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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON LABOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair
Representative Drew Gattine, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM: Senator Mike Tipping, Senate Chair MT (S)
Representative Amy Roeder, House Chair AR (S)
Joint Standing Committee on Labor

DATE: March 5, 2025

SUBJ: Biennial budget recommendations

The Joint Standing Committee on Labor met to consider portions of the Governor’s proposed biennial budget that pertain to its jurisdiction on February 26, 2025. The Committee voted on each initiative and language part. The total votes for each initiative and language part can be viewed on the report-back template attached.

In addition to the initiatives and language, the Committee would also like to express its feelings on a noticeably absent initiative in the proposed biennial budget: funds to help retirees struggling after 2011 changes to retirement laws.

The Labor Committee has a longstanding tradition of advocating for legislative changes in a bipartisan fashion to remedy State retirees adversely affected by changes to retirement benefits in 2011. Unfortunately, because those impacts on retirees have not yet been rectified, the Committee must once again reiterate its frustration and disappointment that nothing has yet been done to substantially help retirees suffering from the effects of legislative changes nearly 15 years ago. Some committee members expressed that all options should be on the table, including tax fairness. Other Committee members expressed that perhaps money in Other Special Revenue accounts would help assist retirees if the funds were directed to do so.

Members of the Committee also expressed frustration with the budget process itself in that the picture of the budget provided to them is merely a small capture of the totality of the proposed initiatives. The Committee wondered if taking a more holistic view of the budget would be beneficial. For example, the Committee only received snippets of certain accounts, such as Other Special Revenue fund accounts, but did not have an adequate picture of the total of those

accounts. Therefore, members felt they couldn't adequately determine where funds to potentially help retirees could come from due to having only small pieces of many budget parts.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Committee directly or contact Steven Langlin, the Committee's Legislative Analyst in the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis.

Sec. A-41. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF

Administration - Bureau of Labor Standards 0158

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Personal Services	\$103,352	\$107,523	\$133,679	\$140,619
All Other	\$28,270	\$28,270	\$28,270	\$28,270
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$131,622	\$135,793	\$161,949	\$168,889
	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	\$127,961	\$132,251	\$150,245	\$159,666
All Other	\$68,588	\$68,588	\$68,588	\$68,588
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$196,549	\$200,839	\$218,833	\$228,254
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$200,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$200,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000

Justification:

This account provides funding for the Technical Services Division (TSD), the Maine Wage Assurance Fund, and the administration of the Bureau of Labor Standards. The administration unit has overall responsibility for the bureau, including policy development and financial control. The TSD collects and disseminates data on occupational safety and health, workers' compensation, construction wage rates and labor relations; researches and issues wage determinations used on state construction projects under the Prevailing Wage Rate Law; and has three federal grants from the U.S. Department of Labor, two from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and one from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, that support its occupational safety and health data collection activities. The division also provides technical services and computer support to other units in the bureau. The Maine Wage Assurance Fund pays up to two weeks of unpaid wages to employees of businesses that have terminated operations where there are no assets available to pay the former employees, including bankruptcies. The funding for the Wage Assurance program comes from transfers from the Special Administrative Expense Fund within the Unemployment Insurance program.

**ADMINISTRATION - BUREAU OF LABOR STANDARDS 0158
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$103,352	\$107,523	\$133,679	\$140,619
All Other	\$28,270	\$28,270	\$28,270	\$28,270
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$131,622	\$135,793	\$161,949	\$168,889
	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	\$127,961	\$132,251	\$150,245	\$159,666
All Other	\$68,588	\$68,588	\$68,588	\$68,588
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$196,549	\$200,839	\$218,833	\$228,254
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$200,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$200,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000

Minority: Sen. Bradstreet
 Rep. Drinkwater
 Rep. Collins
 Rep. Soboleski

2025-26	2026-27
\$168,424	\$186,004
<u>\$168,424</u>	<u>\$186,004</u>

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS
 All Other
 OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

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.

