,491,550	\$1,029,357	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$197,228	\$104,165	\$55,960	\$55,960
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP TOTAL	\$2,688,778	\$1,133,522	\$55,960	\$55,960

Learning Through Technology Z029

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$12,141,815	\$12,141,815	\$12,141,815	\$12,141,815
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$12,141,815	\$12,141,815	\$12,141,815	\$12,141,815

Justification:

The Learning Through Technology program provides the tools and resources to assist Maine's teachers in integrating technology into their classrooms and curriculum. Programs include the Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI), #ConnectKidsNow! which provides cellular hotspots to students so they can participate in remote learning, the MOOSE projects which created asynchronous, interdisciplinary, project-based learning modules for use by students and teachers, distance learning classrooms, federal e-rate support and support to the Department of Education and school administrative units.

**LEARNING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY Z029
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$12,141,815	\$12,141,815	\$12,141,815	\$12,141,815
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$12,141,815	\$12,141,815	\$12,141,815	\$12,141,815

Local Foods Program Z297

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$81,543	\$87,411	\$111,233	\$119,645
All Other	\$326,000	\$326,000	\$326,000	\$326,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$407,543	\$413,411	\$437,233	\$445,645

Justification:

The Local Foods program supports the use of local produce in schools by matching \$1 for every \$3 a school administrative unit pays for produce, value-added dairy, protein or minimally processed foods purchased directly from a farmer, farmers' cooperative, local food hub, local food processor or food service distributor in the State. All foods purchased under this program must be grown or produced in Maine.

LOCAL FOODS PROGRAM Z297

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$81,543	\$87,411	\$111,233	\$119,645
All Other	\$326,000	\$326,000	\$326,000	\$326,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$407,543	\$413,411	\$437,233	\$445,645

Maine Climate Corps Prog - ME Commission for Comm Svc Z350

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$81,310	\$81,310	\$81,310	\$81,310
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$81,310	\$81,310	\$81,310	\$81,310

Justification:

Provides grants, technical assistance and training to community service corps programs with the mission of responding to climate impacts. Community service corps programs engage community members in service activities and meet the eligibility criteria outlined in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 7507.

Maine Climate Corps Prog - ME Commission for Comm Svc Z350

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Senior Planner position previously established by financial order and reduces All Other to partially fund the position.

Ref. #: 1183

Committee Vote: 7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$105,595	\$113,841
All Other	(\$71,982)	(\$71,982)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$33,613	\$41,859

Justification:

This initiative continues and makes permanent one limited-period Senior Planner position. This position oversees development and implementation of the Climate Corps initiative. The position coordinates with multiple state and federal agencies to engage citizens as participants in the Climate Corps and develops, maintains, and delivers required online training for those participants. The position monitors developments in climate science and tactics for responding, provides training that meets Climate Corps' goals, represents the Commission on national Climate Corps committees and advises the Executive Director on policies, practices, or legislative initiatives that will impact Maine's Climate Corps success.

MAINE CLIMATE CORPS PROG - ME COMMISSION FOR COMM SVC Z350

PROGRAM SUMMARY

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$105,595	\$113,841
All Other	\$81,310	\$81,310	\$9,328	\$9,328
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$81,310	\$81,310	\$114,923	\$123,169

Maine Commission for Community Service Z134

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
Personal Services	\$33,336	\$35,605	\$42,239	\$45,535
All Other	\$53,276	\$53,276	\$53,276	\$53,276
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$86,612	\$88,881	\$95,515	\$98,811
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Personal Services	\$506,117	\$523,531	\$598,691	\$634,069
All Other	\$2,269,136	\$2,269,136	\$2,269,136	\$2,269,136
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$2,775,253	\$2,792,667	\$2,867,827	\$2,903,205
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
Personal Services	\$17,314	\$18,259	\$22,506	\$24,281
All Other	\$194,282	\$194,282	\$194,282	\$194,282
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$211,596	\$212,541	\$216,788	\$218,563
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP				
Personal Services	\$83,666	\$46,654	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$8,874	\$5,856	\$2,864	\$2,864
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP TOTAL	\$92,540	\$52,510	\$2,864	\$2,864

Justification:

The Maine Commission for Community Service builds capacity and sustainability in Maine's volunteer community services by funding AmeriCorps and service programs, providing training and technical assistance to grantees and potential national service grant applicants, monitoring and raising awareness of issues impacting Maine's volunteer sector, co-chairing the volunteer and donations management function of the state emergency response, and promoting service as a strategy to meet critical needs. Grant funding is allocated under the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 while special project funds are from gifts or other funds.

Maine Commission for Community Service Z134

Initiative: Reduces funding to align allocations with projected resources as grant funding is no longer available.

Ref. #: 1106

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP		2025-26	2026-27
All Other		(\$2,864)	(\$2,864)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP TOTAL

(\$2,864) (\$2,864)

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue or Federal allocations with the available resources.

Justification:

Allocation is no longer needed as the Maine Commission for Community Service grant funding through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act ended on December 31, 2024.

**MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE Z134
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$33,336	\$35,605	\$42,239	\$45,535
All Other	\$53,276	\$53,276	\$53,276	\$53,276
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$86,612	\$88,881	\$95,515	\$98,811
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	6.000	6.000	6.000	6.000
Personal Services	\$506,117	\$523,531	\$598,691	\$634,069
All Other	\$2,269,136	\$2,269,136	\$2,269,136	\$2,269,136
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$2,775,253	\$2,792,667	\$2,867,827	\$2,903,205
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$17,314	\$18,259	\$22,506	\$24,281
All Other	\$194,282	\$194,282	\$194,282	\$194,282
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$211,596	\$212,541	\$216,788	\$218,563
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$83,666	\$46,654	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$8,874	\$5,856	\$0	\$0
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP TOTAL	\$92,540	\$52,510	\$0	\$0

Maine HIV Prevention Education Program Z182

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$134,400	\$134,400	\$134,400	\$134,400
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$134,400	\$134,400	\$134,400	\$134,400

Justification:

Provides funds for HIV prevention training of health educators, student peer educators, special education teachers, other teachers and youth workers.

**MAINE HIV PREVENTION EDUCATION PROGRAM Z182
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$134,400	\$134,400	\$134,400	\$134,400
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$134,400	\$134,400	\$134,400	\$134,400

Maine School Safety Center Z293

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000
Personal Services	\$596,545	\$801,853	\$757,166	\$792,295
All Other	\$36,465	\$619,944	\$740,895	\$740,895
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$633,010	\$1,421,797	\$1,498,061	\$1,533,190
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$303,622	\$169,004	\$161,385	\$168,015
All Other	\$160,352	\$154,192	\$151,496	\$151,496
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$463,974	\$323,196	\$312,881	\$319,511

Justification:

The Maine School Safety Center (MSSC) provides guidance, training and technical support to Maine's Schools to assist them in meeting their safety and security requirements. The MSSC is developing a safe school infrastructure that will deliver high quality, up-to-date best practices, procedures, training and technical assistance and support to Maine schools.

Maine School Safety Center Z293

Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Coordinator II position from the Federal Expenditures Fund to the General Fund within the same program and reduces All Other to fund the position.

Ref. #: 1147

#1

Committee Vote:

7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND		2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT		1.000	1.000
Personal Services		\$161,385	\$168,015
All Other		(\$161,385)	(\$168,015)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL		\$0	\$0

Ref. #: 1148

#2

Committee Vote:

(same as above)

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND		2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT		(1.000)	(1.000)
Personal Services		(\$161,385)	(\$168,015)
All Other		(\$3,461)	(\$3,461)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL		(\$164,846)	(\$171,476)

Justification:

The Threat Assessment and Mental Health Coordinator serves as a subject matter expert to assure and facilitate the highly complex public health model of creating and maintaining a safe school environment as the coordination of disparate mental health programs is needed. This initiative transfers the position from the Federal Expenditures Fund to the General Fund within the same program after federal grant funding has ended to ensure continued support in the areas of threat assessment and mental health.

Maine School Safety Center Z293

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Public Service Coordinator I position previously established by Financial Order 003773 F5 and provides funding for related All Other costs. Eliminates one State Education Representative position and reduces related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 1149

Committee Vote:

7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$117,056	\$126,304
All Other	\$9,328	\$9,328
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$126,384	\$135,632

Notes:

Related to initiative 1132 in School and Student Supports Program

Justification:

The Public Service Coordinator I position serves as the Administrative Operations Manager to assist the Maine School Safety Center (MSSC) Director with internal operations and administrative functions within the office. The position develops internal operational policies and procedures; assist with hiring, training, onboarding, budget planning and reporting functions; coordinates collaborative efforts between teams within the office; maintains policy and procedure manuals and the MSSC website; and manages contracts and workflow processes. This initiative also eliminates a State Education Representative position.

Maine School Safety Center Z293

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Public Service Coordinator II position previously established in Public Law 2023, chapter 643 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 1150

Committee Vote:

7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$131,682	\$146,119
All Other	\$9,878	\$9,328
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$141,560	\$155,447

Justification:

The School Safety and Security Coordinator will carry out projects or manage programs, grant application and management, and will serve as the subject matter expert in school safety and security for the Maine Department of Education. The position requires significant contact and coordination with school personnel responsible for the day-to-day safety and security of their buildings, such as Assistant Principals, Principals and any associated persons. This coordinator position will focus on training school personnel responsible for the day-to-day safety and security of their buildings on the most up to date best school safety and security practices, assisting with site assessments, share information on successful tested strategies, conduct the annual school safety summit, training and certification of School Resource Officers, physical school building security, response protocols, school culture assessment and external service linkage to schools to enhance safety.

Maine School Safety Center Z293

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one State Education Representative position to a Public Service Coordinator II position.

Ref. #: 1151

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$14,686	\$20,742
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$14,686	\$20,742

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

Justification:

This position coordinates the training and implementation of school-based restorative practices. The position designs, develops and delivers curriculum and training methods, recruits and manages ten contracted staff positions necessary for implementation of training programs and conducts statewide school training needs assessments and evaluation. This position collaborates with other state organizations and community partners including work with the Children's Cabinet on issues pertaining to marginalized and system involved youth in Maine.

**MAINE SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER Z293
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	5.000	5.000	8.000	8.000
Personal Services	\$596,545	\$801,853	\$1,181,975	\$1,253,475
All Other	\$36,465	\$619,944	\$598,716	\$591,536
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$633,010	\$1,421,797	\$1,780,691	\$1,845,011

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.000
Personal Services	\$303,622	\$169,004	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$160,352	\$154,192	\$148,035	\$148,035
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$463,974	\$323,196	\$148,035	\$148,035

Maine Service Fellows Program Z311

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

This program places Service Fellows with rural and underserved communities in the State as a resource to address critical health and human, public safety, education and environmental needs. Service Fellows commit to a year of service to the community. They are young professionals who have completed a college degree within the prior 5 years and receive a living allowance that permits them to serve full-time. Service Fellows carry out projects designed and guided by community residents with solutions based in whole or in part in volunteer service.

Maine Service Fellows Program Z311

Initiative: Continues one limited-period Volunteer Services Coordinator position previously established by Financial Order 003931 F5 through September 30, 2029 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 1157 One Time Committee Vote: 7-4 IN AFA Vote: _____

	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND		
Personal Services	\$98,611	\$106,558
All Other	\$12,433	\$12,072
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$111,044	\$118,630

Justification:

Pursuant to Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 7506, The Maine Service Fellows Program was established to A) Increase the opportunities for individuals to devote a year of service to communities in the State; B) Attract to and retain in the State motivated adults who have completed a college degree within the prior 5 years to serve in positions where they can apply skills and abilities to projects for the benefit of citizens of the State; C) Provide rural and underserved communities in the State a resource to address critical health and human, public safety, education and environmental needs; and D) Strengthen civic engagement of both the program fellows and community residents through solutions based in whole or in part in volunteer service. This position will assist the Climate Corps Coordinator with recruitment and onboarding of Fellows who commit to serving in a community full-time for one year. The position will support Maine Service Fellows during their service and assist with program including training, technical assistance, and implementation of the host site's community project.

**MAINE SERVICE FELLOWS PROGRAM Z311
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$98,611	\$106,558
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$12,933	\$12,572
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$111,544	\$119,130
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

National Board Certification Salary Supplement Fund Z147

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$953,800	\$953,800	\$953,800	\$953,800
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$953,800	\$953,800	\$953,800	\$953,800

Justification:

The National Board Certification Salary Supplemental Fund provides a salary supplement for public school teachers or teachers in a publicly supported secondary school who have attained certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION SALARY SUPPLEMENT FUND Z147

PROGRAM SUMMARY

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$953,800	\$953,800	\$953,800	\$953,800
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$953,800	\$953,800	\$953,800	\$953,800

National Board Certification Scholarship Fund Z148

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000

Justification:

The National Board Certification Scholarship Fund encourages teachers to apply to and enroll in the certification program offered by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. School administrative units or publicly funded secondary schools may request scholarship funds on behalf of its teachers who meet statutory eligibility requirements.

**NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND Z148
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000

Obesity and Chronic Disease Fund Z111

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

Provides a base allocation if funds are received to support physical education programs in elementary schools in order to reduce obesity and chronic disease.

**OBESITY AND CHRONIC DISEASE FUND Z111
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Office of Innovation Z333

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	13.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$1,763,154	\$352,104	\$463,546	\$244,772
All Other	\$217,199	\$654,719	\$47,219	\$47,219
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,980,353	\$1,006,823	\$510,765	\$291,991

Justification:

The Office of Innovation is comprised of five work teams: Early Learning, Innovative Teaching and Learning through Technology, Interdisciplinary Instruction, Maine Online Opportunities for Sustained Education, and Reinventing Responsive Education Ventures. The office centers its work around human-centered design, innovation engineering, and other innovative processes for rapid research and design and ongoing iteration and continuous improvement for perpetual innovation in programs and services. The Office of Innovation oversees and supports services and activities related to PK-12 standards and instruction, reviews and testifies on related legislation, develops rules as directed by legislation; collects, summarizes, and analyzes student data for performance, public reports and policy direction; and provides technical assistance and professional learning opportunities on innovative instructional strategies.

Office of Innovation Z333

Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Executive II position and related All Other costs from the Leadership Team program to the Office of Innovation program within the same fund.

Ref. #: 1170

Committee Vote:

7-4 IN

AFA Vote:

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND		
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$196,483	\$204,498
All Other	\$9,328	\$9,328
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$205,811	\$213,826

Justification:

This permanent position serves as the Director of Strategic Partnerships. The primary purpose of this position is to expand partnerships with relevant individuals, associations, education organizations and schools to secure funding and resources that help to align with the needs and resource gap areas of the department and the State of Maine education system. This initiative transfers the position to the Office of Innovation program to align funding with the appropriate program.

**OFFICE OF INNOVATION Z333
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	13.000	1.000	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$1,763,154	\$352,104	\$660,029	\$449,270
All Other	\$217,199	\$654,719	\$56,547	\$56,547
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,980,353	\$1,006,823	\$716,576	\$505,817

Office of Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways Z334

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000
Personal Services	\$806,485	\$840,168	\$733,644	\$763,458
All Other	\$1,667,914	\$3,099,957	\$3,082,237	\$3,082,237
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$2,474,399	\$3,940,125	\$3,815,881	\$3,845,695
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	4.000	4.000	4.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$499,628	\$530,092	\$553,326
All Other	\$0	\$6,739,502	\$6,739,502	\$6,739,502
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$7,239,130	\$7,269,594	\$7,292,828
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$0	\$1,554,640	\$1,554,640	\$1,554,640
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$1,554,640	\$1,554,640	\$1,554,640

Justification:

The Office of Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways (WDIP) provides comprehensive coordination and alignment of policies, programs, resources, and initiatives of Adult Education (AE), Career and Technical Education (CTE), and Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO), Early College & Education Pathways (EPEC) to expand learning opportunities for students, maximize efficiencies, and elevate the office's collective support for Maine's workforce goals. This office utilizes, processes, and supports implementation of state and federal programs/grants including the Carl Perkins Vocational, George Briggs, Adult Education and Family Literacy, Workforce Innovation, and Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan, Aspirations, and Early College. The Office of Workforce Development develops rules and writes reports as directed by legislation; reviews and testifies on legislation; and collects, analyzes, and reports on WDIP initiatives in order to identify strengths and gaps in programming, and to provide the Department, and other state agencies and partners with data-informed recommendations.

Office of Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways Z334

Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Manager II position from the Office of Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways program to the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program within the same fund.

Ref. #: 1176

Committee Vote: **8-3 IN**

AFA Vote: _____

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND		
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	(1.000)	(1.000)
Personal Services	(\$172,611)	(\$179,690)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	(\$172,611)	(\$179,690)

Justification:

This position is responsible for overseeing and growing all early college opportunities for high school and career and technical education (CTE) programs in order to ensure that students are provided their statutorily allowable credit hours and equitable access to opportunities. This position partners with adult education college transition programs and school and CTE counselors to raise awareness, use and access to early college options. The position also oversees the State Diploma Program. This initiative transfers the position to the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program to align funding with the appropriate program.

Office of Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways Z334

Initiative: Continues one limited-period Public Service Manager I position and one limited-period Management Analyst II position previously established in Public Law 2023, chapter 412 through June 30, 2027 and reduces All Other to fund the positions.

Ref. #: 1177 One Time Committee Vote: 7-4 IN AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$228,711	\$247,044
All Other	(\$228,711)	(\$247,044)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

Justification:

Public Law 2021, chapter 635, Part X authorized the issuance of securities for equipment purchases to career and technical education centers and career and technical education regions. Pursuant to section 6 of this Part, debt service costs for bonds issued to career and technical education centers and regions must be paid by the State. This initiative continues two positions to direct, coordinate and oversee the program funds.

Office of Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways Z334

Initiative: Reduces funding for debt service costs associated with the bonding authority granted in Public Law 2021, chapter 635, Part X for career and technical education centers and regions.

Ref. #: 1178 Committee Vote: 10-1 IN AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	(\$1,307,572)	(\$1,311,185)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>(\$1,307,572)</u>	<u>(\$1,311,185)</u>

Justification:

Public Law 2021, chapter 635, Part X authorized the issuance of securities for equipment purchases to career and technical education centers and career and technical education regions. Pursuant to section 6 of this Part, debt service costs for bonds issued to career and technical education centers and regions must be paid by the State. This initiative reduces funding for debt service costs for bonds issued to career and technical education centers and career and technical education regions. Funding authorized for this purpose was \$20 million, however applications for funds were less than anticipated, reducing the original estimate for debt service costs on these bonds.