**ADMINISTRATION - LABOR 0030
 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	\$443,508	\$463,888	\$495,688	\$530,428
All Other	\$227,631	\$227,631	\$270,374	\$270,374
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$671,139</u>	<u>\$691,519</u>	<u>\$766,062</u>	<u>\$800,802</u>
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	11.000	11.000	28.000	28.000
Personal Services	\$1,364,342	\$1,396,321	\$3,396,776	\$3,841,603
All Other	\$3,446,362	\$3,453,477	\$4,301,572	\$4,327,907
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$4,810,704</u>	<u>\$4,849,798</u>	<u>\$7,698,348</u>	<u>\$8,169,510</u>

Blind and Visually Impaired - Division for the 0126

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	17.000	17.000	17.000	17.000
Personal Services	\$1,107,414	\$1,155,183	\$1,289,657	\$1,371,129
All Other	\$3,559,508	\$3,259,508	\$3,259,508	\$3,259,508
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$4,666,922	\$4,414,691	\$4,549,165	\$4,630,637
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	18.000	18.000	18.000	18.000
Personal Services	\$2,050,537	\$2,089,343	\$2,292,668	\$2,441,815
All Other	\$2,325,397	\$2,325,337	\$2,325,337	\$2,325,337
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$4,375,934	\$4,414,680	\$4,618,005	\$4,767,152
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$217,044	\$217,044	\$217,044	\$217,044
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$217,044	\$217,044	\$217,044	\$217,044

Justification:

This Division manages direct-services that help people who are blind or visually impaired to obtain or maintain employment. The division also oversees a program that provides funds for teachers of children who are blind or visually impaired and for assisting older individuals to learn skills they need to remain independent in their homes and communities, often avoiding costly institutional care. The Vocational Rehabilitation portion of this program receives federal matching of \$4.00 for every \$1.00 of General Fund money.

Blind and Visually Impaired - Division for the 0126

Initiative: Establishes 3 Assistive Technology Specialist positions and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 2457

Committee Vote: 10-0 IN AFA Vote: _____

	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND		
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	3.000	3.000
Personal Services	\$317,913	\$342,696
All Other	\$30,837	\$31,433
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$348,750	\$374,129

Justification:

This initiative establishes three new positions in the Federal Expenditures Fund for the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Sufficient federal funding exists to support these positions, which will assist blind and visually impaired individuals with obtaining and using new technologies. Emerging technologies include AI-powered tools and real-time image descriptions. The Division is currently contracting for these services. Providing the services with state staff will result in cost savings for the program.

Blind and Visually Impaired - Division for the 0126

Initiative: Provides funding for assistive devices and services for people who are blind or visually impaired.

Ref. #: 2458

Committee Vote: 9-1 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

All Other

Minority: Rep. Collins

2025-26

2026-27

\$200,000

\$200,000

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

\$200,000

\$200,000

Justification:

This initiative provides funds for the Independent Living program, which helps blind and visually impaired individuals with the resources they need to remain in their home and participate in their community. These funds will help meet the increased demand for and cost of assistive devices and services, such as screen readers, magnifiers for reading print, talking clocks and watches, and braille devices.

**BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED - DIVISION FOR THE 0126
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	17.000	17.000	17.000	17.000
Personal Services	\$1,107,414	\$1,155,183	\$1,289,657	\$1,371,129
All Other	\$3,559,508	\$3,259,508	\$3,459,508	\$3,459,508
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$4,666,922	\$4,414,691	\$4,749,165	\$4,830,637
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	18.000	18.000	21.000	21.000
Personal Services	\$2,050,537	\$2,089,343	\$2,610,581	\$2,784,511
All Other	\$2,325,397	\$2,325,337	\$2,356,174	\$2,356,770
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$4,375,934	\$4,414,680	\$4,966,755	\$5,141,281
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$217,044	\$217,044	\$217,044	\$217,044
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$217,044	\$217,044	\$217,044	\$217,044

Employment Security Services 0245

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	152.000	190.000	190.000	190.000
Personal Services	\$17,923,127	\$18,520,754	\$19,040,679	\$20,305,648
All Other	\$15,965,215	\$15,967,011	\$15,967,011	\$15,967,011
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$33,888,342	\$34,487,765	\$35,007,690	\$36,272,659
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000
Personal Services	\$994,913	\$1,028,784	\$1,118,275	\$1,191,705
All Other	\$8,385,961	\$8,663,531	\$8,663,531	\$8,663,531
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$9,380,874	\$9,692,315	\$9,781,806	\$9,855,236
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP				
Personal Services	\$0	\$118,074	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$808,332	\$1,973,622	\$1,973,622	\$1,973,622
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP TOTAL	\$808,332	\$2,091,696	\$1,973,622	\$1,973,622
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY TRUST FUND				
All Other	\$250,000,000	\$250,000,000	\$250,000,000	\$250,000,000
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY TRUST FUND TOTAL	\$250,000,000	\$250,000,000	\$250,000,000	\$250,000,000

IN: Sen. Bradstreet; Rep. Drinkwater; Rep. Collins; Rep. Soboleski **100,000,000**

Justification:

The Employment Security Services program supports services within the Department's Bureau of Unemployment Compensation and the Unemployment Insurance Commission. This program provides services to help prevent or reduce the adverse local economic impact of unemployment and underemployment through a Federal-State partnership in which the majority of administrative expenses are borne by the Federal government. Services funded through this account include the administration and distribution of unemployment compensation.