**OFFICE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATIVE PATHWAYS Z334
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	5.000	5.000	4.000	4.000
Personal Services	\$806,485	\$840,168	\$789,744	\$830,812
All Other	\$1,667,914	\$3,099,957	\$1,545,954	\$1,524,008
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$2,474,399	\$3,940,125	\$2,335,698	\$2,354,820
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	4.000	4.000	4.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$499,628	\$530,092	\$553,326
All Other	\$0	\$6,739,502	\$6,739,502	\$6,739,502
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$7,239,130	\$7,269,594	\$7,292,828
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$0	\$1,554,640	\$1,554,640	\$1,554,640
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$1,554,640	\$1,554,640	\$1,554,640

Preschool Special Education Z399

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$0	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$9,000,000</u>	<u>\$9,000,000</u>	<u>\$9,000,000</u>

Justification:

The Preschool Special Education Program Fund was established to provide funding for general education and special education and related services for children eligible under Part B, Section 619. Quarterly allocations from the fund may be made to school administrative units that have assumed the responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education for special education and related services pursuant to section 7006, subsection 2 as outlined in each child's individualized education program and for general education costs for children eligible under Part B, Section 619.

Preschool Special Education Z399

Initiative: Provides funding pursuant to Public Law 2023, chapter 643 to continue support of special education and related services for preschool children 3 to 5 years of age.

Ref. #: 1205

Committee Vote:

11-0 IN

AFA Vote:

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND		
All Other	\$0	\$1,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,000,000</u>

Notes:

Also Part KK-1

Justification:

Public Law 2023, chapter 643 established the Preschool Special Education Program Fund as a nonlapsing fund within the department to provide funding for general education and special education and related services for children eligible under Part B, Section 619 of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Beginning in fiscal year 2024-25, school administrative units that have assumed responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring free, appropriate public education for children eligible under Part B, Section 619 are eligible to receive allocations from the fund. This initiative provides ongoing funding to continue support of special education and related services for preschool children 3 to 5 years of age.

**PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION Z399
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000	\$10,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000	\$10,000,000

Retired Teachers Group Life Insurance Z033

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$4,859,254	\$4,992,883	\$4,992,883	\$4,992,883
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$4,859,254	\$4,992,883	\$4,992,883	\$4,992,883

Justification:

Provides funding for group life insurance benefits for Maine's retired teachers.

Retired Teachers Group Life Insurance Z033

Initiative: Provides funding for group life insurance for retired teachers.

Ref. #: 1016

Committee Vote:

11-0 IN

AFA Vote:

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND		
All Other	\$56,067	\$194,913
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$56,067	\$194,913

Justification:

Other Post Employment Benefit requirements for retiree health insurance have been actuarially calculated for this group as provided by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

**RETIRED TEACHERS GROUP LIFE INSURANCE Z033
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$4,859,254	\$4,992,883	\$5,048,950	\$5,187,796
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$4,859,254	\$4,992,883	\$5,048,950	\$5,187,796

Retired Teachers' Health Insurance 0854

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$48,268,715	\$48,268,715	\$48,268,715	\$48,268,715
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$48,268,715	\$48,268,715	\$48,268,715	\$48,268,715

Justification:

This program provides funding for health insurance benefits for Maine's retired teachers.

**RETIRED TEACHERS' HEALTH INSURANCE 0854
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$48,268,715	\$48,268,715	\$48,268,715	\$48,268,715
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$48,268,715	\$48,268,715	\$48,268,715	\$48,268,715

School and Student Supports Z270

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	8.000	15.000	15.000	15.000
Personal Services	\$932,264	\$1,631,618	\$2,056,111	\$2,150,038
All Other	\$2,295,915	\$1,642,430	\$1,642,430	\$1,642,430
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$3,228,179	\$3,274,048	\$3,698,541	\$3,792,468
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	0.577	0.577	0.577	0.577
Personal Services	\$217,229	\$221,251	\$215,898	\$228,019
All Other	\$3,627,426	\$3,213,070	\$3,213,070	\$3,213,070
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$3,844,655	\$3,434,321	\$3,428,968	\$3,441,089
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$122,357	\$124,486	\$122,500	\$129,327
All Other	\$316,933	\$316,933	\$316,933	\$316,933
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$439,290	\$441,419	\$439,433	\$446,260
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$236,523	\$177,638	\$195,327	\$203,393
All Other	\$46,001	\$16,564	\$16,564	\$16,564
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$282,524	\$194,202	\$211,891	\$219,957

Justification:

The Office of School and Student Supports (O3S) strives to ensure that Maine schools are inclusive, healthy, safe and supportive communities where every student thrives. O3S endeavors to coordinate resources and programs that promote equitable, psycho-socially, physically and environmentally healthy school communities for all. The Climate, Culture, Resilience Team provides trauma informed resources in support of developing safe and inclusive educational communities. The Coordinated School Health Team provides professional development, resources and guidance to school health professionals (or school personnel) resulting in healthy and safe learning environments, physically literate and health literate students and access to health care resources and services. The School Approval and Enrollment Team provides accurate, timely and sensitive policy and infrastructure analysis, recommendations and execution regarding Maine pre-k through grade 12 schools, school approval, home instruction, alternative methods of education and student attendance, eligibility and enrollment.

School and Student Supports Z270

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Public Service Coordinator I position previously established by Financial Order 003773 F5 and provides funding for related All Other costs. Eliminates one State Education Representative position and reduces related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 1132

Committee Vote: 7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	(1,000)	(1,000)
Personal Services	(\$119,600)	(\$124,279)
All Other	(\$8,860)	(\$8,860)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	(\$128,460)	(\$133,139)

Notes:

Related to initiative #1149 in Maine School Safety Center

Justification:

The Public Service Coordinator I position serves as the Administrative Operations Manager to assist the Maine School Safety Center (MSSC) Director with internal operations and administrative functions within the office. The position develops internal operational policies and procedures; assist with hiring, training, onboarding, budget planning and reporting functions; coordinates collaborative efforts between teams within the office; maintains policy and procedure manuals and the MSSC website; and manages contracts and workflow processes. This initiative also eliminates a State Education Representative position.

School and Student Supports Z270

Initiative: Provides funding to bring allocation in line with available resources for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth grant.

Ref. #: 1133

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$35,549	\$28,116
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$35,549	\$28,116

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue or Federal allocations with the available resources.

Justification:

The Department of Education receives the Education for Homeless Children and Youth grant. The objective of this grant is to provide funding to local education agencies to assist homeless children and youth in enrolling, attending and succeeding in school. This initiative increases allocation to meet projected expenditures in fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27.

School and Student Supports Z270

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Education Specialist III position to a State Education Representative position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 1134

#1

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

Personal Services

2025-26

2026-27

\$5,960

\$6,202

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

\$5,960

\$6,202

Ref. #: 1135

#2

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Personal Services

All Other

2025-26

2026-27

\$2,556

\$2,658

\$61

\$63

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$2,617

\$2,721

Notes:

Information Only. Not Part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiative.

Justification:

This position has the primary purpose to approve State public and private schools; to plan, develop, organize and administer the systems, and to provide internal and external stakeholder guidance, related to public and private school approval and student alternative compulsory attendance and enrollment options; and, to broker relationships and provide individual technical assistance related to enrollment. The position serves as the subject matter and policy expert on school enrollment requirements for schools, the department and other agencies and families/communities throughout the state. The position performs high level legal analysis regarding student enrollment, eligibility and school approval and serves as primary client subject matter decision maker for school approval and home instruction data information system design.

School and Student Supports Z270

Initiative: Reduces funding for a 2-year pilot program to help students avoid homelessness that ended on June 30, 2024.

Ref. #: 1136

Committee Vote: 7-4 OUT

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

All Other

2025-26

2026-27

(\$1,500,000)

(\$1,500,000)

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

(\$1,500,000)

(\$1,500,000)

Justification:

Public Law 2023, chapter 412 appropriated funding for a 2-year pilot program to help students avoid homelessness by providing liaisons under the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act access to emergency financial assistance for the family of a student in an amount of up to \$750 per student. The program ended on June 30, 2024 and an appropriation is no longer needed.

**SCHOOL AND STUDENT SUPPORTS Z270
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	8.000	15.000	14.000	14.000
Personal Services	\$932,264	\$1,631,618	\$1,942,471	\$2,031,961
All Other	\$2,295,915	\$1,642,430	\$133,570	\$133,570
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$3,228,179	\$3,274,048	\$2,076,041	\$2,165,531
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.500	1.500	1.500	1.500
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	0.577	0.577	0.577	0.577
Personal Services	\$217,229	\$221,251	\$215,898	\$228,019
All Other	\$3,627,426	\$3,213,070	\$3,248,619	\$3,241,186
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$3,844,655	\$3,434,321	\$3,464,517	\$3,469,205
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$122,357	\$124,486	\$125,056	\$131,985
All Other	\$316,933	\$316,933	\$316,994	\$316,996
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$439,290	\$441,419	\$442,050	\$448,981
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$236,523	\$177,638	\$195,327	\$203,393
All Other	\$46,001	\$16,564	\$16,564	\$16,564
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$282,524	\$194,202	\$211,891	\$219,957

School Facilities Z271

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000
Personal Services	\$686,605	\$695,863	\$742,923	\$776,276
All Other	\$391,619	\$391,619	\$391,619	\$391,619
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$1,078,224	\$1,087,482	\$1,134,542	\$1,167,895

Justification:

The Office of School Facilities and Transportation programs provide planning, leadership, technical assistance and financial support necessary to maintain and strengthen the state's pre-k through grade 12 public education infrastructure. Programs include major capital school construction, school revolving renovation fund, leased space, federal facility grants, facilities inventory, school building safety, school bus purchasing and school bus safety.

School Facilities Z271

Initiative: Transfers one Interdisciplinary Instruction Specialist position from the School Facilities program, Other Special Revenue Funds to the Innovative Teaching and Learning program, General Fund and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 1139

Committee Vote:

7-4 IN

AFA Vote:

	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS		
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	(1.000)	(1.000)
Personal Services	(\$119,238)	(\$123,914)
All Other	(\$11,901)	(\$12,013)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	(\$131,139)	(\$135,927)

Justification:

With literacy test scores indicating a significant gap in student proficiency, a permanent Integrated Literacy Specialist is essential to lead targeted interventions and support strategies that can elevate literacy outcomes across all grade levels. As educators increasingly face challenges in engaging students with diverse literacy needs, the specialized expertise of an Integrated Literacy Specialist will ensure that professional learning opportunities are tailored to empower teachers with innovative, research-based literacy practices. In a society where literacy is foundational to both personal and professional success, a dedicated Integrated Literacy Specialist is crucial for developing a comprehensive cross-disciplinary approach that prepares all students to be literate, informed, and active citizens.

School Facilities Z271

Initiative: Establishes one Public Service Coordinator II position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 1140

Committee Vote:

7-4 IN

AFA Vote:

	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS		
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000

Personal Services	\$135,107	\$146,119
All Other	\$13,312	\$13,011
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$148,419	\$159,130

Justification:

This position will serve as an Architect Engineer and is essential to completing School Construction team objectives effectively and efficiently with a high level of responsibility and oversight. The position provides leadership in highly technical areas of the planning, design and construction process and ensures equity across projects. The position is critical in the implementation of increased energy efficiency standards and building codes, state carbon reduction goals for new construction and renovation and the impact of the Whole Student Framework on public school design.

**SCHOOL FACILITIES Z271
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000
Personal Services	\$686,605	\$695,863	\$758,792	\$798,481
All Other	\$391,619	\$391,619	\$393,030	\$392,617
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$1,078,224	\$1,087,482	\$1,151,822	\$1,191,098

School Finance and Operations Z078

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	7.000	7.000	7.000	7.000
Personal Services	\$616,492	\$646,241	\$750,512	\$791,824
All Other	\$59,095,664	\$59,238,164	\$59,050,664	\$59,050,664
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$59,712,156	\$59,884,405	\$59,801,176	\$59,842,488
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	12.000	12.000	12.000	12.000
Personal Services	\$1,331,446	\$1,390,385	\$1,540,198	\$1,620,386
All Other	\$83,277,506	\$84,327,755	\$84,327,755	\$84,327,755
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$84,608,952	\$85,718,140	\$85,867,953	\$85,948,141
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$15,545	\$15,545	\$15,545	\$15,545
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$15,545	\$15,545	\$15,545	\$15,545
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP				
All Other	\$0	\$698,955	\$698,955	\$698,955
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP TOTAL	\$0	\$698,955	\$698,955	\$698,955

Justification:

The School Finance and Operations team is responsible for distribution of over \$1 billion in general purpose aid for local schools via the essential programs and services funding model; ensuring adherence to, and providing technical assistance on school finance statutes; oversight of data collection systems across the department; development and maintenance of a longitudinal data warehouse; and providing technology support for department personnel.

School Finance and Operations Z078

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide technology services provided by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Information Technology.

Ref. #: 1046

Committee Vote:

7-4 IN

AFA Vote:

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND		
All Other	\$341,744	\$341,744
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$341,744	\$341,744

Justification:

MaineIT is responsible for the delivery of safe, secure, and high-performing networks and systems to State Agencies for daily performance of their missions for the citizens of Maine. IT enterprise functions benefiting all state agencies are managed through this office to ensure consistency, volume discount efficiencies, and optimum performance and throughput. MaineIT is established as an internal service fund intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies for services provided. MaineIT expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs, including vendor increases, supply chain costs, and network and systems modernization and upgrades. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

School Finance and Operations Z078

Initiative: Provides funding pursuant to Public Law 2021, chapter 398, Part OOOO to pay the difference between the federal reimbursement for a free breakfast or lunch and the full price of a breakfast or lunch for each student in a public school and for publicly funded students that attend an eligible private school that participates in the National School Lunch Program.

Ref. #: 1047

Committee Vote: 7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$1,800,387	\$4,101,781
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,800,387	\$4,101,781

Justification:

Maine pays the difference between the federal reimbursement free rate and the full price rate for breakfast and lunch for each student in a public school that participates in the National School Lunch Program and for publicly funded students that attend a private school approved for tuition purposes that enrolls 60% or more publicly funded students and has opted to participate in the National School Lunch Program. This initiative provides funding for the projected cost of student meals in fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27.

School Finance and Operations Z078

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the cost of one Public Service Coordinator I position and related All Other costs from the School Finance and Operations program to the Leadership Team program within the same fund.

Ref. #: 1048

Committee Vote: 7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	(1,000)	(1,000)
Personal Services	(\$142,267)	(\$148,080)
All Other	(\$9,328)	(\$9,328)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	(\$151,595)	(\$157,408)

Justification:

Records management departmentwide is the responsibility of the Office of Operations within the Leadership Team. This position serves as the department's subject matter expert on records maintenance and governance and will supervise any temporary staff assisting with this work. The position leads the application, updating and creation of department policies and procedures to facilitate the management of records, both physical and electronic, to support the legal, operational and

**SCHOOL FINANCE AND OPERATIONS Z078
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	7.000	7.000	6.000	6.000
Personal Services	\$616,492	\$646,241	\$615,787	\$651,574
All Other	\$59,095,664	\$59,238,164	\$61,183,467	\$63,484,861
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$59,712,156	\$59,884,405	\$61,799,254	\$64,136,435
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	12.000	12.000	12.000	12.000
Personal Services	\$1,331,446	\$1,390,385	\$1,540,198	\$1,620,386
All Other	\$83,277,506	\$84,327,755	\$84,327,755	\$84,327,755
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$84,608,952	\$85,718,140	\$85,867,953	\$85,948,141
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$15,545	\$15,545	\$15,545	\$15,545
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$15,545	\$15,545	\$15,545	\$15,545
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP				
All Other	\$0	\$698,955	\$698,955	\$698,955
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP TOTAL	\$0	\$698,955	\$698,955	\$698,955

School Meal Equipment and Program Improvement Fund Z386

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

The School Meal Equipment and Program Improvement Fund was established to issue grants to eligible school administrative units to improve school meal equipment and programs. The fund may be used to provide grants to eligible school administrative units to: purchase school kitchen and cafeteria equipment needed to serve healthy meals that meet federal nutrition standards; improve food safety in school kitchens and cafeterias; support the maintenance and expansion of the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program within the school administrative unit; and reimburse food costs related to medically necessary dietary restrictions of students.

**SCHOOL MEAL EQUIPMENT AND PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT FUND Z386
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Council Z175

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500

Justification:

No current Baseline Appropriation/ Allocation in this program.

**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS COUNCIL Z175
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500

Special Services Team Z080

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$123,409	\$127,361	\$142,354	\$148,238
All Other	\$3,044,443	\$3,044,443	\$3,044,443	\$3,044,443
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$3,167,852	\$3,171,804	\$3,186,797	\$3,192,681

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	26.500	26.500	26.500	26.500
Personal Services	\$3,201,426	\$3,283,196	\$3,586,111	\$3,752,973
All Other	\$63,000,508	\$62,934,285	\$62,934,285	\$62,934,285
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$66,201,934	\$66,217,481	\$66,520,396	\$66,687,258

Justification:

The Special Services Team provides leadership, management, coordination and supervision of programs and services provided in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to children with disabilities birth to 20 years old. Activities are directed at the goal of enhancing the performance of children with disabilities. It also works with contracted educational organizations, including institutions of higher education and private organizations and service providers. The Special Services Team proposes, reviews and participates in the legislative process regarding education and services for children with disabilities. It develops, promulgates and enforces regulatory requirements in alignment with state and federal statutes and regulations. It is responsible for the collection and analysis of student and school performance data that are reported publicly in conformance with federal and state obligations. Responsibilities include administration of the federal IDEA Parts B (children with disabilities age 3- 20) and C (children with disabilities birth -2, as needed, in collaboration with Child Development Services), as well as the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended (AT Act).

Special Services Team Z080

Initiative: Provides funding to bring allocation in line with available resources for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B grant.

Ref. #: 1058

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$5,890,159	\$5,732,497
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$5,890,159	\$5,732,497

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue or Federal allocations with the available resources.

Justification:

The Department of Education receives an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part B grant. The objective of this grant is to assist states in providing special education and related services to all children with disabilities. This initiative increases allocation to meet projected expenditures in fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27.

**SPECIAL SERVICES TEAM Z080
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$123,409	\$127,361	\$142,354	\$148,238
All Other	\$3,044,443	\$3,044,443	\$3,044,443	\$3,044,443
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$3,167,852	\$3,171,804	\$3,186,797	\$3,192,681
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	26.500	26.500	26.500	26.500
Personal Services	\$3,201,426	\$3,283,196	\$3,586,111	\$3,752,973
All Other	\$63,000,508	\$62,934,285	\$68,824,444	\$68,666,782
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$66,201,934	\$66,217,481	\$72,410,555	\$72,419,755

State Mandate Reimbursement - Collective Bargaining Z355

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$52,200	\$52,200	\$52,200	\$52,200
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$52,200	\$52,200	\$52,200	\$52,200

Justification:

The State Mandate Reimbursement program is managed by the School Finance, Fiscal Compliance, and Governance team in order to determine eligibility and distribute funds to those School Administrative Units that are eligible and request reimbursement.

**STATE MANDATE REIMBURSEMENT - COLLECTIVE BARGAINING Z355
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$52,200	\$52,200	\$52,200	\$52,200
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$52,200	\$52,200	\$52,200	\$52,200

Teacher Retirement 0170

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$214,917,737	\$220,827,975	\$220,827,975	\$220,827,975
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$214,917,737	\$220,827,975	\$220,827,975	\$220,827,975

Justification:

This program provides the State's share of funding for retirement benefits for Maine's retired teachers. The retirement benefit program is administered by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

Teacher Retirement 0170

Initiative: Provides funding for teacher retirement costs based upon actuarial estimates from the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

Ref. #: 973

Committee Vote:

11-0 IN

AFA Vote:

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$11,412,047	\$17,798,648
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$11,412,047	\$17,798,648

Justification:

The expenditure forecast for the 2026-2027 biennium for teacher retirement assumes projected teacher salary and wage growth of 2.75% for state-funded positions at Career and Technical Education Centers based upon the actuarial assumption for inflation and general salary increase. The required normal cost employer contribution, in dollars, for teacher retirement is based on this salary projection. The required unfunded actuarial liability payment, in dollars, for the 2026-2027 biennium for teacher retirement is established by the actuarial valuation performed by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. The sum of these two employer retirement cost components forms the basis for the forecast for teacher retirement in the 2026-2027 budget.

**TEACHER RETIREMENT 0170
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$214,917,737	\$220,827,975	\$232,240,022	\$238,626,623
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$214,917,737	\$220,827,975	\$232,240,022	\$238,626,623

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$1,938,621,402	\$1,978,123,338
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$285,608,350	\$285,865,343
FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE	\$213,720	\$213,720
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$44,022,349	\$44,635,496
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	\$211,891	\$219,957
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	\$108,033	\$108,033
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP	\$754,915	\$754,915
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$2,269,540,660	\$2,309,920,802

Sec. A-22. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, STATE BOARD OF

State Board of Education 0614

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$114,277	\$116,837	\$114,410	\$121,670
All Other	\$81,844	\$81,844	\$81,844	\$81,844
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$196,121	\$198,681	\$196,254	\$203,514

Justification:

The State Board of Education has policy, rulemaking and approval responsibility for specified aspects of the statewide educational system. It is responsible for developing and applying the rules for educator certification, program approval for higher education and school construction. In addition, the Board oversees vocational education.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION 0614

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$114,277	\$116,837	\$114,410	\$121,670
All Other	\$81,844	\$81,844	\$81,844	\$81,844
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$196,121	\$198,681	\$196,254	\$203,514

EDUCATION, STATE BOARD OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS

2025-26

2026-27

GENERAL FUND

\$196,254

\$203,514

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS

\$196,254

\$203,514

Sec. A-28. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE

FHM - Dental Education 0951

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE				
All Other	\$237,740	\$237,740	\$237,740	\$237,740
FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE TOTAL	\$237,740	\$237,740	\$237,740	\$237,740

Justification:

This program provides loan repayment or loan forgiveness for qualifying dentists to practice in underserved population areas in Maine.

FHM - DENTAL EDUCATION 0951

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE				
All Other	\$237,740	\$237,740	\$237,740	\$237,740
FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE TOTAL	\$237,740	\$237,740	\$237,740	\$237,740

Student Financial Assistance Programs 0653

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$27,890,394	\$27,890,394	\$27,890,394	\$27,890,394
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$27,890,394	\$27,890,394	\$27,890,394	\$27,890,394

Justification:

Finance Authority of Maine offers grant, forgivable loan and tuition waiver programs, as well as outreach activities, to assist Maine citizens with financing the pursuit of post-secondary education.

**STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS 0653
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$27,890,394	\$27,890,394	\$27,890,394	\$27,890,394
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$27,890,394	\$27,890,394	\$27,890,394	\$27,890,394

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$27,890,394	\$27,890,394
FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE	\$237,740	\$237,740
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$28,128,134	\$28,128,134

Sec. A-32. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION, MAINE

Historic Commercial Rehabilitation Fund Z067

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

This program was established to receive fees for the certification of projects that qualify for Maine state rehabilitation tax credits.

HISTORIC COMMERCIAL REHABILITATION FUND Z067

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Historic Preservation Commission 0036

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500
Personal Services	\$548,421	\$561,038	\$644,928	\$676,976
All Other	\$115,438	\$97,747	\$97,747	\$97,747
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$663,859	\$658,785	\$742,675	\$774,723
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000
Personal Services	\$549,464	\$559,324	\$622,912	\$653,031
All Other	\$317,206	\$317,206	\$317,206	\$317,206
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$866,670	\$876,530	\$940,118	\$970,237
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	3.731	3.731	3.731	3.731
Personal Services	\$409,257	\$420,773	\$460,631	\$491,488
All Other	\$95,531	\$95,531	\$95,531	\$95,531
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$504,788	\$516,304	\$556,162	\$587,019

Justification:

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission was established by the Legislature in 1971 to identify, evaluate, and protect Maine's historic, archaeological, and architectural resources under both state and federal laws. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 required the Commission annually to: 1) review and comment on all federal, federally funded, and federally licensed construction; 2) nominate buildings, sites, and districts to the National Register of Historic Places; 3) assist owners of historic buildings seeking historic rehabilitation tax credits; 4) survey the state's historic and archaeological resources; 5) develop a state historic preservation plan; 6) assist municipalities in becoming Certified Local Governments; 7) monitor covenants on properties restored with federal assistance; and 8) provide education by means of workshops, conferences, lectures, and publications. The State appropriation provides the required match by which Maine qualifies for its annual federal historic preservation funding from the Department of the Interior. The resulting program supplies key administrative support to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission as well as provides assistance to many individuals, businesses, non-profit organizations, and governmental agencies through the state.

Historic Preservation Commission 0036

Initiative: Provides funding for the Department's share of the cost for the financial and human resources service center within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Ref. #: 1521

#1

Committee Vote:

8-3 IN

AFA Vote:

GENERAL FUND		2025-26	2026-27
All Other		\$2,799	\$4,048
GENERAL FUND TOTAL		<u>\$2,799</u>	<u>\$4,048</u>

Ref. #: 1522 **#2** Committee Vote: 8-3 IN AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND		2025-26	2026-27
All Other		\$1,755	\$2,539
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL		<u>\$1,755</u>	<u>\$2,539</u>

Ref. #: 1523 **#3** Committee Vote: 8-3 IN AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS		2025-26	2026-27
All Other		\$1,754	\$2,538
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL		<u>\$1,754</u>	<u>\$2,538</u>

Justification:

Service Centers within Department of Administrative and Financial Services provide centralized accounting, payroll, budgeting and human resources services to departments and agencies. Service Centers are established as an internal service funds intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies for services provided. The Service Centers expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies

Historic Preservation Commission 0036

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide technology services provided by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Information Technology.

Ref. #: 1524 **#1** Committee Vote: 8-3 IN AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND		2025-26	2026-27
All Other		\$6,661	\$6,661
GENERAL FUND TOTAL		<u>\$6,661</u>	<u>\$6,661</u>

Ref. #: 1525 **#2** Committee Vote: 8-3 IN AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND		2025-26	2026-27
All Other		\$3,807	\$3,807
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL		<u>\$3,807</u>	<u>\$3,807</u>

Ref. #: 1526 **#3** Committee Vote: 8-3 IN AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$953	\$953
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$953	\$953

Justification:

MaineIT is responsible for the delivery of safe, secure, and high-performing networks and systems to State Agencies for daily performance of their missions for the citizens of Maine. IT enterprise functions benefitting all state agencies are managed through this office to ensure consistency, volume discount efficiencies, and optimum performance and throughput. MaineIT is established as an internal service fund intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies for services provided. MaineIT expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs, including vendor increases, supply chain costs, and network and systems modernization and upgrades. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

Historic Preservation Commission 0036

Initiative: Provides funding for the operational needs of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission's Federal Expenditures Fund.

Ref. #: 1527

Committee Vote: 8-3 IN

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$225,000	\$225,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$225,000	\$225,000

Justification:

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission annually receives a Federal Historic Preservation Fund grant with a three-year period of performance. Funding from any of the 3 active grants can be combined to provide subgrants and contracts. This initiative provides funding to meet the operational needs of these grants.

Historic Preservation Commission 0036

Initiative: Provides funding for the administrative cost in associated with the recent bond.

Ref. #: 1528

Committee Vote: 8-3 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$25,000	\$25,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$25,000	\$25,000

Justification:

Voters passed a \$10,000,000 bond package for a grant program to preserve historic community buildings, and the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (Commission) is to administer the grant program. The bond authorization language allocated 1% of the funding (\$100,000) for administrative costs, and the Commission was planning on using this money (approximately \$25,000/year) to help fund a position to run the program. However, this provision runs counter to the

Maine Constitution's prohibition on the use of bond proceeds to fund current expenditures (Article V, Part Third, Section 5). This funding will cover the administrative costs of this program.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION 0036
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500
Personal Services	\$548,421	\$561,038	\$644,928	\$676,976
All Other	\$115,438	\$97,747	\$132,207	\$133,456
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$663,859	\$658,785	\$777,135	\$810,432
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000
Personal Services	\$549,464	\$559,324	\$622,912	\$653,031
All Other	\$317,206	\$317,206	\$547,768	\$548,552
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$866,670	\$876,530	\$1,170,680	\$1,201,583
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	3.731	3.731	3.731	3.731
Personal Services	\$409,257	\$420,773	\$460,631	\$491,488
All Other	\$95,531	\$95,531	\$98,238	\$99,022
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$504,788	\$516,304	\$558,869	\$590,510

Historic Preservation Revolving Fund Z109

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

This account is established to receive funds from bond issues.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVOLVING FUND Z109
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION, MAINE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$777,135	\$810,432
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$1,170,680	\$1,201,583
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$559,869	\$591,510
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$2,507,684	\$2,603,525

Sec. A-33. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MAINE

Historical Society 0037

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$94,864	\$94,864	\$44,864	\$44,864
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$94,864	\$94,864	\$44,864	\$44,864

Justification:

Funding for the Maine Historical Society is used to maintain a research library of social, economic, political and cultural history spanning 6 centuries and the Wadsworth-Longfellow House with over 9,000 artifacts and works of art. The Wadsworth-Longfellow House provides on-site and outreach programs for students, documentation for schools and guides for teachers and such other related resource materials as may be available. State funds received by the Maine Historical Society also support the administration, development, and outreach services of the Maine Memory Network. Maine Memory is a statewide, collaborative, online digital museum and educational resource. It serves all Maine citizens and communities, with a special emphasis on historical societies, archives, museums, libraries, and schools, K-12.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY 0037

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$94,864	\$94,864	\$44,864	\$44,864
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$94,864	\$94,864	\$44,864	\$44,864

HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MAINE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
 GENERAL FUND	\$44,864	\$44,864
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$44,864	\$44,864

Sec. A-37. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HUMANITIES COUNCIL, MAINE

Humanities Council 0942

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$163,357	\$163,357	\$163,357	\$163,357
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$163,357	\$163,357	\$163,357	\$163,357

Justification:

One-hundred percent of Maine Humanities Council's only state appropriation is used to fund public cultural programs statewide. No state funds support personnel or administrative costs, and Council grants reach throughout the state into many of the state's smallest communities and grassroots cultural organizations. These matching grants are given in communities across Maine, for public cultural projects in community history, cultural tourism, literature and literacy, and other humanities topics. These funds represent the Council's share of the New Century Community Program. Over the past several years, budget cuts and rescissions have led to a substantial reduction in the size of the Council's appropriation, yet the program continues to fund projects that bring new cultural activity to audiences that would in many cases not otherwise have access to it. Even at this reduced amount, these state funds represent a vital resource for small education-oriented organizations statewide. The Council's grants typically range up to \$5,000, with the average award being approximately \$800. All of them are matched at least one to one with private funds and in-kind donations raised by applicant organizations, generating considerable leverage. This is one of the few sources of funds available for community educational groups, museums, schools and libraries seeking to conduct small, often intergenerational, cultural programs. The Council's rolling deadlines and rapid turnaround time mean that applicants can access these funds to respond to opportunities as they arise. For many community groups, these grants represent a first-ever experience with outside funding. The Council's hands-on technical assistance makes the process friendly and accessible. In addition, the process of applying and developing projects has helped local organizations achieve their community goals, while building their capacity for external fund-raising.

HUMANITIES COUNCIL 0942

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$163,357	\$163,357	\$163,357	\$163,357
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$163,357	\$163,357	\$163,357	\$163,357

HUMANITIES COUNCIL, MAINE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$163,357	\$163,357
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$163,357	\$163,357

Sec. A-44. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

LIBRARY, MAINE STATE

Administration - Library 0215

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$136,954	\$146,847	\$195,518	\$203,394
All Other	\$85,938	\$85,938	\$85,938	\$85,938
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$222,892	\$232,785	\$281,456	\$289,332

Justification:

The purpose of Administrative Services Unit is to provide administrative oversight for the operations of the Maine State Library (MSL) and provide leadership for the development of library services in Maine. This unit coordinates the work of all MSL staff and prepares and supports necessary legislative action concerning libraries. The State Librarian and the Commissioner of the Department of Education both have oversight for the Maine School and Library Network via the NetworkMaine Advisory Board. This includes decisions regarding Internet connectivity and e-rate discounts for libraries.

ADMINISTRATION - LIBRARY 0215

PROGRAM SUMMARY

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$136,954	\$146,847	\$195,518	\$203,394
All Other	\$85,938	\$85,938	\$85,938	\$85,938
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$222,892	\$232,785	\$281,456	\$289,332

Blind and Visually Impaired News Access Fund Z275

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000

Justification:

The Blind and Visually Impaired News Access Fund is established as a dedicated fund within the Maine State Library to be used to provide access to a news service provided by a national federation for blind and visually impaired persons.

**BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED NEWS ACCESS FUND Z275
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000

Imagination Library of Maine Program Z338

Initiative: Provides funding for the ongoing costs associated with the Imagination Library of Maine Program.

Ref. #: 2585

Committee Vote: 7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$400,000	\$564,445
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$400,000	\$564,445

Justification:

This initiative provides funding for the ongoing costs associated with the Imagination Library in a State Library General Fund account. Costs associated with this project have been funded through by transferring one-time allocation in Public Law 2023, chapter 643 for fiscal year 2024-25 from the unappropriated surplus General Fund to the Imagination Library of Maine Program, Other Special Revenue Funds. This ongoing funding request would provide a permanent funding source to cover the ongoing costs of this project. Funding authorized in Public Law 2023, chapter 643 did not transfer the funding into Imagination Library of Maine Program, General Fund account rather went into Imagination Library of Maine Program, Special Revenue Funds account. However, the State Library does not need to be in the Special Revenue Funds account since the monies that Maine State Library has to contribute towards the program are state funds (50% of the overall program cost). The other 50% comes from the county non-profit affiliates, and those monies do not go through the state.

Imagination Library of Maine Program Z338

Initiative: Provides funding for the Imagination Library of Maine Program, Other Special Revenue Funds account.

Ref. #: 2586

Committee Vote: 7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500

Justification:

Imagination Library of Maine Program was created by Public Law 2023, chapter 643.

Imagination Library of Maine Program Z338

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to support the matching funds required for participation in the Imagination Library of Maine Program.

Ref. #: 2587

One Time

Committee Vote: 7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$400,000	\$564,445

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

\$400,000

\$564,445

Justification:

This initiative provides one-time funding to support the matching funds required for participation in the Imagination Library in a State Library General Fund account. Costs associated with this project have been funded through by transferring one-time allocation in Public Law 2023, chapter 643 for fiscal year 2024-25 from the unappropriated surplus General Fund to the Imagination Library of Maine Program, Other Special Revenue Funds. This one-time funding request supports the matching component which will eventually come from the county non-profit affiliates.

**IMAGINATION LIBRARY OF MAINE PROGRAM Z338
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$800,000	\$1,128,890
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$800,000	\$1,128,890

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$500

Maine Public Library Fund Z144

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$52,000	\$52,000	\$52,000	\$52,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$52,000	\$52,000	\$52,000	\$52,000

Justification:

The Maine Public Library Fund enables a taxpayer entitled to a refund to designate a portion of that refund for payment into the fund. A taxpayer not entitled to a refund may contribute by including, with that taxpayer's return, sufficient funds to make a contribution. Each contribution may not be less than five dollars. The State Tax Assessor shall determine annually the total amount contributed. Prior to the beginning of the following year, the State Tax Assessor shall deduct the cost of administering the Maine Public Library Fund contributions and report the remainder to the Treasurer of State, who shall forward that amount to the Maine Public Library Fund.

**MAINE PUBLIC LIBRARY FUND Z144
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$52,000	\$52,000	\$52,000	\$52,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$52,000	\$52,000	\$52,000	\$52,000

Maine State Library 0217

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	30.500	30.500	30.000	30.000
Personal Services	\$2,591,220	\$2,713,704	\$3,114,891	\$3,275,719
All Other	\$1,649,688	\$1,317,737	\$1,321,511	\$1,321,511
Capital Expenditures	\$55,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$4,295,908	\$4,031,441	\$4,436,402	\$4,597,230

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	11.000	11.000	11.000	11.000
Personal Services	\$1,026,557	\$1,046,692	\$1,163,170	\$1,223,292
All Other	\$569,790	\$569,790	\$569,790	\$569,790
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$1,596,347	\$1,616,482	\$1,732,960	\$1,793,082

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$719,977	\$719,977	\$719,977	\$719,977
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$719,977	\$719,977	\$719,977	\$719,977

Justification:

The Library Development Division provides for the development of all types of libraries throughout the state. Specific programs include: the Maine Regional Library System (consultant services, direct free walk-in service, interlibrary loan, and federal and state aid for public libraries), special services (books-by-mail, video services, talking books and large print books), school library/ media services, Maine InfoNet, federal e-rate coordination and training, grant programs, and statewide licensing of electronic databases. This division also maintains the Maine State Library web site at <http://www.maine.gov/msl/>. The Reader and Information Services Division provides for the delivery of quality information, reference and loan services to state agency personnel and the general public. This includes supporting and complementing the collections of all types of libraries throughout the state. Specific programs include: reference, circulation, government documents, collection services, and interlibrary loan. The public services portions of the MSL web site originate within this division. Reader and Information Services also develops marketing ideas and plans public relations efforts to support its programs and resources.

Maine State Library 0217

Initiative: Provides funding for anticipated increases in Federal Expenditures Fund in the Maine State Library.

Ref. #: 2571

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND		2025-26	2026-27
All Other		\$130,797	\$130,797
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL		\$130,797	\$130,797

Ref. #: 2574

Committee Vote: 8-3 IN

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

2025-26 **2026-27**

All Other

\$500 \$500

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$500 \$500

Justification:

This initiative provides funding for the Maine State Library's Talking Books Other Special Revenue Funds account. This fund receives donations from Talking Books users, and must be used for the Talking Books program. Maine State Library needs a separate account to track the use of these funds.

Maine State Library 0217

Initiative: Reallocates 10% of one Librarian-Specialized Services position between Federal Expenditures Fund accounts within the same program, and provides funding for the operational needs in the Read World Real Science Project.