Employment Security Services 0245

Initiative: Reduces funding in the Trade Allowances Federal Expenditures Fund account to align allocation with available resources.

Ref. #: 2485

Committee Vote: **7-2 IN** AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	Minority: Rep. Drinkwater Rep. Collins	2025-26	2026-27
All Other		(\$3,993,260)	(\$3,993,260)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL		(\$3,993,260)	(\$3,993,260)

**EMPLOYMENT SECURITY SERVICES 0245
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	152.000	190.000	177.000	177.000
Personal Services	\$17,923,127	\$18,520,754	\$17,449,378	\$18,619,949
All Other	\$15,965,215	\$15,967,011	\$11,957,692	\$11,956,734
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$33,888,342	\$34,487,765	\$29,407,070	\$30,576,683
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000
Personal Services	\$994,913	\$1,028,784	\$1,118,275	\$1,191,705
All Other	\$8,385,961	\$8,663,531	\$11,441,031	\$11,441,031
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$9,380,874	\$9,692,315	\$12,559,306	\$12,632,736
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$118,074	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$808,332	\$1,973,622	\$1,973,622	\$1,973,622
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP TOTAL	\$808,332	\$2,091,696	\$1,973,622	\$1,973,622
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY TRUST FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$250,000,000	\$250,000,000	\$250,000,000	\$250,000,000
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY TRUST FUND TOTAL	\$250,000,000	\$250,000,000	\$250,000,000	\$250,000,000

Employment Services Activity 0852

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$442,974	\$536,733	\$606,848	\$650,019
All Other	\$161,157	\$167,677	\$167,677	\$167,677
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$604,131	\$704,410	\$774,525	\$817,696
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	92.500	92.500	92.500	92.500
Personal Services	\$7,433,565	\$7,752,621	\$8,454,271	\$9,037,888
All Other	\$15,583,171	\$15,577,318	\$15,577,318	\$15,577,318
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$23,016,736	\$23,329,939	\$24,031,589	\$24,615,206
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	5.000	4.000	4.000	4.000
Personal Services	\$600,229	\$546,294	\$648,768	\$687,779
All Other	\$3,459,454	(\$792,200)	\$707,300	\$707,300
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$4,059,683	(\$245,906)	\$1,356,068	\$1,395,079
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY				
Personal Services	\$772,606	\$214,645	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$4,306,606	\$1,455,232	\$1,455,232	\$1,455,232
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$5,079,212	\$1,669,877	\$1,455,232	\$1,455,232
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
COMPETITIVE SKILLS SCHOLARSHIP FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	9.000	9.000	9.000	9.000
Personal Services	\$749,358	\$770,948	\$883,706	\$940,225
All Other	\$6,552,588	\$6,552,554	\$6,552,554	\$6,552,554
COMPETITIVE SKILLS SCHOLARSHIP FUND TOTAL	\$7,301,946	\$7,323,502	\$7,436,260	\$7,492,779

Justification:

The Employment Services Activity program consists of state and federally-funded programs that assist Maine residents and employers through a wide range of workforce development initiatives. The Bureau of Employment Services (BES) is responsible for the statewide administration and management for these programs in the State of Maine. Maine Department of Labor (MDOL) Employment Services is a major partner in the local CareerCenters. CareerCenters, a partnership between the MDOL, Local Workforce Boards and private non-profit service providers, are the cornerstone of

the public employment system and represent a consolidation of a multitude of programs and services under one umbrella. CareerCenters provide Rapid Response Services statewide for businesses and laid-off workers; a comprehensive array of labor market information, career exploration, job search and career support services and training opportunities to job seeking customers; and workforce consultation including recruitment and retention services, job posting/matching, labor market information, access to new hire and incumbent worker training and human resource resources to Maine's businesses. The majority of the Employment Services Activity program's resources come from the federally-funded Wagner-Peyser Act, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and Trade Assistance Act. These programs are designed to help Maine residents increase their job opportunities and income through increased skills and access to employment opportunities. It includes job placement and special services for veterans through the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) and the Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) program. It also focuses on providing local employers with a wide range of employment resources. BES acts as the Governor's administrative agency and works in partnership with the State Workforce Board and the three Local Workforce Boards. Employment Services also administers the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program, a State program promoting college degrees in marketable areas of study, employer/industry-driven training for individuals, and college credits for Maine high school students participating in the BRIDGE program. In addition, it administers the Maine Apprenticeship Program, a state-funded program that supports employers, local unions and workers in increasing skills and education levels of Maine workers by establishing and maintaining worker apprenticeship programs.