Ref. #: 2575

Committee Vote: 8-3 IN

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

2025-26 **2026-27**

Personal Services

\$11,915 \$11,915

All Other

\$34,465 \$34,465

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL

\$46,380 \$46,380

Justification:

This initiative reallocates 10% of one Librarian-Specialized Services position between Federal Expenditures Fund accounts within the same program, and provides All Other funding for the operational needs of the Real World Real Science Project, Federal Expenditures Fund account. This grant has 3 years remaining, with a possible extension to 2030.

Maine State Library 0217

Initiative: Provides funding for the Maine State Library's Collections Preservation, Other Special Revenue Funds account.

Ref. #: 2577

Committee Vote: 8-3 IN

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

2025-26 **2026-27**

All Other

\$500 \$500

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$500 \$500

Justification:

This initiative provides funding for the Maine State Library's Collections Preservation, Other Special Revenue Funds account.

Maine State Library 0217

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent of one Librarian-Specialized Services position established through Public Law 2021, chapter 635 and provides funding for All Other related costs.

Ref. #: 2578

Committee Vote:

7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$127,851	\$137,272
All Other	\$6,069	\$6,069
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$133,920	\$143,341

Justification:

This position provides integral technical and customer support for online integrated library systems across the state for libraries of all types through Maine InfoNet, funded by both the University of Maine and the Maine State Library. Maine InfoNet has added 13 additional libraries and spearheads the migration of the University integrated library system to Alma. This position is vital for reasonable response timelines to support requests from member libraries and has been the lead on some of the migrations and trainings for the new libraries.

Maine State Library 0217

Initiative: Provides funding for the cost increase of van delivery services in Maine State Library.

Ref. #: 2579

Committee Vote:

8-3 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$75,000	\$75,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$75,000	\$75,000

Justification:

This initiative provides funding for van delivery services and e-content increases in Maine State Library's General Fund account. The van delivery rates increased, and there are 182 libraries that participate in inter-library loan program throughout the state.

**MAINE STATE LIBRARY 0217
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	30.500	30.500	31.000	31.000
Personal Services	\$2,591,220	\$2,713,704	\$3,242,742	\$3,412,991
All Other	\$1,649,688	\$1,317,737	\$1,402,580	\$1,402,580
Capital Expenditures	\$55,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$4,295,908	\$4,031,441	\$4,645,322	\$4,815,571
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	11.000	11.000	11.000	11.000
Personal Services	\$1,026,557	\$1,046,692	\$1,175,085	\$1,235,207
All Other	\$569,790	\$569,790	\$735,052	\$735,052
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$1,596,347	\$1,616,482	\$1,910,137	\$1,970,259
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$719,977	\$719,977	\$563,472	\$563,472
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$719,977	\$719,977	\$563,472	\$563,472

Statewide Library Information System 0185

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$242,786	\$242,786	\$242,786	\$242,786
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$242,786	\$242,786	\$242,786	\$242,786

Justification:

The Statewide Library Information System (MARVEL, the State's virtual library) is the source for statewide on-line full text databases which can be accessed by anyone in Maine using an Internet connected computer. The electronic databases provide library patrons, students and all Maine citizens with access to thousands of magazine articles, newspapers, and reference materials from a wide variety of on-line databases.

Statewide Library Information System 0185

Initiative: Provides funding for the Department's share of the cost for the financial and human resources service center within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Ref. #: 2558

Committee Vote: 7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$46,018	\$55,577
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$46,018	\$55,577

Justification:

Service Centers within Department of Administrative and Financial Services provide centralized accounting, payroll, budgeting and human resources services to departments and agencies. Service Centers are established as an internal service funds intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies for services provided. The Service Centers expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

Statewide Library Information System 0185

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide technology services provided by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Information Technology.

Ref. #: 2559

Committee Vote: 8-3 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$12,957	\$12,957
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$12,957	\$12,957

**STATEWIDE LIBRARY INFORMATION SYSTEM 0185
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$242,786	\$242,786	\$336,761	\$346,320
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$242,786	\$242,786	\$336,761	\$346,320

LIBRARY, MAINE STATE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$6,063,539	\$6,580,113
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$1,910,137	\$1,970,259
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$655,972	\$655,972
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$8,629,648	\$9,206,344

Sec. A-53. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

MARITIME ACADEMY, MAINE

Maine Maritime Academy - Debt Service Z304

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$2,984,519	\$3,723,498	\$3,723,498	\$3,723,498
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$2,984,519	\$3,723,498	\$3,723,498	\$3,723,498

Justification:

The Debt Service provides funding to pay principal and interest costs to support borrowing for long-term capital improvement infrastructure projects at Maine Maritime Academy.

MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY - DEBT SERVICE Z304

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$2,984,519	\$3,723,498	\$3,723,498	\$3,723,498
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$2,984,519	\$3,723,498	\$3,723,498	\$3,723,498

Justification:

This initiative aligns allocation with December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

**MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP FUND - CASINO Z167
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$199,117	\$202,920	\$197,611	\$202,636
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$199,117	\$202,920	\$197,611	\$202,636

Maritime Academy - Operations 0035

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$12,216,165	\$12,675,667	\$12,675,667	\$12,675,667
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$12,216,165	\$12,675,667	\$12,675,667	\$12,675,667

Justification:

Maine Maritime Academy is an international leader specializing in maritime oriented degree programs emphasizing engineering, transportation, trade, management and ocean sciences as well as preparing officers for the maritime and uniformed services of the United States. The college maintains an environment that stimulates intellectual curiosity and global awareness, fosters professional competence, encourages rigorous self-discipline and develops leadership skills through curricular and co-curricular activities. The college supports public service to the State, perpetuates Maine's heritage of the sea and achieves a high level of career placement for its graduates.

Maritime Academy - Operations 0035

Initiative: Provides funding for Paid Family and Medical Leave premiums for eligible Maine Maritime Academy employees in compliance with state law.

Ref. #: 2774

Committee Vote:

7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$260,000	\$260,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$260,000	\$260,000

Justification:

Provides funding to adjust the baseline budget to help offset the cost of the adoption of the Paid Family and Medical Leave Program that will be implemented by the Maine Department of Labor beginning in 2025. This funding will meet the new requirements while not passing this cost on to students.

Maritime Academy - Operations 0035

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to replace the windows and roof in Curtis Hall, the largest student resident hall in the State of Maine and also the only main resident hall for students at Maine Maritime Academy.

Ref. #: 2775

One Time

Committee Vote:

11-0 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$5,000,000	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$5,000,000	\$0

Justification:

This initiative would replace windows that are no longer energy efficient and would provide energy savings as well as an improvement in the living quarters for the academy students. This would also replace the flat roof materials that are recognized as needing replacement with the understanding that the roof could fail at any time and displace the academy students in an emergency situation.

Maritime Academy - Operations 0035

Initiative: Provides additional funding for annual inflationary cost increases associated with continuation of current Maine Maritime Academy operations.

Ref. #: 2776

Committee Vote: 7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$507,027	\$1,034,335
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$507,027	\$1,034,335

Justification:

Provides additional funding for annual inflationary cost increases associated with continuation of current Maine Maritime Academy operations.

**MARITIME ACADEMY - OPERATIONS 0035
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$12,216,165	\$12,675,667	\$18,442,694	\$13,970,002
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$12,216,165	\$12,675,667	\$18,442,694	\$13,970,002

Maritime Academy - Schooner Bowdoin Z253

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000

Justification:

The Schooner Bowdoin is a national historic landmark and the official vessel of the State of Maine. It is the flagship of Maine Maritime Academy's (MMA) Vessel Operations and Technology Program. Students learn valuable skills on the Bowdoin that allows them the opportunity to achieve a U.S. Coast Guard license as mate on an auxiliary sail vessel. Maintaining the vessel has become important to MMA to continue the training opportunities that its use affords and to continue to maintain this fine historic vessel.

MARITIME ACADEMY - SCHOONER BOWDOIN Z253

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000

MARITIME ACADEMY, MAINE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$22,216,192	\$17,743,500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$197,611	\$202,636
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$22,413,803	\$17,946,136

Sec. A-55. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

MUSEUM, MAINE STATE

Maine State Museum 0180

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
Personal Services	\$2,020,800	\$2,107,866	\$2,348,899	\$2,473,275
All Other	\$268,687	\$335,517	\$298,630	\$298,630
Capital Expenditures	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$2,689,487	\$2,443,383	\$2,647,529	\$2,771,905
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$180,899	\$180,899	\$180,899	\$180,899
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$180,899	\$180,899	\$180,899	\$180,899

Justification:

The Maine State Museum program, General Fund, funds necessary leadership and financial administration, as well as the core educational and collections management activities of the museum. These activities include exhibition development and maintenance, educational tours and programs, loans to other institutions, collections care and research, collections acquisition and management, development of educational materials, and professional advice to Maine's scientific, historic, and artistic collecting institutions. Essential activities also include scheduling of school and general public tours for the museum, Blaine House, and State House as well as care, research, and exhibition of collections in the Cultural Building, State House, and Blaine House. This program also has the Museum Sales Program Revolving Fund that provides funding for the operation of the Museum Store. The Museum Store makes books, mineral samples, educational materials, and Maine-related gift items available to visitors in order to expand and extend the museum experience. Accumulated profits fund the publication of museum books.

Maine State Museum 0180

Initiative: Provides funding for the Department's share of the cost for the financial and human resources service center within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Ref. #: 2796

Committee Vote:

7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$11,533	\$14,522
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$11,533	\$14,522

Justification:

Service Centers within Department of Administrative and Financial Services provide centralized accounting, payroll, budgeting and human resources services to departments and agencies. Service Centers are established as an internal service funds intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies for services provided. The

Service Centers expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

Maine State Museum 0180

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide technology services provided by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Information Technology

Ref. #: 2797

Committee Vote: 7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND		
All Other	\$15,828	\$15,828
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$15,828	\$15,828

Justification:

MaineIT is responsible for the delivery of safe, secure, and high-performing networks and systems to State Agencies for daily performance of their missions for the citizens of Maine. IT enterprise functions benefitting all state agencies are managed through this office to ensure consistency, volume discount efficiencies, and optimum performance and throughput. MaineIT is established as an internal service fund intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies for services provided. MaineIT expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs, including vendor increases, supply chain costs, and network and systems modernization and upgrades. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

Maine State Museum 0180

Initiative: Establishes one Museum Technician III position and provides funding for All Other related costs to support essential technology operations associated with virtual education programs, in-gallery digital educational interactives, school group scheduling, visitor admissions, and visitor demographic data collection.

Ref. #: 2798

Committee Vote: 8-3 IN

AFA Vote: _____

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND		
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$89,765	\$96,132
All Other	\$6,069	\$6,069
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$95,834	\$102,201

Justification:

This initiative establishes one Museum Technician III position and provides funding for All Other related costs to support essential technology operations associated with virtual education programs, in-gallery digital educational interactives, school group scheduling, visitor admissions, and visitor demographic data collection. This position is essential to equip the museum to reopen in early 2026 and sustain the substantial increases in public visitation and educational programming that will follow.

Maine State Museum 0180

Initiative: Establishes one limited-period Museum Technician III position through June 19, 2027 and provides funding for All Other related costs to serve as assistant exhibits preparator.

Ref. #: 2799

One Time

Committee Vote:

7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$89,765	\$96,132
All Other	\$6,069	\$6,069
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$95,834	\$102,201

Justification:

This initiative establishes one limited-period Museum Technician III position through June 19, 2027 and provides funding for related All Other costs to serve as assistant exhibits preparator. This position is essential to allow the Maine State Museum to meet its exhibit installation deadlines and re-open as intended.

**MAINE STATE MUSEUM 0180
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	21.000	21.000	22.000	22.000
Personal Services	\$2,020,800	\$2,107,866	\$2,528,429	\$2,665,539
All Other	\$268,687	\$335,517	\$338,129	\$341,118
Capital Expenditures	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$2,689,487	\$2,443,383	\$2,866,558	\$3,006,657
 OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	 History 2023-24	 History 2024-25	 2025-26	 2026-27
All Other	\$180,899	\$180,899	\$180,899	\$180,899
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$180,899	\$180,899	\$180,899	\$180,899

Maine State Museum - Operating Fund Z179

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
Personal Services	\$7,262	\$7,460	\$8,623	\$9,077
All Other	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$28,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$35,262	\$35,460	\$36,623	\$37,077

Justification:

The Maine State Museum Operating Fund receives income from museum admissions. This income increases the museum's capacity to implement an integrated public information strategy, produce updated educational materials and events for visitors, and generally improve visitor-centered programs to make the museum a more visible feature in Maine's 21st century cultural landscape.

**MAINE STATE MUSEUM - OPERATING FUND Z179
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
Personal Services	\$7,262	\$7,460	\$8,623	\$9,077
All Other	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$28,000	\$28,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$35,262	\$35,460	\$36,623	\$37,077

Research and Collection - Museum 0174

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$130,606	\$130,606	\$130,606	\$130,606
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$130,606	\$130,606	\$130,606	\$130,606
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
Personal Services	\$5,651	\$5,711	\$6,448	\$6,726
All Other	\$207,238	\$207,238	\$163,238	\$163,238
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$212,889	\$212,949	\$169,686	\$169,964

Justification:

The Research and Collection program receives federal grants for specific activities supporting research and collections as well as private contributions and corporate and foundation grants to benefit specific museum activities and projects.

**RESEARCH AND COLLECTION - MUSEUM 0174
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$130,606	\$130,606	\$130,606	\$130,606
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$130,606	\$130,606	\$130,606	\$130,606
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
Personal Services	\$5,651	\$5,711	\$6,448	\$6,726
All Other	\$207,238	\$207,238	\$163,238	\$163,238
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$212,889	\$212,949	\$169,686	\$169,964

MUSEUM, MAINE STATE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$2,866,558	\$3,006,657
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$130,606	\$130,606
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$387,208	\$387,940
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$3,384,372	\$3,525,203

Sec. A-64. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING CORPORATION, MAINE

Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation 0033

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

Maine Public (the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation) was founded in 1992 as a merger between WCBB (Colby, Bates and Bowdoin Colleges) and MPBN (University of Maine System). As established by Public Law 1992, chapter 848, state appropriations are directed to support Maine Public's technical resources to guarantee equal access for all Maine citizens. As stated in the law The appropriation requirements are limited to the costs of constructing, equipping, maintaining, improving and replacing the buildings and equipment for its transmitting facilities, production facilities, master control centers and interconnection equipment that provide signals to its transmitters or other distribution systems. Further: The legislature intends that the state support and provide funding to meet the costs of delivering broadcast services so that all the people of the state may share equitably in the advantages of public broadcasting.

MAINE PUBLIC BROADCASTING CORPORATION 0033

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

PUBLIC BROADCASTING CORPORATION, MAINE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	\$500	\$500
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$1,650,500	\$1,650,500

Sec. A-75. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE

Debt Service - University of Maine System 0902

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$15,767,950	\$15,767,950	\$15,767,950	\$15,767,950
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$15,767,950	\$15,767,950	\$15,767,950	\$15,767,950

Justification:

Provides funds for debt service payments for university revenue bonds for capital improvements.

**DEBT SERVICE - UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM 0902
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$15,767,950	\$15,767,950	\$15,767,950	\$15,767,950
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$15,767,950	\$15,767,950	\$15,767,950	\$15,767,950

Educational and General Activities - UMS 0031

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$229,563,631	\$239,938,728	\$239,521,228	\$239,521,228
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$229,563,631</u>	<u>\$239,938,728</u>	<u>\$239,521,228</u>	<u>\$239,521,228</u>
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$115,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$115,000</u>	<u>\$115,000</u>	<u>\$115,000</u>	<u>\$115,000</u>
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY				
All Other	\$17,701,000	\$3,600,000	\$3,600,000	\$3,600,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	<u>\$17,701,000</u>	<u>\$3,600,000</u>	<u>\$3,600,000</u>	<u>\$3,600,000</u>

Justification:

Provides for undergraduate, graduate, and professional educational programs, non-credit courses, university sponsored research, services through cooperative extension and other activities and administrative support and support services to students and employees at seven universities, the School of Law and various distance education locations.

Educational and General Activities - UMS 0031

Initiative: Provides funding for Paid Family & Medical Leave premiums for eligible University of Maine System employees.

Ref. #: 3188

Committee Vote:

7-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND		
All Other	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$4,000,000</u>	<u>\$4,000,000</u>

Justification:

This initiative provides funding for mandatory payroll contributions for Maine's new Paid Family & Medical Leave program that begins on January 1, 2025 (with benefits becoming available starting May 1, 2026). Employers with 15 or more employees are expected to contribute 1% of gross wages and may deduct up to half of the contribution from employees' wages, however, it is widely held that the deduction is subject to collective bargaining. The University of Maine System's payroll totaled \$390 million in FY24. This initiative requests funding for both the employee and employer share of the 1% premium.

Educational and General Activities - UMS 0031

Initiative: Provides additional funding for annual inflationary cost increases associated with continuation of current University of Maine System operations.

Ref. #: 3189

Committee Vote: **8-3 IN**

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$9,580,849	\$19,544,932
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$9,580,849	\$19,544,932

Justification:

Provides additional funding for annual inflationary cost increases associated with continuation of current University of Maine System operations.

**EDUCATIONAL AND GENERAL ACTIVITIES - UMS 0031
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$229,563,631	\$239,938,728	\$253,102,077	\$263,066,160
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$229,563,631	\$239,938,728	\$253,102,077	\$263,066,160

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$115,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$115,000

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$17,701,000	\$3,600,000	\$3,600,000	\$3,600,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$17,701,000	\$3,600,000	\$3,600,000	\$3,600,000

Labor and Community Education Center Z348

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000

Justification:

Provides ongoing funds to establish & maintain a labor & community education center at the University of Southern Maine to provide labor education and outreach, and to support ongoing labor education and outreach at the University of Maine.

LABOR AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER Z348

PROGRAM SUMMARY

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000

Maine Economic Improvement Fund 0986

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$21,850,000	\$21,850,000	\$21,850,000	\$21,850,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$21,850,000	\$21,850,000	\$21,850,000	\$21,850,000

Justification:

Provides funding to help match and increase federal and private investment in university-based research in seven key areas of great importance and potential to Maine: Aquaculture and Marine Sciences; Biotechnology; Composites and Advanced Materials Technologies; Environmental Technologies; Information Technologies; Advanced Technologies for Forestry and Agriculture and Precision Manufacturing.

MAINE ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT FUND 0986

PROGRAM SUMMARY

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$21,850,000	\$21,850,000	\$21,850,000	\$21,850,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$21,850,000	\$21,850,000	\$21,850,000	\$21,850,000

University of Maine Scholarship Fund Z011

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$4,623,580	\$4,712,476	\$4,712,476	\$4,712,476
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$4,623,580	\$4,712,476	\$4,712,476	\$4,712,476

Justification:

Provides funding from slot machine revenue and license plate registrations for need-based scholarships for Maine residents attending University of Maine System institutions.