Employment Services Activity 0852

Initiative: Establishes baseline allocation in the Employment Services - Jobs and Recovery Support Other Special Revenue Funds account.

Ref. #: 2511

Committee Vote: 6-4 IN AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

All Other

Minority: Sen. Bradstreet
Rep. Drinkwater
Rep. Collins
Rep. Soboleski

	2025-26	2026-27
	\$500	\$500
	\$500	\$500

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

Justification:

To establish baseline allocation.

Employment Services Activity 0852

Initiative: Provides funding to increase the hours of one CareerCenter Consultant position from 27 hours to 80 hours biweekly. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 2512

Committee Vote: 10-0 IN AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT

Personal Services

All Other

	2025-26	2026-27
	0.500	0.500
	\$58,889	\$62,719
	\$1,883	\$2,006
	\$60,772	\$64,725

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL

**EMPLOYMENT SERVICES ACTIVITY 0852
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$442,974	\$536,733	\$606,848	\$650,019
All Other	\$161,157	\$167,677	\$167,677	\$167,677
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$604,131	\$704,410	\$774,525	\$817,696
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	92.500	92.500	93.000	93.000
Personal Services	\$7,433,565	\$7,752,621	\$8,513,160	\$9,100,607
All Other	\$15,583,171	\$15,577,318	\$15,579,701	\$15,579,824
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$23,016,736	\$23,329,939	\$24,092,861	\$24,680,431
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	5.000	4.000	4.000	4.000
Personal Services	\$600,229	\$546,294	\$648,768	\$687,779
All Other	\$3,459,454	(\$792,200)	\$693,594	\$693,594
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$4,059,683	(\$245,906)	\$1,342,362	\$1,381,373
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$772,606	\$214,645	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$4,306,606	\$1,455,232	\$1,455,232	\$1,455,232
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$5,079,212	\$1,669,877	\$1,455,232	\$1,455,232
COMPETITIVE SKILLS SCHOLARSHIP FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	9.000	9.000	9.000	9.000
Personal Services	\$749,358	\$770,948	\$883,706	\$940,225
All Other	\$6,552,588	\$6,552,554	\$6,552,554	\$6,552,554
COMPETITIVE SKILLS SCHOLARSHIP FUND TOTAL	\$7,301,946	\$7,323,502	\$7,436,260	\$7,492,779

Labor Relations Board 0160

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	3.500	3.500	3.500	3.500
Personal Services	\$395,107	\$407,148	\$465,876	\$492,191
All Other	\$83,461	\$83,461	\$83,461	\$83,461
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$478,568	\$490,609	\$549,337	\$575,652
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
Personal Services	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$95,000
All Other	\$45,477	\$45,477	\$45,477	\$45,477
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$140,477	\$140,477	\$140,477	\$140,477

Justification:

The Maine Labor Relations Board (MLRB) promotes improved labor-management relations in the public-sector workplace. The MLRB enforces 4 separate statutes, which provide public employees the right to join labor organizations of their own choosing and to be represented by such organizations in collective bargaining for terms and conditions of employment. The MLRB serves a client base of about 55,000 municipal, school administrative unit, higher education, Legislative, Judicial and Executive Branch State employees. The MLRB also serves approximately 400 public employers throughout the state. Of Maine's 491 cities and towns, approximately 106 have eligible public employees. Most of the 254 school administrative units have eligible employees. The MLRB's clients also include the 16 counties, the Maine Community College System, Maine Maritime Academy, the University of Maine System, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Legislative Council and the Executive Branch of State Government. The MLRB protects the rights and enforces the responsibilities created by the labor relations statutes by constituting appropriate bargaining units, conducting secret ballot elections and processing prohibited practice complaints. The MLRB, the Panel of Mediators and the State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation provide impasse resolution procedures to assist parties in negotiating initial or successor collective bargaining agreements (i.e., mediation, fact-finding and interest arbitration) and contract grievance arbitration services.

**LABOR RELATIONS BOARD 0160
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	3.500	3.500	3.500	3.500
Personal Services	\$395,107	\$407,148	\$465,876	\$492,191
All Other	\$83,461	\$83,461	\$83,461	\$83,461
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$478,568	\$490,609	\$549,337	\$575,652
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$95,000
All Other	\$45,477	\$45,477	\$45,477	\$45,477
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$140,477	\$140,477	\$140,477	\$140,477

Maine Apprenticeship Program Z375

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000
Personal Services	\$325,360	\$337,873	\$381,373	\$409,470
All Other	\$575,000	\$575,000	\$575,000	\$575,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$900,360	\$912,873	\$956,373	\$984,470
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	3.000	5.000	5.000	5.000
Personal Services	\$245,538	\$418,836	\$442,929	\$472,487
All Other	\$3,148,813	\$1,701,076	\$1,701,076	\$1,701,076
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$3,394,351	\$2,119,912	\$2,144,005	\$2,173,563
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
Personal Services	\$0	\$79,335	\$89,643	\$15,763
All Other	\$0	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$9,500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$88,835	\$99,143	\$25,263

Justification:

The Maine Apprenticeship program is a state-funded program that supports employers, local unions, and workers in increasing skills and education levels of Maine workers by establishing and maintaining worker apprenticeship programs. The program is administered by the department, which is the state apprenticeship agency and registration agency for the purposes of 29 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 29 and 30.

**MAINE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM Z375
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000
Personal Services	\$325,360	\$337,873	\$381,373	\$409,470
All Other	\$575,000	\$575,000	\$575,000	\$575,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$900,360	\$912,873	\$956,373	\$984,470
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	3.000	5.000	5.000	5.000
Personal Services	\$245,538	\$418,836	\$442,929	\$472,487
All Other	\$3,148,813	\$1,701,076	\$1,701,076	\$1,701,076
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$3,394,351	\$2,119,912	\$2,144,005	\$2,173,563
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
Personal Services	\$0	\$79,335	\$89,643	\$15,763
All Other	\$0	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$9,500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$88,835	\$99,143	\$25,263

Regulation and Enforcement 0159

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	13.000	14.000	14.000	14.000
Personal Services	\$1,092,261	\$1,326,197	\$1,536,793	\$1,633,440
All Other	\$348,467	\$407,346	\$407,346	\$407,346
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,440,728	\$1,733,543	\$1,944,139	\$2,040,786
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000
Personal Services	\$1,289,801	\$1,337,090	\$1,481,636	\$1,574,279
All Other	\$134,977	\$135,292	\$135,292	\$135,292
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$1,424,778	\$1,472,382	\$1,616,928	\$1,709,571

Justification:

The units funded by this program are the Workplace Safety and Health Division (WSH) and the Wage and Hour Division (WHD). The WSH Division enforces the laws and rules established for the protection of workers' health and safety in the public sector. The rules mirror those set by the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and are promulgated by the Occupational Safety and Health Board, comprised of Governor-appointed representatives of management, labor and the public, which is funded through this account. In addition, the division receives two grants from the U.S. Department of Labor to assist private sector employers in meeting federal occupational safety and health standards. The OSHA grant provides training and on-site consultation services focusing on small employers in high hazard industries, while the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) grant targets similar services to mining operations. In Maine, these are mostly sand and gravel pits. WHD enforces employment laws such as minimum wage, overtime pay and child labor in the private and public sectors. Other more specialized areas of enforcement covered by WHD are Severance Pay (often called the Plant Closing Law), the Substance Abuse Testing Act and the Prevailing Wage Rate Law. WHD also administers payments from the Wage Assurance Fund.

Regulation and Enforcement 0159

Initiative: Provides funding for appeal hearings on wage and hour violation decisions.

Ref. #: 2467

Committee Vote: 9-1 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	Minority: Rep. Collins	2025-26	2026-27
All Other		\$50,000	\$50,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL		\$50,000	\$50,000

Justification:

Appeals of wage and hour violations have increased and the Department is contracting out for an appeal officer. This request provides funding for a hearing officer to preside over employer appeals.

Regulation and Enforcement 0159

Initiative: Provides funding for information technology support for the Bureau of Labor Standards case management system.

Ref. #: 2468

Committee Vote: 6-4 IN AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

All Other

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

Minority: Sen. Bradstreet
Rep. Drinkwater
Rep. Collins
Rep. Soboleski

	2025-26	2026-27
	\$150,000	\$150,000
	<u>\$150,000</u>	<u>\$150,000</u>

Justification:

This initiative provides funding for a position within the Office of Information Technology to oversee system enhancements, security and maintenance for the Bureau of Labor Standards case management system.

Regulation and Enforcement 0159

Initiative: Provides funding for the collection of labor law fines and penalties.

Ref. #: 2469

Committee Vote: 6-4 IN AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

All Other

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

Minority: Sen. Bradstreet
Rep. Drinkwater
Rep. Collins
Rep. Soboleski

	2025-26	2026-27
	\$100,000	\$100,000
	<u>\$100,000</u>	<u>\$100,000</u>

Justification:

Provides funding for collection of labor law fines and penalties due to recent law changes.

**REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT 0159
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	13.000	14.000	14.000	14.000
Personal Services	\$1,092,261	\$1,326,197	\$1,536,793	\$1,633,440
All Other	\$348,467	\$407,346	\$707,346	\$707,346
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,440,728	\$1,733,543	\$2,244,139	\$2,340,786

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000
Personal Services	\$1,289,801	\$1,337,090	\$1,481,636	\$1,574,279
All Other	\$134,977	\$135,292	\$135,292	\$135,292
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$1,424,778	\$1,472,382	\$1,616,928	\$1,709,571

Rehabilitation Services 0799

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	21.000	21.000	20.000	20.000
Personal Services	\$1,882,555	\$1,971,161	\$2,005,796	\$2,137,919
All Other	\$3,369,946	\$3,369,946	\$3,369,946	\$3,369,946
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$5,252,501	\$5,341,107	\$5,375,742	\$5,507,865
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	99.000	99.000	98.000	98.000
Personal Services	\$8,551,689	\$9,045,130	\$9,651,072	\$10,317,834
All Other	\$9,614,876	\$9,611,574	\$9,611,495	\$9,611,495
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$18,166,565	\$18,656,704	\$19,262,567	\$19,929,329
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
Personal Services	\$86,055	\$90,798	\$98,646	\$105,640
All Other	\$391,109	\$391,109	\$391,109	\$391,109
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$477,164	\$481,907	\$489,755	\$496,749

Justification:

This account funds the central administrative functions of the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services and the direct-service programs of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). The majority of the budget, which provides \$4 of Federal funding for each \$1 of General Fund support, allows for DVR to provide comprehensive vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities to enable them to obtain or maintain competitive employment. In addition, this account includes the budget for the Division on Deafness, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened which oversees contracts to provide advocacy and support to a possible 100,000 Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Late Deafened individuals in Maine. Some independent living services are also provided to assist Mainers with disabilities obtain minor accommodations to their homes so that they do not need to go into nursing homes. All these services are supported through a Federal-State Vocational Rehabilitation partnership. Each year the division provides services in the form of counseling, training, job placement, advocacy and oversight of an Independent Living Services contract to over 10,000 people with disabilities.

Rehabilitation Services 0799

Initiative: Provides funding for increased costs and demand for assistive technology for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

Ref. #: 2495

Committee Vote: 7-3 IN

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	Minority: Sen. Bradstreet Rep. Collins Rep. Soboleski	2025-26	2026-27
All Other		\$142,479	\$142,479
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL		\$142,479	\$142,479

Same vote as Language Part RRR

Rehabilitation Services 0799

Initiative: Continues one limited-period Rehabilitation Services Manager position and one limited-period Rehabilitation Counselor I position previously continued by Public Law 2023, chapter 643 and provides one-time funding for related All Other costs. These positions end June 19, 2027.

Ref. #: 2499 One Time Committee Vote: 10-0 IN AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$203,941	\$220,153
All Other	\$1,243,279	\$1,243,443
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$1,447,220	\$1,463,596

Justification:

The Bureau of Rehabilitation Services has received a five-year \$7.6 million grant which the bureau is using to enhance supports for youth with disabilities as they prepare for employment and post-secondary education. Vocational Rehabilitation services will include career readiness skill development, job placement, and job coaching. The agency partners with the Maine Department of Education, local school districts, and community providers to deliver these services. These positions will be continued into fiscal year 2027-28.

Rehabilitation Services 0799

Initiative: Continues 2 limited-period Rehabilitation Assistant positions previously established by Public Law 2023, chapter 412 through June 19, 2027. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 2500 One Time Committee Vote: 10-0 IN AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$153,354	\$164,060
All Other	\$1,530	\$1,637
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$154,884	\$165,697

Justification:

The Rehabilitation Assistant positions provide outreach about the Vocational Rehabilitation program to marginalized communities, new Mainers, and other community organizations to assist in understanding the Vocational Rehabilitation program, sharing success stories, and assisting with completing the vocational rehabilitation application.