University of Maine Scholarship Fund Z011

Initiative: Provides funding for scholarships due to a projected increase in dedicated revenues from slot machine proceeds from the March 2024 Revenue Forecasting Committee report.

Ref. #: 3199

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$89,191	\$180,607
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$89,191	\$180,607

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue allocations with the Revenue Forecast.

Justification:

This initiative provides funding for scholarships due to a projected increase in dedicated revenues from slot machine proceeds.

University of Maine Scholarship Fund Z011

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align with revenue projections from the December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

Ref. #: 3200

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	(\$208,120)	(\$185,677)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	(\$208,120)	(\$185,677)

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue allocations with the Revenue Forecast.

Justification:

This initiative aligns allocation with December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

**UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SCHOLARSHIP FUND Z011
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$4,623,580	\$4,712,476	\$4,593,547	\$4,707,406
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$4,623,580	\$4,712,476	\$4,593,547	\$4,707,406

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$291,220,027	\$301,184,110
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$4,708,547	\$4,822,406
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	\$3,600,000	\$3,600,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$299,528,574	\$309,606,516

Part C Committee Vote:

In as amended; increase community school funding from \$250,000 to \$500,000

6-4

PART C

Sec. C-1. Mill expectation. The mill expectation pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15671-A for fiscal year 2025-26 is 6.10.

Sec. C-3. Total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12. The total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 for fiscal year 2025-26 is as follows:

	2025-26 TOTAL
Total Operating Allocation	
Total operating allocation pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15683	\$1,654,892,993
Total operating allocation for public charter schools pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15683-B	35,480,746
Total adjustments to state subsidy pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689 included in subsidizable costs and total other subsidizable costs pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15681-A	\$706,366,492
Total Operating Allocation and Subsidizable Costs	
Total operating allocation pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15683 and total other subsidizable costs pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15681-A	\$2,396,740,231
Total Debt Service Allocation	
Total debt service allocation pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15683-A	\$114,070,354
Total Adjustments and Targeted Education Funds	
Adjustments pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689	
Audit adjustments pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 4	\$0
Educating students in long-term drug treatment center adjustments pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 5	\$249,607

Minimum teacher salary adjustment pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 7-A	\$0
Regionalization, consolidation, and efficiency assistance adjustments pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 9	\$5,878,826
Maine Care seed payments adjustments pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 14	\$1,334,776
Special Education Hardship adjustment pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 15	\$100,000
English Learner budgetary hardship adjustment pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 16	\$500,000
Total adjustments to the state share of total allocation pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689	\$8,063,209
Targeted Education Funds pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A	
Special education costs for state agency clients and state wards pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 1	\$26,000,000
Essential programs and services components contract pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 3	\$250,000
Data management and support services for essential programs and services pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 10	\$10,000,000
Postsecondary course payments pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 11	\$5,500,000
National board certification salary supplement pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 12	\$0
Learning through technology program pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 12-A	\$14,000,000
Jobs for Maine's Graduates including college pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 13	\$3,881,379

Maine School of Science and Mathematics pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 14	\$3,615,347
Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 15	\$9,758,979
Transportation administration pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 16	\$521,035
Special education for juvenile offenders pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 17	\$407,999
Comprehensive early college programs funding (bridge year program) pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 23	\$1,000,000
Community schools pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 25	\$250,000
Instruments and Professional Development in rural schools pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 28	\$50,000
Total targeted education funds pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A	\$75,234,739
Enhancing student performance and opportunity pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688-A and section 15672, subsection 1-D	
Career and technical education costs pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688-A, subsection 1	\$76,245,618
College transitions programs through adult education college readiness programs pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688-A, subsection 2	\$450,000
National industry standards for career and technical education pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688-A, subsection 6	\$2,000,000
Career and technical education middle school grant program pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688, subsection 8	\$500,000
Career and technical education early childhood education program expansion support pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688-A, subsection 10	\$100,000

Total enhancing student performance and opportunity pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688-A and section 15672, subsection 1-D	\$79,295,618
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Total Cost of Funding Public Education from Kindergarten to Grade 12

Total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 for fiscal year pursuant to Title 20-A, chapter 606-B, not including normal retirement costs	\$2,673,404,151
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Total normal cost of teacher retirement	\$64,842,491
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Total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 for fiscal year pursuant to Title 20-A, chapter 606-B, including normal retirement costs	\$2,738,246,642
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Total cost of state contribution to unfunded actuarial liabilities of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System that are attributable to teachers, retired teacher health insurance and retired teacher life insurance for fiscal year 2025-26 pursuant to Title 5, chapters 421 and 423, excluding the normal cost of teacher retirement	\$285,557,687
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Total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12, plus state contributions to the unfunded actuarial liabilities of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System that are attributable to teachers, retired teacher health insurance and retired teacher life insurance for fiscal year 2025-26 pursuant to Title 5, chapters 421 and 423	\$3,023,804,329
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Sec. C-4. Local and state contributions to total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12. The local contribution and the state contribution appropriation provided for general purpose aid for local schools for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, is calculated as follows:

	2025-26 LOCAL	2025-26 STATE
Local and State Contributions to the Total Cost of Funding Public Education from Kindergarten to Grade 12		
Local and state contributions to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15683, subject to statewide distributions required by law	\$1,232,210,988	\$1,506,035,654

State contribution to the total cost of unfunded actuarial liabilities of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System that are attributable to teachers, teacher retirement health insurance and teacher retirement life insurance for fiscal year 2025-26 pursuant to Title 5, chapters 421 and 423 excluding the normal cost of teacher retirement \$285,557,687

State contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 plus state contribution to the total cost of unfunded actuarial liabilities of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System that are attributable to teachers, teacher retirement health insurance and teacher retirement life insurance pursuant to Title 5, chapters 421 and 423 \$1,791,593,341

Sec. C-5. Authorization of payments. If the State's continued obligation for any individual component contained in those sections of this Act that set the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 and the local and state contributions for that purpose exceeds the level of funding provided for that component, any unexpended balances occurring in other programs may be applied to avoid proration of payments for any individual component. Any unexpended balances from this Act may not lapse but must be carried forward for the same purpose.

Sec. C-6. Limit of State's obligation. Those sections of this Act that set the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 and the local and state contributions for that purpose may not be construed to require the State to provide payments that exceed the appropriation of funds for general purpose aid for local schools for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.

PART C SUMMARY

This Part establishes the Total Cost of Education from Kindergarten to Grade 12, the state contribution, the annual target state share percentage, and the mill expectation for the local contribution for fiscal year 2025-2026.

PART EE

Part EE vote: 7-3 IN

Sec. EE-1. 20-A MRS §13007, sub-§2 is amended to read:

E. Report and pay in each fiscal year from fees collected pursuant to subsection 1 to the Treasurer of State to be credited to the Higher Education Administrative Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Education, an amount sufficient to fund annual New England Board of Higher Education dues.

**PART EE
SUMMARY**

This Part directs a portion of fees collected for educator credentialing to cover the annual cost of New England Board of Higher Education dues.

PART HH

Part HH vote: 10-0 IN

Sec. HH-1. Rename Learning Systems Team program. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Learning Systems Team program within the Department of Education is renamed the Federal Programs Team program.

**PART HH
SUMMARY**

This Part changes the name of the Learning Systems Team program to the Federal Programs Team program.

PART II

Part II vote: 10-0 IN

Sec. II-1. Department of Education, Education Stabilization Fund; transfer of funds. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer \$45,000,000 from the Department of Education, Education Stabilization Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account, to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30, 2026.

Sec. II-2. Department of Education, Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services; transfer of funds. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer \$2,214,574 from the Department of Education, Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services, Other Special Revenue Funds account to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30, 2026.

**PART II
SUMMARY**

This Part authorizes the State Controller to transfer cash balances from the Department of Education accounts to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund on or before June 30, 2026.

PART JJ

Part JJ vote: 10-0 IN

Sec. JJ-1. Department of Education, General Purpose Aid for Local Schools; lapsed balances. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, \$10,000,000 from unencumbered balance forward from the Department of Education, General Purpose Aid for Local Schools, General Fund carrying account, All Other line category lapses to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30, 2026.

**PART JJ
SUMMARY**

This Part lapses \$10,000,000 of unencumbered balance forward from the Department of Education, General Purpose Aid for Local Schools, General Fund account to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund in fiscal year 2025-26.

PART KK

Part KK vote: 7-3 IN

Sec. KK-1. Transfer from Department of Education, General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program, General Fund; Department of Education, Preschool Special Education Program Fund, General Fund. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2026, the State Controller shall transfer \$21,000,000 of the unencumbered balance forward from the Department of Education, General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program, General Fund account, All Other line category to the Department of Education, Preschool Special Education Program Fund, General Fund account, All Other line category.

**PART KK
SUMMARY**

This Part authorizes the transfer of \$21,000,000 in unencumbered balance forward from the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program to the Preschool Special Education Program Fund within the Department of Education.

PART CCCC

Sec. CCCC-1. 20-A MRSA §11611 is amended to read:

5. Institution of higher education. "Institution of higher education" means an public institution of higher education located within this State that meets the requirements of and conforms to the definitions contained in the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, Section 1201, as amended, United States Code, Title 20, Section 1141; and the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, Section 491, as amended, United States Code, Title 20, Section 1088; and the regulations, guidelines and procedures promulgated by the Secretary of Education and published in the Federal Register pursuant to these sections of law.

Sec. CCCC-2. 20-A MRSA §11612 is amended to read:

The Maine State Grant Program is established. Under the program, grants may be given only to residents of the State who:

- 1. Graduated.** Have graduated from an approved secondary school or matriculated at a public post-secondary school prior to high school graduation, or have successfully completed a general educational development examination or its equivalent;
- 2. Accepted as undergraduate.** Have been accepted for enrollment as undergraduates or are in good standing as undergraduates at public institutions of higher education in an eligible program of study and have not received a previous baccalaureate degree;

Sec. CCCC-3. 20-A MRSA §11614 is amended to read:

6. Safety net. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the authority may not allocate less in grants under this chapter for students attending the University of Maine System, the Maine Maritime Academy, or the Maine Community College System ~~and private postsecondary institutions~~ than was allocated for students in each of those institutions or groups of institutions of higher education in 1988-89.

8. Exception for certain public institutions outside the State. The authority may adopt rules establishing criteria and an application process for making grant awards to students at public institutions of higher education who wish to pursue a course of study available only at a public institution outside the State as part of the New England regional student program offered by the New England Board of Higher Education established by Title 5, section 12004-K, subsection 2. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

PART CCCC
SUMMARY

These Part limits the use of Maine State Grant awards to students attending Maine institutions of public higher education. In limited circumstances, the grant would remain available to students of Maine public higher education institutions who wish to pursue courses of study

available only at certain eligible New England public higher education institutions that are part of the New England Board of Higher Education Compact.

Part EEEE vote: 7-3 IN; 1 minority amendment

PART EEEE

Sec. EEEE-1. 20-A MRSA c.431 §12723, as enacted by PL 2021, c.372 §1 is repealed.

Sec. EEEE-2. 20-A MRSA c.431 §12724 is enacted to read:

§12724 Maine Free Community College Program

The Maine Community College shall waive tuition and mandatory fees for eligible students. The availability of the waiver is limited to the amount appropriated.

Eligibility. For purposes of this Part, an eligible student is a high school graduate, or a person who obtains the equivalent of a high school diploma in the previous two academic years.

Conditions. In order to receive 2 years of free community college, an eligible student must:

- A. Pursue an associate degree or academic credential;
- B. Live in the State at the time of enrollment in a community college and for the duration of that enrollment;
- C. Accept all available federal and state grants, scholarships and other sources of funding; and
- D. Access the free college waiver for no longer than 200% of the stated completion time for the program of study.

Report. The Maine Community College System shall prepare a report by January 15th of each year to be submitted to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and over appropriations and financial affairs.

**PART EEEE
SUMMARY**

This Part repeals outdated language related to tuition waivers and codifies and makes permanent the Maine Free Community College Program.

Sec. D-1. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Maine Climate Corps Prog - ME Commission for Comm Svc Z350

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program - Maine Commission for Community Service and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Department of Education to the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Maine Office of Community Affairs, respectively and within the same respective funds, to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine.

Ref. #: 1184

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	(\$9,328)	(\$9,328)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	(\$9,328)	(\$9,328)

Notes:

Language Part D-6

Justification:

This initiative transfers All Other funding from the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program - Maine Commission for Community Service and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Department of Education to the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Maine Office of Community Affairs, respectively and within the same respective funds, to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B.

Maine Climate Corps Prog - ME Commission for Comm Svc Z350

Initiative: Transfers one Senior Planner position from the Maine Climate Corps Program - Maine Commission for Community Service, Department of Education to the Maine Climate Corps Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. One authorized position and any incumbent personnel as of July 1, 2025 in the Department of Education is transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. All transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, will be classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Those employees will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 1185

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	(1.000)	(1.000)
Personal Services	(\$105,595)	(\$113,841)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	(\$105,595)	(\$113,841)

Notes:

Justification:

Transfers one Senior Planner position from the Maine Climate Corps Program - Maine Commission for Community Service, Department of Education to the Maine Climate Corps Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B. This position is a limited-period position that is being requested to become permanent in part A of the budget.

Maine Commission for Community Service Z134

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program - Maine Commission for Community Service and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Department of Education to the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Maine Office of Community Affairs, respectively and within the same respective funds, to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine.

Ref. #: 1108	#1	Committee Vote: _____	AFA Vote: _____
GENERAL FUND			
	All Other		2025-26 2026-27
			(\$53,276) (\$53,276)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL			(\$53,276) (\$53,276)

Ref. #: 1109	#2	Committee Vote: _____	AFA Vote: _____
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND			
	All Other		2025-26 2026-27
			(\$2,269,136) (\$2,269,136)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL			(\$2,269,136) (\$2,269,136)

Ref. #: 1110	#3	Committee Vote: _____	AFA Vote: _____
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS			
	All Other		2025-26 2026-27
			(\$194,282) (\$194,282)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL			(\$194,282) (\$194,282)

Notes:

Language Part D-6

Justification:

This initiative transfers All Other funding from the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program - Maine Commission for Community Service and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Department of Education to the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Maine Office of Community Affairs, respectively and within the same respective funds, to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B.

Maine Commission for Community Service Z134

Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Manager I position and 3 Senior Planner positions in the Maine Commission for Community Service program from Department of Education to the Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same respective funds and transfers and reallocates the cost of one Senior Planner position in the Maine Commission for Community Service program from 60% Federal Expenditures Fund and 40% General Fund in the Department of Education to 75% General Fund and 25% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Maine Office of Community Affairs. Five authorized positions and any incumbent personnel as of July 1, 2025 in the Department of Education are transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. All transferred positions will be classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of positions as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Each employee will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 1111

#1

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	(\$42,239)	(\$45,535)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	(\$42,239)	(\$45,535)

Ref. #: 1112

#2

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	(5,000)	(5,000)
Personal Services	(\$531,169)	(\$561,217)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	(\$531,169)	(\$561,217)

Notes:

Language Part D-6

Justification:

Transfers one Public Service Manager I position and 3 Senior Planner positions from the Maine Commission for Community Service program, Department of Education to the Maine Commission for Community Service - Volunteer Maine program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same respective funds and transfers and reallocates the cost of one Senior Planner position from 60% Federal Expenditures Fund and 40% General Fund in the Maine Commission for Community Service program, Department of Education to 75% General Fund and 25% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Maine Commission for Community Service - Volunteer Maine program, Maine Office of Community Affairs to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B. The federal grant funding one of the Senior Planner positions is no longer available to cover the full costs of the position.

Maine Commission for Community Service Z134

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the cost of one Secretary Specialist position from 75% Federal Expenditures Funds and 25% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Maine Commission for Community Service program, Department of Education to 70% General Fund and 30% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Maine Commission for Community Service program, Maine Office of Community Affairs to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. One authorized position and any incumbent personnel as of July 1, 2025 in the Department of Education is transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. All transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, will be classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Those employees will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 1113

#1

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	(1,000)	(1,000)
Personal Services	(\$67,522)	(\$72,852)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	(\$67,522)	(\$72,852)

Ref. #: 1114

#2

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	(\$22,506)	(\$24,281)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	(\$22,506)	(\$24,281)

Notes:

Language Part D-6

Justification:

This initiative transfers and reallocates the cost of one Secretary Specialist position from 75% Federal Expenditures Funds and 25% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Maine Commission for Community Service program, Department of Education to 70% General Fund and 30% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Maine Commission for Community Service program, Maine Office of Community Affairs to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B. There is not enough available funding in the Other Special Revenue Funds to support 25% of the cost of the position and there is not enough funding in the Federal Expenditures Fund to maintain funding at 75% of the cost of the position. This initiative aligns the cost of this position with available funding.

Maine Service Fellows Program Z311

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program - Maine Commission for Community Service and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Department of Education to the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Maine Office of Community Affairs, respectively and within the same respective funds, to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine.

Ref. #: 1158

#1

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
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All Other			(\$500)	(\$500)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL			<u>(\$500)</u>	<u>(\$500)</u>

Ref. #: 1159 **#2** Committee Vote: _____ AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS			2025-26	2026-27
All Other			(\$500)	(\$500)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL			<u>(\$500)</u>	<u>(\$500)</u>

Notes:

Language Part D-6

Justification:

This initiative transfers All Other funding from the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program - Maine Commission for Community Service and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Department of Education to the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Maine Office of Community Affairs, respectively and within the same respective funds, to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B.

Maine Service Fellows Program Z311

Initiative: Transfers one limited-period Volunteer Services Coordinator position from the Maine Service Fellows Program, Department of Education to the Maine Service Fellows Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. One authorized position and any incumbent personnel as of July 1, 2025 in the Department of Education is transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. All transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, will be classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Those employees will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 1160 One Time Committee Vote: _____ AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND			2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services			(\$98,611)	(\$106,558)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL			<u>(\$98,611)</u>	<u>(\$106,558)</u>

Notes:

Language Part D-6

Justification:

This initiative transfers one limited-period Volunteer Services Coordinator position from the Maine Service Fellows Program, Department of Education to the Maine Service Fellows Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs as established by Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B. This limited-period position is being requested to continue through

Maine Service Fellows Program Z311

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Maine Services Fellows Program, Department of Education to the Maine Service Fellows Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine.

Ref. #: 1161

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	(\$12,433)	(\$12,072)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	(\$12,433)	(\$12,072)

Notes:

Language Part D-6

Justification:

This initiative transfer All Other funding related to one limited-period Volunteer Services Coordinator position that is also being transferred from the Department of Education to the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	(\$210,438)	(\$221,980)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	(\$2,979,371)	(\$3,022,335)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	(\$217,288)	(\$219,063)
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	(\$3,407,097)	(\$3,463,378)

PART D

Sec. D-1. 5 MRSA §3109, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. OOOO, §1, is repealed.