**REHABILITATION SERVICES 0799
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	21.000	21.000	20.000	20.000
Personal Services	\$1,882,555	\$1,971,161	\$2,005,796	\$2,137,919
All Other	\$3,369,946	\$3,369,946	\$3,476,946	\$3,476,946
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$5,252,501	\$5,341,107	\$5,482,742	\$5,614,865
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	99.000	99.000	98.000	98.000
Personal Services	\$8,551,689	\$9,045,130	\$10,107,013	\$10,807,687
All Other	\$9,614,876	\$9,611,574	\$10,857,297	\$10,857,639
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$18,166,565	\$18,656,704	\$20,964,310	\$21,665,326
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$86,055	\$90,798	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$391,109	\$391,109	\$532,595	\$532,524
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$477,164	\$481,907	\$532,595	\$532,524

Safety Education and Training Programs 0161

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	16.000	15.000	15.000	15.000
Personal Services	\$1,414,200	\$1,284,808	\$1,458,664	\$1,546,833
All Other	\$991,698	\$984,782	\$984,782	\$984,782
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$2,405,898	\$2,269,590	\$2,443,446	\$2,531,615

Justification:

The purpose of the Safety Education and Training Fund (SETF) is to: improve occupational safety and health attitudes, programs and procedures in Maine workplaces; identify and promote initiatives to reduce the frequency, severity and cost of work-related injuries and illnesses; and promote best practice safety and health programs. To achieve these goals, the Bureau of Labor Standards provides technical assistance (including on-site consultation) to employers, trains employers and employees and supports private and public safety and health initiatives and research through a grant program. In addition, SETF funds support the bureau's research and information dissemination activities. This program contains no General Fund appropriation.

Safety Education and Training Programs 0161

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

Ref. #: 2475

Committee Vote: 7-3 IN AFA Vote: _____

	Minority: Sen. Bradstreet Rep. Collins	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS			
All Other		\$100,395	\$99,560
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	Rep. Soboleski	\$100,395	\$99,560

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.

**SAFETY EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS 0161
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	16.000	15.000	15.000	15.000
Personal Services	\$1,414,200	\$1,284,808	\$1,458,664	\$1,546,833
All Other	\$991,698	\$984,782	\$1,085,177	\$1,084,342
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$2,405,898	\$2,269,590	\$2,543,841	\$2,631,175

State Workforce Investment Board Z158

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Personal Services	\$409,106	\$421,661	\$467,528	\$494,184
All Other	\$53,039	\$53,163	\$53,163	\$53,163
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$462,145	\$474,824	\$520,691	\$547,347
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000

Justification:

The State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB), formerly known as the Maine Jobs Council, was established with the realization that a more coordinated effort between business, labor, education, community organizations and the public is required to meet the current and future skills requirements for both employers and employees. The SWIB is focused on the following goals: closing the skills gap that exists between employer demand and current employee skill sets; encouraging employers to invest in the education and training of their employees through the creation and implementation of industry partnerships; securing requisite coordination among the state public education and training institutions; and ensuring that public resources are targeted and tied to high quality measurable outcomes. To facilitate these goals, the SWIB works in conjunction with the Bureau of Employment Services to assist in the coordination of training, outreach, apprenticeship programs and the establishment of better training opportunities for individuals for current and future high demand jobs.

**STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD Z158
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Personal Services	\$409,106	\$421,661	\$467,528	\$494,184
All Other	\$53,039	\$53,163	\$53,163	\$53,163
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$462,145	\$474,824	\$520,691	\$547,347
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000

Workforce Research Z164

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Personal Services	\$282,204	\$297,856	\$347,107	\$368,117
All Other	\$212,552	\$212,552	\$212,552	\$212,552
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$494,756	\$510,408	\$559,659	\$580,669
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	15,500	15,500	15,500	15,500
Personal Services	\$1,597,102	\$1,644,656	\$1,749,849	\$1,857,356
All Other	\$1,032,230	\$1,032,270	\$1,032,270	\$1,032,270
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$2,629,332	\$2,676,926	\$2,782,119	\$2,889,626
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$54,379	\$54,379	\$54,379	\$54,379
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$54,379	\$54,379	\$54,379	\$54,379
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY				
Personal Services	\$186,755	\$41,882	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$238,245	\$33,118	\$33,118	\$33,118
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$425,000	\$75,000	\$33,118	\$33,118

Justification:

The Workforce Research program supports services within the Department's Center for Workforce Research and Information. Services include the collection, analysis and dissemination of labor market information to assist Maine jobseekers, employers, policymakers, economic developers, educators, training planners and career guidance experts in making key decisions and plans for the future. In addition, the department is provided with economic, management, actuarial and strategic analysis to guide program planning and delivery for unemployment insurance systems and employment and training programs.