Sec. D-2. 5 MRSA c. 310-B, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 643, §D2, is amended to read:

CHAPTER 310-B

MAINE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

SUBCHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§3201. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Director. "Director" means the Director of the Maine Office of Community Affairs appointed pursuant to section 3203.

2. Office. "Office" means the Maine Office of Community Affairs established by section 3202.

§3202. Office established; purpose

The Maine Office of Community Affairs is established ~~as an agency in the executive branch~~ to foster communications and partnerships across state agencies and between the State and communities in this State. The office shall engage with municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils to provide coordinated and efficient planning, technical assistance and financial support to better plan for challenges, pursue solutions and create stronger, more resilient communities.

The office is established to partner with communities in this State and regional councils by:

1. Assistance and funding. Providing technical assistance and funding related to planning to municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils that supports a sustainable future for the State's people, communities, natural resources, physical infrastructure, industries, businesses and institutions; and

2. Coordination and communication. Facilitating general coordination and communication between municipalities, tribal governments, regional councils and State Government.

§3203. Director

The Director of the Maine Office of Community Affairs is appointed by the Governor and serves at the pleasure of the Governor. The director must have demonstrated experience and leadership in municipal or regional government and must bring expertise in planning, technical assistance and grant programs for communities.

§3204. Powers and duties

The director shall exercise the powers of the office and is responsible for the execution of the duties of the office.

1. Duties of director. The director shall:

A. Appoint and remove office staff and prescribe staff duties as necessary to implement the duties of the office, including:

(1) Hiring professional staff that have education, training and experience in the fields of planning and development, local and regional government, climate science and resilience, housing, building codes and general policy making; and

(2) Employing additional staff as necessary to support the work of the office.

B. Supervise and administer the affairs of the office and advise the Governor and other officials of State Government on matters of communication and partnerships between the State, municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils in this State;

C. At the request of the Governor, act for the State in the initiation of or participation in any multigovernmental agency program related to the purposes of the office;

D. At the request of the Governor, prepare and submit a budget for the office; and

E. At the request of the Governor, report on the activities of the office and, after consultation with and approval by the Governor, submit recommendations for legislative action as are determined necessary to further the purposes of this chapter.

2. Duties of office. Under the supervision of the director, the office shall:

A. Provide technical assistance and resources to municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils on issues related to planning, climate resilience and development;

B. Collect and collate data and statistics relating to the issues described in paragraph A and provide them to municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils;

C. Assist municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils, as well as the State, in applying for, using and leveraging federal funding resources on issues of importance to communities and the State;

D. Make grants from money appropriated to the office by the Legislature and any funds received by the office for the purposes of the office, including federal funding or private funds; solicit applications for grants; and make grant awards to eligible communities and to service provider organizations as determined by the office, including establishing eligibility requirements and other criteria to consider in awarding grants;

E. Administer contracts with regional councils and regional planning and development districts to provide technical assistance and resources to municipalities and tribal governments on issues related to planning, climate resilience and development, including but not limited to land use

planning, planning for housing and other residential development, climate resilience planning and related infrastructure planning, building codes and other forms of local development assistance to support state, regional and local goals; and

F. Consult with and provide ongoing coordination with state agencies on programs and issues related to planning technical assistance and funding to communities in this State, including but not limited to the Department of Transportation; Department of Environmental Protection; Department of Marine Resources; Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; Department of Economic and Community Development; Department of Health and Human Services; Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency; Department of Public Safety; Maine State Housing Authority; Governor's Energy Office; Efficiency Maine Trust; the Maine Historic Preservation Commission; and the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority.

G. The office may adopt rules as necessary for the proper administration and enforcement of this chapter, pursuant to the Maine Administrative Procedures Act. Unless otherwise specified, rules adopted pursuant to this chapter are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2 A.

§3205. Acceptance and administration of funds

The office may accept, administer and expend funds, including but not limited to funds from the Federal Government or from private sources, for purposes consistent with this chapter. The director shall provide a report of the amount of any outside funding received from private sources and its designated purpose to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over municipal matters on an annual basis.

A. The office may adopt rules to administer grants and other fund disbursements. Rules adopted pursuant to this program are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

B. To maximize the availability of technical and financial assistance programs to all communities, including municipalities and tribes, and to multi-community regions and service providers, financial assistance programs administered competitively by this Office are exempt from rules adopted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services procurement authorities in Title 5, Ch. 155 and any rules promulgated thereto for use in the purchasing of services and the awarding of grants and contracts.

C. The office shall publish a program statement describing its grant programs and advertising its availability to eligible applicants.

D. Grants awarded pursuant to this exemption may be for a period of up to 2 years. Recipients of grant funds through the programs shall cooperate with the office's performance of periodic evaluations. The recipients shall meet the office's specific reporting requirements.

E. The office may adjudicate appeals of grant disbursement decisions made under its authority. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, an adjudicatory hearing on an appeal must be held in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.

§3206. Contracts; agreements

The office may employ expert and professional consultants, contract for services as the director determines necessary within the limits of the funds provided and consistent with the powers and duties of the office and enter into agreements with the Federal Government and other agencies and organizations that promote the objectives of this chapter.

Sec. D-3. 5 MRSA c. 310-B, sub-c. 2 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 2

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

§3207. Community Resilience Partnership Program

1. Definition. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "community" means a municipal government, tribal government, plantation, township or unorganized territory.

2. Program established; administration. The Community Resilience Partnership Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the office to provide direction, assistance and grants to communities in the State to help the communities reduce carbon emissions, transition to clean energy and become more resilient to the effects of climate change. The office shall administer the program to provide technical and financial assistance for local and regional planning and implementation projects consistent with the State's emissions reduction targets under Title 38, section 576 A and the state climate action plan under Title 38, section 577.

3. Grants. The program shall make grants from money appropriated to the program by the Legislature and any funds received by the office for the purposes of the program, including federal funding or private funds.

A. The program may solicit applications for grants and make grant awards through a competitive process to eligible communities and to service provider organizations as determined by the program.

B. The office may establish eligibility requirements and other criteria to consider in awarding grants, as long as the criteria support the goals to help communities reduce carbon emissions, transition to clean energy and become more resilient to the effects of climate change.

4. Other technical assistance. The program may provide other technical assistance and knowledge sharing that may include, but is not limited to, assisting communities with information about available grant opportunities, sharing best practices from jurisdictions inside and outside the State, providing model language for local ordinances and policies and providing information to the general public that may support local and statewide policy changes meant to reduce emissions, encourage the transition to clean energy and increase resiliency to the effects of climate change.

§3208. Coastal zone management program

Implement and manage coastal zone management program. The office, under direction of the director, shall manage and coordinate implementation and ongoing development and improvement of a state coastal zone management program in accordance with and in furtherance of the requirements of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, 16 United States Code, Sections 1451 to 1466 (2012) and the State's coastal management policies established in Title 38, section 1801. The office may:

- A. Implement aspects of the state coastal zone management program and be the lead state agency for purposes of federal consistency review under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, 16 United States Code, Section 1456 (2012);
- B. Receive and administer funds from public or private sources for implementation of the state coastal zone management program; and
- C. Act as the coordinating agency among the several officers, authorities, boards, commissions, departments and political subdivisions of the State on matters relative to management of coastal resources and related human uses in the coastal area.

§ 3209. Floodplain management

The floodplain management program is established within the office. The office shall serve as the state coordinating agency for the National Flood Insurance Program pursuant to 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 60 and in that capacity shall oversee delivery of technical assistance and resources to municipalities for the purpose of floodplain management activities and shall administer the State Floodplain Mapping Fund under Title 5, section 3210.

§ 3210. State Floodplain Mapping Fund

1. Fund established. The State Floodplain Mapping Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a dedicated, nonlapsing fund administered by the office for the purpose of providing funds for the mapping of floodplains in the State using light detection and ranging technology.

2. Sources of funding. The fund consists of any money received from the following sources:

- A. Contributions from private sources;
- B. Federal funds and awards;
- C. The proceeds of any bonds issued for the purposes for which the fund is established; and
- D. Any other funds received in support of the purposes for which the fund is established.

3. Disbursements from the fund. The office shall apply the money in the fund toward the support of floodplain mapping in the State, including, but not limited to, the acquisition of light detection and ranging elevation data and the processing and production of floodplain maps.

Sec. D-4. 5 MRSA c. 310-B, sub-c. 3 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 3

MUNICIPAL PLANNING ASSISTANCE

§3211. Municipal planning assistance program; purpose, administration

Under the provisions of this program, a municipality or multimunicipal region may request financial or technical assistance from the office for the purpose of planning and implementing a growth management program. A municipality or multimunicipal region that requests and receives a financial assistance grant shall develop and implement its growth management program in cooperation with the office and in a manner consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in this subchapter and in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2.

To accomplish the purposes of this subchapter, the office shall develop and administer a technical and financial assistance program for municipalities or multimunicipal regions. The program must include direct financial assistance for planning and implementation of growth management programs, standards governing the review of growth management programs by the office, technical assistance to municipalities or multimunicipal regions and a voluntary certification program for growth management programs.

§ 3211-A. Municipal planning assistance program; technical and financial assistance

The technical and financial assistance program for municipalities, regional councils and multimunicipal regions is established to encourage and facilitate the adoption and implementation of local, regional and statewide growth management programs.

The office may enter into financial assistance grants only to the extent that funds are available. In making grants, the office shall consider the need for planning in a municipality or multimunicipal region, the proximity of the municipality or multimunicipal region to other areas that are conducting or have completed the planning process and the economic and geographic role of the municipality or multimunicipal region within a regional context. The office shall give priority in making grants to any municipality or multimunicipal region that has adopted a local climate action plan and, if the municipality or multimunicipal region has adopted a comprehensive plan or growth management program, prepared a climate vulnerability assessment pursuant to Title 30-A, section 4326, subsection 1, paragraph L. The office may consider other criteria in making grants, as long as the criteria support the goal of encouraging and facilitating the adoption and implementation of local and multimunicipal growth management programs consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in this subchapter.

1. Planning assistance grants.

2. Implementation assistance grants.

2-A. Financial assistance grants. A contract for a financial assistance grant must:

A. Provide for the payment of a specific amount for the purposes of planning and preparing a comprehensive plan;

B. Provide for the payment of a specific amount for the purposes of implementing that plan; and

C. Include specific timetables governing the preparation and submission of products by the municipality or multimunicipal region.

The office may not require a municipality or multimunicipal region to provide matching funds in excess of 25% of the value of that municipality's or multimunicipal region's financial assistance contract for its first planning assistance grant and implementation assistance grant. The office may require a higher match for other grants, including, but not limited to, grants for the purpose of updating comprehensive plans. This match limitation does not apply to distribution of federal funds that the office may administer.

2-B. Use of funds. A municipality or multimunicipal region may expend financial assistance grants for:

A. The conduct of surveys, inventories and other data-gathering activities;

B. The hiring of planning and other technical staff;

C. The retention of planning consultants;

D. Contracts with regional councils for planning and related services;

E. Assistance in the development of ordinances;

F. Retention of technical and legal expertise;

G. The updating of growth management programs or components of a program;

G-1. Evaluation of growth management programs; and

H. Any other purpose agreed to by the office and the municipality or multimunicipal region that is directly related to the preparation of a comprehensive plan or the implementation of a comprehensive plan adopted in accordance with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in this subchapter.

2-C. Program evaluation. Any recipient of a financial assistance grant shall cooperate with the office in performing program evaluations required under Title 30-A, section 4331.

2-D. Encumbered balances at year-end. Notwithstanding Title 5, section 1589, at the end of each fiscal year, all encumbered balances accounts for financial assistance and regional planning grants may be carried forward for 2 years beyond the year in which those balances are encumbered.

3. Technical assistance. Using its own staff, the staff of other state agencies, contractors and the resources of the regional councils, the office shall provide technical assistance to municipalities or multimunicipal regions in the development, administration and enforcement of growth management programs. The technical assistance component of the program must include a set of model land use ordinances or other implementation strategies developed by the office that are consistent with this subchapter.

4. Regional council assistance. As part of the technical and financial assistance program, the office may develop and administer a program to develop regional education and training programs, regional policies to address state goals and regional assessments. Regional assessments may include, but are not limited to, public infrastructure, inventories of agricultural and commercial forest lands, housing needs, recreation and open space needs, and projections of regional growth and economic development. The program may include guidelines to ensure methodological consistency among the State's regional councils. To implement this program, the office may contract with regional councils to assist the office in reviewing growth management programs, to develop necessary planning information at a regional level or to provide support for local planning efforts.

5. Coordination. State agencies with regulatory or other authority affecting the goals established in this subchapter shall conduct their respective activities in a manner consistent with the goals established under this subchapter, including, but not limited to, coordinating with municipalities, regional councils and other state agencies in meeting the state goals; providing available information to regions and municipalities as described in Title 30-A, section 4326, subsection 1; cooperating with efforts to integrate and provide access to geographic information system data; making state investments and awarding grant money as described in section Title 5, section 3211-C; and conducting reviews of growth management programs as provided in Title 5, section 3211-B, subsection 3, paragraph A. Without limiting the application of this section to other state agencies, the following agencies shall comply with this subchapter:

A. Department of Economic and Community Development;

B. Department of Environmental Protection;

C. Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry;

D. Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife;

E. Department of Marine Resources;

F. Department of Transportation;

G. Department of Health and Human Services;

H. Finance Authority of Maine; and

I. Maine State Housing Authority.

§3211-B. Municipal planning assistance program; review of programs

1. Comprehensive plans. A municipality or multimunicipal region that chooses to prepare a growth management program and receives a planning grant under Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 shall submit its comprehensive plan to the office for review. A municipality or multimunicipal region that chooses to prepare a growth management program without receiving a planning grant under this subchapter may submit its comprehensive plan to the office for review. The office shall review plans for consistency with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2. A contract for a planning assistance grant must include

specific timetables governing the review of the comprehensive plan by the office. A comprehensive plan submitted for review more than 12 months following a contract end date may be required to contain data, projections and other time-sensitive portions of the plan or program that are in compliance with the office's most current review standards.

2. Growth management programs. A municipality or multimunicipal region may at any time request a certificate of consistency for its growth management program.

A. Upon a request for review under this section, the office shall review the program and determine whether the program is consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2.

B. Certification by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or the office of a municipality's or multimunicipal region's growth management program under Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 is valid for 10 years. To maintain certification, a municipality or multimunicipal region shall periodically review its growth management program and submit to the office in a timely manner any revisions necessary to account for changes, including changes caused by growth and development. Certification does not lapse in any year in which the Legislature does not appropriate funds to the office for the purposes of reviewing programs for recertification.

C. Upon a request for review under this section, the office may review rate of growth, impact fee and zoning ordinances to determine whether the ordinances are consistent with a comprehensive plan that has been found consistent under this section without requiring submission of all elements of a growth management program. An affirmative finding of consistency by the office is required for a municipality or multimunicipal region to assert jurisdiction as provided in section Title 4, section 3211-C.

3. Review of growth management program. In reviewing a growth management program, the office shall:

A. Solicit written comments on any proposed growth management program from regional councils, state agencies, all municipalities contiguous to the municipality or multimunicipal region submitting a growth management program and any interested residents of the municipality or multimunicipal region or of contiguous municipalities. The comment period extends for 45 days after the office receives the growth management program.

(1) Each state agency reviewing the proposal shall designate a person or persons responsible for coordinating the agency's review of the growth management program.

(2) Any regional council commenting on a growth management program shall determine whether the program is compatible with the programs of other municipalities that may be affected by the program and with regional policies or needs identified by the regional council;

B. Prepare all written comments from all sources in a form to be forwarded to the municipality or multimunicipal region;

C. Within 90 days after receiving the growth management program, send all written comments on the growth management program to the municipality or multimunicipal region and any applicable regional council. If warranted, the office shall issue findings specifically describing how the submitted growth management program is not consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 and the recommended measures for remedying the deficiencies.

(1) In its findings, the office shall clearly indicate its position on any point on which there are significant conflicts among the written comments submitted to the office.

(2) If the office finds that the growth management program was adopted in accordance with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2, the office shall issue a certificate of consistency for the growth management program.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph D, if a municipality or multimunicipal region requests a certificate of consistency for its growth management program, any unmodified component of that program that has previously been reviewed by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and has received a finding of consistency will retain that finding during program certification review by the office as long as the finding of consistency is current as defined in rules adopted by the office;

D. Provide ample opportunity for the municipality or multimunicipal region submitting a growth management program to respond to and correct any identified deficiencies in the program. A finding of inconsistency for a growth management program may be addressed within 24 months of the date of the finding without addressing any new review standards that are created during that time interval. After 24 months, the program must be resubmitted in its entirety for state review under the office's most current review standards; and

E. Provide an expedited review and certification procedure for those submissions that represent minor amendments to certified growth management programs.

The office's decision on consistency of a growth management program constitutes final agency action.

3-A. Review of comprehensive plan. In reviewing a comprehensive plan, the office shall:

A. Solicit written comments on any proposed comprehensive plan from regional councils, state agencies, all municipalities contiguous to the municipality or multimunicipal region submitting a comprehensive plan and any interested residents of the municipality or multimunicipal region or of contiguous municipalities. The comment period extends for 25 business days after the office receives the comprehensive plan. Each state agency reviewing the proposal shall designate a person or persons responsible for coordinating the agency's review of the comprehensive plan;

B. Prepare all written comments from all sources in a form to be forwarded to the municipality or multimunicipal region;

C. Within 35 business days after receiving the comprehensive plan, notify the municipality or multimunicipal region if the plan is complete for purposes of review. If the office notifies the municipality or multimunicipal region that the plan is not complete for purposes of review, the office shall indicate in its notice necessary additional data or information;

D. Within 10 business days of issuing notification that a comprehensive plan is complete for purposes of review, issue findings specifically describing whether the submitted plan is consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 and identify which inconsistencies in the plan, if any, may directly affect rate of growth, zoning or impact fee ordinances.

(1) In its findings, the office shall clearly indicate its position on any point on which there are significant conflicts among the written comments submitted to the office.

(2) If the office finds that the comprehensive plan was developed in accordance with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2, the office shall issue a finding of consistency for the comprehensive plan.

(3) A finding of inconsistency must identify the goals under Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 not adequately addressed, specific sections of the rules relating to comprehensive plan review adopted by the office not adequately addressed and recommendations for resolving the inconsistency;

E. Send all written findings and comments on the comprehensive plan to the municipality or multimunicipal region and any applicable regional council; and

F. Provide ample opportunity for the municipality or multimunicipal region submitting a comprehensive plan to respond to and correct any identified deficiencies in the plan. A finding of inconsistency for a comprehensive plan may be addressed within 24 months of the date of the finding without addressing any new review standards that are created during that time interval. After 24 months, the plan must be resubmitted in its entirety for state review under the office's most current review standards.

If the office finds that a plan is not consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2, the municipality or multimunicipal district that submitted the plan may appeal that finding to the office within 20 business days of receipt of the finding in accordance with rules adopted by the office, which are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2 A.

The office's decision on consistency of a comprehensive plan constitutes final agency action.

A finding by the office pursuant to paragraph D that a comprehensive plan is consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 is valid for 12 years from the date of its issuance. For purposes of Title 30-A, section 4314, subsection 3 and Title 30-A, section 4352, subsection 2, expiration of a finding of consistency pursuant to this subsection does not itself make a comprehensive plan inconsistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in this subchapter.

4. Updates and amendments. A municipality or multimunicipal region may submit proposed amendments to a comprehensive plan or growth management program to the office for review in the same manner as provided for the review of new plans and programs. Subsequent to voluntary certification under Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2, the municipality or multimunicipal region shall file a copy of an amendment to a growth management program with the office within 30 days after adopting the amendment and at least 60 days prior to applying for any state grant program that offers a preference for consistency or certification.

5. Regional councils. Subject to the availability of funding and pursuant to the conditions of a contract, each regional council shall review and submit written comments on the comprehensive plan or growth management program of any municipality or multimunicipal region within its planning region. The comments must be submitted to the office and contain an analysis of:

A. Whether the comprehensive plan or growth management program is compatible with identified regional policies and needs; and

B. Whether the comprehensive plan or growth management program is compatible with plans or programs of municipalities or multimunicipal regions that may be affected by the proposal.

§3211-C. Municipal planning assistance program; state capital investments

1. Growth-related capital investments. The State may make growth-related capital investments only in:

A. A locally designated growth area, as identified in a comprehensive plan adopted pursuant to and consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines of Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 or as identified in a growth management program certified under section 3211-B.

B. In the absence of a consistent comprehensive plan, an area served by a public sewer system that has the capacity for the growth-related project, an area identified in the latest Federal Decennial Census as a census-designated place or a compact area of an urban compact municipality as defined by Title 23, section 754; or

C. Areas other than those described in paragraph A or B for the following projects:

(1) A project related to a commercial or industrial activity that, due to its operational or physical characteristics, typically is located away from other development, such as an activity that relies on a particular natural resource for its operation;

(2) An airport, port or railroad or industry that must be proximate to an airport, a port or a railroad line or terminal;

(3) A pollution control facility;

(4) A project that maintains, expands or promotes a tourist or cultural facility that is required to be proximate to a specific historic, natural or cultural resource or a building or improvement that is related to and required to be proximate to land acquired for a park, conservation, open space or public access or to an agricultural, conservation or historic easement;

(5) A project located in a municipality that has none of the geographic areas described in paragraph A or B and that prior to January 1, 2000 formally requested but had not received from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry funds to assist with the preparation of a comprehensive plan or that received funds from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to assist with the preparation of a comprehensive plan within the previous 2 years. This exception expires for a municipality 2 years after such funds are received; or

(6) A housing project serving the following: individuals with mental illness, developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, brain injuries, substance use disorder or a human immunodeficiency virus; homeless individuals; victims of domestic violence; foster children; children or adults in the custody of the State; or individuals with a household income of no more than 80% of the area median income if the project has 18 or fewer units and receives funding through a program administered by the Maine State Housing Authority. A nursing home is not considered a housing project under this paragraph.

2. State facilities. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services shall develop site selection criteria for state office buildings, state courts, hospitals and other quasi-public facilities and other civic buildings that serve public clients and customers, whether owned or leased by the State, that give preference to the priority locations identified in this subsection while ensuring safe, healthy, appropriate work space for employees and clients and accounting for agency requirements. On-site parking may only be required if it is necessary to meet critical program needs and to ensure reasonable access for agency clients and persons with disabilities. Employee parking that is within reasonable walking distance may be located off site. If there is a change in employee parking from on-site parking to off-site parking, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services must consult with the duly authorized bargaining agent or agents of the employees. Preference must be given to priority locations in the following order: service center downtowns, service center growth areas and downtowns and growth areas in other than service center communities. If no suitable priority location exists or if the priority location would impose an undue financial hardship on the occupant or is not within a reasonable distance of the clients and customers served, the facility must be located in accordance with subsection 1. The following state facilities are exempt from this subsection: a lease of less than 500 square feet; and a lease with a tenure of less than one year, including renewals.

2-A. State's role in implementation of growth management programs. All state agencies, as partners in local and regional growth management efforts, shall contribute to the successful implementation of comprehensive plans and growth management programs adopted under this subchapter by making investments, delivering programs and awarding grants in a manner that reinforces the policies and strategies within the plans or programs. Assistance must be provided within the confines of agency policies, available resources and considerations related to overriding state interest.

3. Preference for other state grants and investments.

3-A. Preference for other state grants and investments. Preference for other state grants and investments is governed by this subsection.

A. When awarding a grant or making a discretionary investment under any of the programs under paragraph B, subparagraphs (1) and (2) or when undertaking its own capital investment programs other than for projects identified in Title 30-A section 4301, subsection 5 B, a state agency shall respect the primary purpose of its grant or investment program and, to the extent feasible, give preference:

(1) First, to a municipality that has received a certificate of consistency for its growth management program under section 3211-B.

(2) Second, to a municipality that has adopted a comprehensive plan that the former State Planning Office, the Municipal Planning Assistance Program at the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, or the office has determined is consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines of Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 and has adopted zoning ordinances that the former State Planning Office, the Municipal Planning Assistance Program at the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, or the office has determined are consistent with the comprehensive plan; and

(3) Third, to a municipality that has adopted a comprehensive plan that the former State Planning Office, the Municipal Planning Assistance Program at the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, or the office has determined is consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines of this subchapter.

If a municipality has submitted a comprehensive plan, zoning ordinance or growth management program to the former State Planning Office, the Municipal Planning Assistance Program at the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, or the office for review, the time for response as established in section 3211-B has expired and comments or findings have not been provided to the municipality, a state agency when awarding a grant or making a discretionary investment under this subsection may not give preference over the municipality to another municipality.

B. This subsection applies to:

(1) Programs that assist in the acquisition of land for conservation, natural resource protection, open space or recreational facilities under Title 5, chapter 353; and

(2) Programs intended to:

(a) Accommodate or encourage additional growth and development;

(b) Improve, expand or construct public facilities; or

(c) Acquire land for conservation or management of specific economic and natural resource concerns.

C. This subsection does not apply to state grants or other assistance for sewage treatment facilities, public health programs or education.

D. The office shall work with state agencies to prepare mechanisms for establishing preferences in specific investment and grant programs as described in paragraph B.

4. Application. Subsections 1 and 2 apply to a state capital investment for which an application is accepted as complete by the state agency funding the project after January 1, 2001 or which is initiated with the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services by a state agency after January 1, 2001.

§3211-D: Development Ready Advisory Committee

The Development Ready Advisory Committee, referred to in this section as "the committee," is established pursuant to Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 6-J to develop and maintain best practices for municipalities in infrastructure, land use, housing, economic development, conservation and historic preservation policy. The committee will provide coordination and subject matter expertise to municipalities to advance the likelihood of success across the community development lifecycle.

1. Membership. The members of the committee are as follows:

A. Director of the office;

B. The Executive Director of the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority or the executive director's designee;

C. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the commissioner's designee;

D. The Commissioner of Transportation or the commissioner's designee;

E. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection or the commissioner's designee;

F. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or the commissioner's designee;

H. The Director of the Maine State Housing Authority or the director's designee;

G. The Director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission or the director's designee; and

H. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries And Wildlife or the commissioner's designee;

I. The following members, selected by and serving at the pleasure of the director:

(1) Three representatives of Maine municipalities;

(2) Five representatives from the regional councils selected for geographic diversity and subject matter expertise;

(3) a representative of an organization that develops or funds affordable housing projects;

(4) a representative of a local or statewide organization promoting civil rights that has racial justice or racial equity as its primary mission;

(5) a representative of an organization that advocates for conservation of Maine's natural resources, and

(6) a representative of a regional or statewide economic development organization.

2. Duties. The committee shall develop best practices for community development intended to support the following goals:

A. Assisting communities in preparing for sustainable growth and in a way that maximizes financial return for state and local economies, improve quality of life for local residents, address housing needs for households of all income levels and advance environmental protection and transportation goals and specific locally identified priority needs;

B. Providing technical assistance and coordination to communities to facilitate the adoption of best practices for growth across the following sectors:

1. Transportation and infrastructure;

2. Housing creation and preservation;

3. Economic development;

4. Conservation; and

5. Historic preservation.

C. Assisting communities in designating priority investment areas in consultation with regional planning organizations, including but not limited to village centers, downtowns and adjacent neighborhoods, rural crossroads, high-impact corridors, working waterfronts and rural farmsteads;

D. Ensuring that development efforts are achievable by communities and based on the appropriateness of the location for development and the overall merit of the development project and community's commitment to the development project based on the community's stated goals; and

E. Providing resources and education for municipalities to improve capacity to access funding sources for community development project implementation.

3. Chair and officers. The director of the office shall serve as chair of the committee. The members of the committee shall annually elect one of its members as vice-chair and one of its members as secretary to set the agenda and schedule meetings. The committee may elect other officers, create subcommittees and designate their duties.

4. Voting rights. Each member of the committee has a vote.

5. Meetings. The committee shall meet at least twice a year.

6. Quorum. A majority of the members of the committee constitutes a quorum.

7. Staff support. The office shall provide staff support to the committee to carry out the purposes of this section.

Sec. D-5. 5 MRSA c. 310-B, sub-c. 4 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 4

Housing Planning

§3212. Housing Opportunity Program

1. Program established; administration. The Housing Opportunity Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the office to encourage and support the development of additional housing units in the State, including housing units that are affordable for low-income and moderate-income individuals and housing units targeted to community workforce housing needs. The office shall administer the program and provide technical and financial assistance to support communities implementing zoning and land use-related policies necessary to support increased housing development. The program must support regional approaches and municipal model ordinance development and encourage policies that support increased housing density, where feasible, to protect working lands and natural lands.

2. Housing Opportunity Fund. The Housing Opportunity Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a fund within the office for the purpose of providing funds for the program. The fund consists of money appropriated to the fund by the Legislature and any funds received by the office for the purposes of the program.

A. The office shall solicit applications for grants from the fund through a competitive application process. Grants may be awarded to experienced service providers and municipalities to support municipal ordinance development, provide technical assistance and encourage public participation and community engagement in the process of increasing housing opportunities. Programs receiving grants under this paragraph may encourage regional coordination between municipalities.

B. The office shall solicit applications for and shall award through a competitive application process grants for the following:

(1) Community housing planning services to municipalities to support the creation of housing development plans, including municipal ordinances, and policy amendments to support those plans. Grants awarded must be for a period of up to 3 years, with required progress reports each year; and

(2) Community housing implementation services.

C. The office shall provide technical assistance, housing policy development and guidance directly to regional groups, municipalities and other housing stakeholders, to the extent feasible with available resources. This may include, but is not limited to, assisting municipalities with information about available grant opportunities, sharing best practices from jurisdictions inside and outside of the State, providing model language for local ordinances and policies and

providing information to the general public, which may support local and statewide policy changes meant to increase the supply of housing.

3. Program evaluation. A recipient of grant funds through the program shall cooperate with the office in performing evaluations and specific reporting requirements.

4. Rulemaking. The office shall establish by rule the criteria for eligibility for grants from the program and the process of application. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2 A.

§3213: Code Enforcement

The office shall administer the programs related to municipal code enforcement and Maine building codes as directed in relevant statutes found in Titles 10, 25 and 30-A, formerly administered by the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Sec. D-6. 5 MRSA c. 310-B, sub-c.5 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 5

VOLUNTEER MAINE

§3214. Commission established

There is established the Maine Commission for Community Service, referred to in this subchapter as "the commission," to foster the State's ethic of community service; encourage community service and volunteerism as a means of meeting critical human, environmental, educational and public safety needs throughout the State; address climate challenges through community service and volunteerism; serve as the State's liaison regarding national and community service and volunteer activities; foster collaboration among service agencies; and receive gifts and grants, implement statewide service programs and make subgrants to state and local entities in accordance with the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, 42 United States Code, Sections 12501 to 12682 (1994).

§3214-A. Membership; terms

1. Membership; qualifications. The commission consists of no fewer than 15 and no more than 25 voting members appointed by the Governor and subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters. The commission must include the following:

- A. A representative of a community-based agency or organization;
- B. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;
- C. A representative of local government;
- D. A representative of a local labor organization;
- E. A representative of business;

F. An individual who is at least 16 years of age but no more than 25 years of age and who is a participant in or supervisor of a service program for youth or a campus-based or national service program;

G. A representative of a national service program;

H. An individual with expertise in the education, training and development needs of youth, particularly disadvantaged youth;

I. An individual with experience in promoting the involvement of adults aged 55 and older in national service and volunteerism; and

J. A representative of the State's volunteer community.

A member may fulfill the representation requirement for more than one category in this subsection.

The appointments may also include educators, including representatives from institutions of higher education and local education agencies; experts in the delivery of human, educational, environmental or public safety services to communities and persons; representatives of Native American tribes and nations; out-of-school or at-risk youth; and representatives of programs that are administered or receive assistance under the federal Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, 42 United States Code, Section 4951, et seq. (1973). The commission also must include a nonvoting liaison designated by the federal Corporation for National and Community Service. The appointments must reflect diversity with respect to geography, race, ethnicity, age, gender, disability characteristics and political affiliation. Not more than 50% plus one member may be from the same political party. The number of voting members who are officers or employees of the State may not exceed 25% of the total membership.

The chair must be an appointed voting member of the commission, selected by the voting members. Members may not vote on issues affecting organizations they have served in a staff or volunteer capacity at any time during the preceding 12 months.

2. Terms of office. The appointed members serve 3-year staggered terms. Terms expire on September 1st. The Governor shall appoint members to vacancies on the commission as they occur or upon expiration of terms. Any vacancy must be filled for the unexpired portion of the term in which the vacancy occurs.

3. Reimbursement. Members are entitled to compensation for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties on the commission in the same manner as state employees.

§3214-B. Duties

The commission shall:

1. Vision. Develop a state vision statement for national, state and community service;

2. Ethic of service. Demonstrate an ethic of service through its activities, policies, and procedures and annually evaluate how effectively these are fostering the state vision and service ethic;

3. National and community service plan. Develop a 3-year comprehensive national and community service plan and update the plan annually. The commission shall ensure an open and inclusive process for maximum participation in development of the plan and determination of state priorities;

4. Preselect programs and prepare applications. Preselect national service programs as defined in the National Service Trust Act, 42 United States Code, Section 12501, et seq. and prepare a grant application to the Corporation for National and Community Service;

5. Assist state education agencies. Assist the Department of Education and institutions of higher education in the preparation of applications for national and community service grants;

6. Administer grant programs. Evaluate, monitor and administer grant programs;

7. Provide technical assistance. Serve as a clearinghouse for information on national and community service and provide technical assistance to local nonprofit organizations and other entities in planning, applying for funds and implementing national service programs;

8. Provide development assistance and training. Provide program development assistance and training to national service programs in the State;

9. Recruitment and placement. Serve as a clearinghouse for people interested in national and community service placements and agencies recruiting volunteers;

10. State priorities. Make recommendations to the Corporation for National and Community Service with respect to priorities within the State for programs receiving assistance under the federal Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, 42 United States Code, Section 4951, et seq. (1973);

11. Coordination. Coordinate and foster collaboration among state agencies, colleges, universities, municipalities, federal agencies and volunteer service programs, including, but not limited to, coordination of and collaboration regarding the activities of the Maine Climate Corps Program established pursuant to Title 5, section 3216 and related national and other climate-related service programs;

12. Advisory committees. Establish advisory committees as needed, with membership not limited to commission members;

13. Fund raising. Carry out fund-raising efforts to supplement federal funding and to meet all federal matching requirements;

13-A. Maine Service Fellows Program. Develop and administer the Maine Service Fellows Program under Title 5, section 3215; and

14. Annual report. Submit an annual report to the Governor, the Legislature and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters by January 31st of each year.

§3214-C. Staff and administrative services

The office shall provide staff and administrative services as follows.

1. Executive director. The director, in consultation with the commission, shall hire an executive director as a member of the office staff. The executive director oversees day-to-day operations of the commission, hires staff members with the approval of the commission and the director and carries out other responsibilities as directed by the commission.

2. Administrative services. The director shall provide the executive director and the commission with continuing administrative support as appropriate. The office may establish a dedicated account on behalf of the commission to receive funds contributed by private and public agencies for use solely for commission purposes.

§3214-D. Private support organization

1. Designation of private support organization. The executive director of the commission, with the consent of the voting members of the commission, shall designate a nonprofit corporation as the private support organization for the commission. The nonprofit corporation must be incorporated under the laws of this State and for purposes that are consistent with the goals, objectives, programs, responsibilities and functions of the commission.

The commission's private support organization must be organized and operated exclusively to receive, hold, invest and administer property and funds and to make expenditures to and for the benefit of the commission.

2. Board of directors. A member of the private support organization's board of directors may not also be a member of the commission. The executive director of the commission, or the executive director's designee, shall serve as a nonvoting ex-officio member of the private support organization's board of directors.

3. Scope of work. The private support organization shall operate under a memorandum of understanding negotiated annually by the commission that outlines a plan of work consistent with the purposes and goals of the commission and shall submit an annual budget for review and approval by the commission by June 1st.

The memorandum of understanding must further stipulate the reversion to the commission, or to the State if the commission ceases to exist, of money and property held in trust by the private support organization if the private support organization is no longer designated by the commission pursuant to subsection 1.

4. Use of property. The commission may authorize the private support organization to use the commission's facilities, equipment and other property, except money, in keeping with the purposes of the private support organization.

§3215. Maine Service Fellows Program

The Maine Service Fellows Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the commission. Individuals who participate in the program are referred to in this section as "program fellows." The commission shall administer the program in accordance with this section.

1. Program purposes. The commission shall establish the program to:

A. Increase the opportunities for individuals to devote a year of service to communities in the State;

B. Attract to and retain in the State motivated adults who have completed a college degree within the prior 5 years to serve in positions where they can apply skills and abilities to projects for the benefit of citizens of the State;

C. Provide rural and underserved communities in the State a resource to address critical health and human, public safety, education and environmental needs; and

D. Strengthen civic engagement of both the program fellows and community residents through solutions based in whole or in part in volunteer service.

2. Program design. The program must be designed to coordinate with appropriate organizations in the served communities. Program fellows must be required to commit up to 20% of their time in the program to developing regional networks of volunteer programs whose common goals can result in mutual benefits. An entity may submit a proposal to sponsor a program fellow based on guidelines established under this subsection. Services provided by a program fellow may include but are not limited to services to address home evictions, to support workforce development, to mitigate and prevent substance use disorder and to promote mental health. The commission may identify other priority needs of communities to be addressed by the program and may make those services available to eligible communities. The commission shall establish guidelines for the program that include but are not limited to:

A. Limiting the eligibility of entities that may sponsor program fellows to local or county government, school districts, nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations and similar entities;

B. Establishing standards for local sponsors regarding supervision and support of program fellows during their service;

C. Ensuring that projects and project proposals are well-designed and measure their impact and do not include partisan or political activity;

D. Ensuring that program fellows are not used to replace positions eliminated or position hours reduced as a result of budget cuts by the sponsor;

E. Requiring criminal background checks or other safeguards if projects involve working with vulnerable populations such as schoolchildren or if otherwise required to receive federal funds;

F. Focusing the program on rural communities as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service's rural-urban continuum codes, except that the commission shall use criteria other than the codes for defining rural communities in Penobscot County;

G. Authorizing private sector and local partner contributions to program operations for travel reimbursements or training costs; and

H. Any other guideline that the commission believes will benefit the program.

3. Compensation. To the extent funds are available, the commission shall ensure that program fellows receive the following compensation for service:

A. A stipend set by the commission to achieve an annual income of up to 212% of the nonfarm income official federal poverty level. To the extent the stipend is paid from the General Fund or any other account of the commission, personal liability insurance and workers' compensation insurance, paid for from the same source of funds, must also be provided. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, program fellows are not employees of the State for the purposes of Title 5, Part 20;

B. A program completion bonus that includes, to the extent established by the commission by rule, an educational loan payment in an amount up to 20% of the stipend value paid on behalf of the program fellow to the holder of the loan; and

C. An allowance to pay for individual health insurance not to exceed 2% of the stipend amount.

4. Funding. The commission may seek and receive both private and federal funds, grants and gifts in support of the program. The commission may accept funding from other state agencies to support program fellows whose work will support and promote goals of programs administered by those agencies.

5. Rules. The commission may adopt rules necessary to carry out the purposes of this section. Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

§3216. Maine Climate Corps Program

The Maine Climate Corps Program, referred to in this section as “the program,” is established within the commission to provide grants, technical assistance and training to community service corps programs with the mission of responding to the impacts of climate change. Eligible community service corps programs under the program must be designed to:

1. Direct service projects. Conduct evidence-based direct service projects developed through community collaboration, including collaboration with indigenous communities, that address principles of equity, justice and accessibility;

2. Climate impacts. Address through measurable performance one or more of the following areas: transportation, energy, housing, the State’s coastal zone as defined under the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s coastal zone

management program, public health, land and fresh water preservation, community resilience and climate-related education;

3. Disproportionately affected communities; representation. Prioritize assistance to disproportionately affected communities and ensure that individuals in service positions represent the economic and demographic diversity of communities, including persons who are historically marginalized; and

4. Additional standards. Meet additional program standards, including, but not limited to, requirements to:

A. Enroll individuals for set terms in service positions;

B. Provide individuals in full-time service positions with stipends, health insurance, liability insurance and accidental death or dismemberment insurance;

C. Provide individuals in service positions with training, education and service experiences that further employability or career preparation; and

D. Meet any other standards set by the commission or nationally for similar programs.

Sec. D-7. 5 MRSA c. 373, as amended, is repealed.

Sec. D-8. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§6-J, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 664, §2 is amended to read:
6-J.

Economic Development	Development Ready Advisory Committee	Expenses Only	30-A — MRSA §5161-5 MRSA <u>§3211-D</u>
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Sec. D-9. 5 MRSA §13056-J, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 635, Pt. U, §1, is repealed.

Sec. D-10. 10 MRSA §9722, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2011, c. 633, §5, if further amended to read:

1. Establishment. The Technical Building Codes and Standards Board, established in Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 5-A and located within the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs, is established to adopt, amend and maintain the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, to resolve conflicts between the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code and the fire and life safety codes in Title 25, sections 2452 and 2465 and to provide for training for municipal building officials, local code enforcement officers and 3rd-party inspectors.

Sec. D-11. 10 MRSA §9722, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2007, c. 699, §6, if further amended to read:

3. Ex officio member; chair. ~~The Commissioner of Public Safety~~ Director of the Maine Office of Community Affairs, or the ~~commissioner's~~ director's designee, serves as an ex officio

member and as the chair of the board. The chair is a nonvoting member, except in the case of a tie of the board. The chair is responsible for ensuring that the board maintains the purpose of its charge when executing its assigned duties, that any adoption and amendment requirements for the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code are met and that training and technical assistance is provided to municipal building officials.

Sec. D-12. 10 MRSA §9723, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2019, c. 517, §1 is further amended to read:

2. Training program standards; implementation. The committee shall direct the training coordinator of the Division of Building Codes and Standards, established in Title 25, section 2372, to develop a training program for municipal building officials, local code enforcement officers and 3rd-party inspectors. ~~The Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs, pursuant to Title 30-A, section 4451, subsection 3-A, shall implement the training and certification program established under this chapter.

Sec. D-13. 12 MRSA §408, as revised by PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5 is repealed.

Sec. D-14. 12 MRSA §409, as revised by PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5 is repealed.

Sec. D-15. 12 MRSA §6052, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. QQ, §5 is repealed.

Sec. D-16. 25 MRSA §2371, as amended by PL 2011, c. 633, §§7,8, is further amended to read:

§2371. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Board. "Board" means the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board established in Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 5-A.

2. Building official. "Building official" means a building official appointed pursuant to section 2351-A.

3. Bureau.

4. Code. "Code" means the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code adopted pursuant to Title 10, chapter 1103.

5. Commissioner. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Safety.

6. Director. "Director" means the Director of the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Title 5, chapter 310-B.

5-A7. Division. "Division" means the Division of Building Codes and Standards established in section 2372.

8. Office. "Office" means the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Title 5, chapter 310-B.

69. Third-party inspector. "Third-party inspector" means a person certified by the State to conduct inspections under Title 30-A, section 4451 for compliance with the code. A 3rd-party inspector may not hold a pecuniary interest, directly or indirectly, in any building for which the 3rd-party inspector issues an inspection report pursuant to section 2373 and may not serve as a 3rd-party inspector in any municipality where that 3rd-party inspector has been appointed as a building official or code enforcement officer.

Sec. D-17. 25 MRSA §2372, as amended by PL 2019, c. 517, §2, is further amended to read:

§2372. Division of Building Codes and Standards

1. Established. The Division of Building Codes and Standards is established within the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal office~~ to provide administrative support and technical assistance to the board in executing its duties pursuant to Title 10, section 9722, subsection 6.

2. Staff. The ~~commissioner~~director may appoint and may remove for cause staff of the division, including:

A. A technical codes coordinator certified in building standards pursuant to Title 30-A, section 4451, subsection 2-A, paragraph E, who serves as the division director and principal administrative and supervisory employee of the board. The technical codes coordinator shall attend meetings of the board, keep records of the proceedings of the board and direct and supervise the personnel employed to carry out the duties of the board, including but not limited to providing technical support and public outreach for the adoption of the code, amendments, conflict resolutions and interpretations. Technical support and public outreach must include, but may not be limited to:

- (1) Providing nonbinding interpretation of the code for professionals and the general public; and
- (2) Establishing and maintaining a publicly accessible website to publish general technical assistance, code updates and interpretations and post-training course schedules; and

B. An office specialist to provide administrative support to the division and the board.

Sec. D-18. 25 MRSA §2374, as amended by PL 2019, c. 517, §3, is further amended to read:

§2374. Uniform Building Codes and Standards Fund

The Uniform Building Codes and Standards Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within the ~~Department of Public Safety office~~ to fund the activities of the division under this chapter and the activities of the board under Title 10, chapter 1103 and Title 30-A, section 4451, subsection 3-A. Revenue for this fund is provided by the surcharge established by section 2450-A. The ~~Department of Public Safety office~~ shall determine an amount to be transferred annually from the fund for training and certification under Title 30-A, section 4451,

subsection 3-A to the Maine Code Enforcement Training and Certification Fund established in Title 30-A, section 4451, subsection 3-B. Any balance of the fund may not lapse, but must be carried forward as a continuing account to be expended for the same purpose in the following fiscal year.

Sec. D-19. 25 MRSA §2450-A, as repealed and replaced by PL 2013, c. 424, Pt. A, §13, is amended to read:

§2450-A. Surcharge on plan review fee for Uniform Building Codes and Standards Fund

In addition to the fees established in section 2450, a surcharge of 4¢ per square foot of occupied space must be levied on the existing fee schedule for new construction, reconstruction, repairs, renovations or new use for the sole purpose of funding the activities of the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board with respect to the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, established pursuant to Title 10, chapter 1103, the activities of the Division of Building Codes and Standards under chapter 314 and the activities of the ~~Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Community Development~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs under Title 30-A, section 4451, subsection 3-A, except that the fee for review of a plan for the renovation of a public school, including the fee established under section 2450, may not exceed \$450. Revenue collected from this surcharge must be deposited into the Uniform Building Codes and Standards Fund established by section 2374.

Sec. D-20. 30-A MRSA, c. 187, sub-c. II, art. 3-A, as amended is repealed.

Sec. D-21. 30-A MRSA §4451, as amended by PL 2019, c. 517, §5 is further amended to read:

§4451. Training and certification for code enforcement officers

1. Certification required; exceptions. A municipality may not employ any individual to perform the duties of a code enforcement officer who is not certified by the former State Planning Office, the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Community Development, ~~or the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ or the Maine Office of Community Affairs, except that:

A. An individual other than an individual appointed as a plumbing inspector has 12 months after beginning employment to be trained and certified as provided in this section;

B. Whether or not any extension is available under paragraph A, the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs may waive this requirement for up to one year if the certification requirements cannot be met without imposing a hardship on the municipality employing the individual;

C. An individual may be temporarily authorized in writing by the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Engineering to be employed as a plumbing inspector for a period not to exceed 12 months; and

D. An individual whose certification has expired or is about to expire may be temporarily authorized in writing by the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~

Maine Office of Community Affairs to extend that individual's certification for a period not to exceed 12 months in cases where the necessary training or examination is suspended under subsection 3-B, paragraph E.

2. Penalty. Any municipality that violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$100 may be adjudged. Each day in violation constitutes a separate offense.

2-A. Code enforcement officer; definition and duties. As used in this subchapter, "code enforcement officer" means a person certified under this section and employed by a municipality to enforce all applicable laws and ordinances in the following areas:

- A. Shoreland zoning under Title 38, chapter 3, subchapter 1, article 2-B;
- B. Comprehensive planning and land use under Part 2, Subpart 6-A;
- C. Internal plumbing under chapter 185, subchapter 3;
- D. Subsurface wastewater disposal under chapter 185, subchapter 3; and
- E. Building standards under chapter 141; chapter 185, subchapter 1; Title 5, sections 4582-B, 4582-C and 4594-F; Title 10, chapter 1103; and Title 25, chapter 313.

3. Training and certification of code enforcement officers. In cooperation with code enforcement officer professional associations, the Maine Community College System, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Health and Human Services, except as otherwise provided in paragraph H, the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall establish a continuing education program for individuals engaged in code enforcement. This program must provide training in the technical and legal aspects of code enforcement necessary for certification. The training program must include training to provide familiarity with the laws and ordinances related to the structure and practice of the municipal code enforcement office, municipal planning board and appeals board procedures, application review and permitting procedures, inspection procedures and enforcement techniques.

- ~~A.~~ [PL 1991, c. 163 (RP).]
- ~~B.~~ [PL 1991, c. 163 (RP).]
- ~~C.~~ [PL 1991, c. 163 (RP).]
- ~~D.~~ [PL 1991, c. 163 (RP).]
- ~~E.~~ [PL 1991, c. 163 (RP).]
- ~~F.~~ [PL 1991, c. 163 (RP).]
- ~~G.~~ [PL 1991, c. 163 (RP).]

~~H.~~ If funding is not available to support the training and certification program authorized under this subsection, the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of

Community Affairs shall discontinue training and certification activities related to laws and ordinances referenced in subsection 2-A, paragraphs A and B and shall adopt by routine technical rules under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A a program to register code enforcement officers that meet training and education qualifications. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall publish the list of persons registered for code enforcement who have submitted evidence of required qualifications. Persons registered under this paragraph must meet the requirements for training and certification under this subchapter. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall consult with the Department of Health and Human Services for the purposes of carrying out training and certification activities related to laws and ordinances referenced in subsection 2-A, paragraphs C and D. Within one month of discontinuation of training and certification under this paragraph, the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters a recommendation for funding the training and certification program or for further changes in program requirements.

3-A. Training and certification of inspectors in the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. In accordance with the training and certification requirements developed pursuant to Title 10, section 9723, the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall provide the training necessary to certify municipal building officials, local code enforcement officers and 3rd-party inspectors.

3-B. Maine Code Enforcement Training and Certification Fund. The Maine Code Enforcement Training and Certification Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a nonlapsing fund to support training and certification programs administered by the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs for code enforcement officers, local plumbing inspectors, municipal building officials and 3rd-party inspectors in accordance with this subchapter.

A. On July 1st of each year, the funds identified in section 4215, subsection 4 for training and certifying local plumbing inspectors must be transferred to the fund.

B. On July 1st of each year, the funds identified in Title 25, section 2374 for training and certifying municipal building officials, local code enforcement officers and 3rd-party inspectors must be transferred to the fund.

C. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall place in the fund any money it receives from grants to support the requirements of this subchapter.

D. Funds related to code enforcement training and certification may be expended only in accordance with allocations approved by the Legislature and solely for the administration of this subchapter. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year may not lapse but must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

E. If the fund does not contain sufficient money to support the costs of the training and certification provided for in this subchapter, the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs may suspend all or reduce the level of training and certification activities.

4. Examination. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall conduct at least one examination each year to examine candidates for certification at a time and place designated by it. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs may conduct additional examinations to carry out the purposes of this subchapter.

5. Certification standards. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall adopt routine technical rules under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to establish the qualifications, conditions and licensing standards and procedures for the certification and recertification of individuals as code enforcement officers. A code enforcement officer need only be certified in the areas of actual job responsibilities. The rules established under this subsection must identify standards for each of the areas of training under subsection 2-A, in addition to general standards that apply to all code enforcement officers.

6. Certification; terms; revocation. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall certify individuals as to their competency to successfully enforce ordinances and other land use regulations and permits granted under those ordinances and regulations and shall issue certificates attesting to the competency of those individuals to act as code enforcement officers. Certificates issued by the former State Planning Office, the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Community Development, or the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs are valid for 6 years unless revoked by the District Court. An examination is not required for recertification of code enforcement officers. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall recertify a code enforcement officer if the code enforcement officer successfully completes at least 12 hours of approved training in each area of job responsibility during the 6-year certification period.

A. The District Court may revoke the certificate of a code enforcement officer, in accordance with Title 4, chapter 5, when it finds that:

- (1) The code enforcement officer has practiced fraud or deception;
- (2) Reasonable care, judgment or the application of a duly trained and knowledgeable code enforcement officer's ability was not used in the performance of the duties of the office; or
- (3) The code enforcement officer is incompetent or unable to perform properly the duties of the office.

B. Code enforcement officers whose certificates are invalidated under this subsection may be issued new certificates provided that they are newly certified as provided in this section.

7. Other professions unaffected. This subchapter may not be construed to affect or prevent the practice of any other profession.

Sec. D-22. 30-A MRSA §5161, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 664, §3 is repealed.

Sec. D-23. Transition provisions, Community Resilience Partnership Program. The following provisions govern the transition of the Community Resilience Partnership Program from the Governor's Office of Policy, Innovation and the Future to the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the Community Resilience Partnership Program.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the Community Resilience Partnership Program or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the Community Resilience Partnership Program continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the Community Resilience Partnership Program become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the Community Resilience Partnership Program may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

6. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer any unobligated balances remaining in the Community Resilience Partnership Program, other special revenue and federal funds to the Maine Office of Community Affairs no later than the effective date of this Act.

Sec. D-24. Transition provisions, coastal zone management program. The following provisions govern the transition of the coastal zone management program from the Bureau of Policy and Management program, Department of Marine Resources to the Maine Coastal Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the coastal zone management program.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the coastal zone management program or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the coastal zone management program continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the coastal zone management program become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the coastal zone management program may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

6. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer any unobligated balances related to the coastal zone management program remaining in the Bureau of Policy and Management program, Department of Marine Resources, other special revenue and federal funds to the Maine Office of Community Affairs no later than the effective date of this Act.

Sec. D-25. Transition provisions, municipal planning assistance program. The following provisions govern the transition of the municipal planning assistance program from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Municipal Planning Assistance program, Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the municipal planning assistance program.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the municipal planning assistance program or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the municipal planning assistance program continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the municipal planning assistance program become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the municipal planning assistance program may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

6. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer any unobligated balances related to the municipal planning assistance program remaining in the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, federal funds to the Maine Office of Community Affairs no later than the effective date of this Act.

Sec. D-26. Transition provisions, Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program. The following provisions govern the transition of the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program from the Department of Education to the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

6. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer any unobligated balances related to the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program remaining in the Department of Education, other special revenues fund and federal funds to the Maine Office of Community Affairs no later than the effective date of this Act.

Sec. D-27. Transition provisions, Housing Opportunity Program. The following provisions govern the transition of the Housing Opportunity Program from the Department of Economic and Community Development to the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the Housing Opportunity Program.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the Housing Opportunity Program or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the Housing Opportunity Program continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the Housing Opportunity Program become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the Housing Opportunity Program may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

Sec. D-28. Transition provisions, Division of Building Codes and Standards program. The following provisions govern the transition of the Division of Building Codes and Standards program from the Department of Public Safety to the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the Division of Building Codes and Standards program.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the Division of Building Codes and Standards program or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the Division of Building Codes and Standards program continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the Division of Building Codes and Standards program become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the Division of Building Codes and Standards program may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

6. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer any unobligated balances related to the Division of Building Codes and Standards program remaining in the Department of Public Safety, other special revenue funds to the Maine Office of Community Affairs no later than the effective date of this Act.

Sec. D-29. Transition provisions, floodplain management program. The following provisions govern the transition of the floodplain management program from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Maine Floodplain Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the municipal planning assistance program.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the floodplain management program or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the floodplain management program continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the floodplain management program become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the floodplain management program may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

6. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer any unobligated balances related to the floodplain management program remaining in the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, other special revenue funds and federal funds to the Maine Office of Community Affairs no later than the effective date of this Act.

Sec. D-30. Transition provisions, Development Ready Advisory Committee. The following provisions govern the transition of the Development Ready Advisory Committee from the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority to the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the Development Ready Advisory Committee.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the Development Ready Advisory Committee or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the Development Ready Advisory Committee continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the Development Ready Advisory Committee become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the Development Ready Advisory Committee may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

PART D SUMMARY

This Part amends the general provisions of the Maine Office of Community Affairs. This Part also transitions several programs through State government to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. This includes the Community Resilience Partnership from the Executive Department, the Coastal Zone Management program from the Department of Marine Resources, the State Floodplain Mapping Fund and the Municipal Planning Assistance program from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Development Ready Advisory

Committee from the Maine Development Land Bank Authority, the Housing Opportunity Program from the Department of Economic & Community Development, the Maine Commission for Community Service, Maine Service Fellows Program, the Maine Climate Corp program, and the Volunteer Maine from the Department of Education, and the Division of Building Codes and Standards from the Department of Public Safety