Workforce Research Z164

Initiative: Establishes one Workforce Data Analyst position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 2525

Committee Vote: 6-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT			2025-26	2026-27
		Minority: Sen. Bradstreet Rep. Drinkwater Rep. Collins Rep. Soboleski	1,000	1,000

LR2409(1) - App-Alloc (LAB) Part A Sec. 41

**WORKFORCE RESEARCH Z164
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000	3.000	3.000
Personal Services	\$282,204	\$297,856	\$436,750	\$464,122
All Other	\$212,552	\$212,552	\$220,102	\$220,102
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$494,756	\$510,408	\$656,852	\$684,224
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	15.500	15.500	15.500	15.500
Personal Services	\$1,597,102	\$1,644,656	\$1,749,849	\$1,857,356
All Other	\$1,032,230	\$1,032,270	\$1,032,270	\$1,032,270
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$2,629,332	\$2,676,926	\$2,782,119	\$2,889,626
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$54,379	\$54,379	\$5,000	\$5,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$54,379	\$54,379	\$5,000	\$5,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$186,755	\$41,882	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$238,245	\$33,118	\$33,118	\$33,118
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$425,000	\$75,000	\$33,118	\$33,118

LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$16,341,144	\$16,818,021
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$86,713,572	\$89,612,082
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$25,541,116	\$26,138,102
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	\$1,488,350	\$1,488,350
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP	\$1,973,622	\$1,973,622
PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INSURANCE FUND	\$13,885,966	\$13,904,822
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY TRUST FUND	\$250,000,000	\$250,000,000
COMPETITIVE SKILLS SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$7,436,260	\$7,492,779
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$403,380,030	\$407,427,778

Sec. A-61. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Administrative Services - Professional and Financial Regulation 0094

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$10,030	\$10,030	\$10,030	\$10,030
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$10,030	\$10,030	\$10,030	\$10,030
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
Personal Services	\$1,393,535	\$1,433,049	\$1,571,665	\$1,664,136
All Other	\$4,663,651	\$4,797,909	\$4,691,559	\$4,691,559
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$6,057,186	\$6,230,958	\$6,263,224	\$6,355,695

Justification:

The Commissioner's Office was established to provide overall management and administrative oversight for the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation's regulatory agencies and affiliated boards in the areas of policy development, administration, accounting, budgeting, personnel and information management systems. The commissioner directs the day-to-day management of the department and is responsible for reviewing the operation of the various agencies within and affiliated with the department to ensure that they comply with their statutory and public service responsibilities. The Administrative Services Division within the Commissioner's Office is responsible for providing the commissioner with departmental accounting and budgeting support and analysis, strategic planning support, purchasing and property recording and administration of internal controls for the department. The Information Systems Support Section within the Commissioner's Office coordinates automation and electronic communication initiatives, supports a comprehensive computer network enhancing each agency's ability to fulfill its mission and administers several specialized databases, including a centralized licensing database.

Administrative Services - Professional and Financial Regulation 0094

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

Ref. #: 2832

Committee Vote: 6-4 IN

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	Minority: Sen. Bradstreet Rep. Drinkwater	2025-26	2026-27
All Other		\$327,755	\$320,218
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	Rep. Collins Rep. Soboleski	\$327,755	\$320,218

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

Engineers - State Board of Licensure for Professional 0369

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$231,646	\$235,197	\$260,139	\$275,553
All Other	\$122,377	\$111,354	\$111,354	\$111,354
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$354,023	\$346,551	\$371,493	\$386,907

Justification:

The State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers was established in 1935 to protect the public safety and welfare of the people of the State of Maine by regulating the practice of engineering. The board is authorized to determine the qualifications of applicants, to administer examinations and to grant engineer-intern certificates and professional engineer licenses to applicants who meet the State of Maine qualifications; to publish a roster of all licensed professional engineers; to make rules consistent with statute relating to the practice of professional engineering; to investigate complaints of alleged violations of such laws and board rules; and to conduct hearings, subpoena witnesses and institute disciplinary action as warranted.

Engineers - State Board of Licensure for Professional 0369

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

Ref. #: 2845

Committee Vote: 7-3 IN AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	Minority: Sen. Bradstreet	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	Rep. Collins	\$2,998	\$2,998
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	Rep. Soboleski	\$2,998	\$2,998

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.

Engineers - State Board of Licensure for Professional 0369

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. #: 2846

Committee Vote: 6-4 IN AFA Vote: _____

Ref. #: 2849

One Time

Committee Vote: 7-2

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

All Other

Minority: Sen. Bradstreet
Rep. Soboleski

2025-26

2026-27

\$7,175

\$0

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$7,175

\$0

Justification:

The higher anticipated expenses across various categories will enable the board to maintain and improve the quality of services provided. These increased one-time costs cannot be offset with reductions in other expense categories.

ENGINEERS - STATE BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR PROFESSIONAL 0369

PROGRAM SUMMARY

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$231,646	\$235,197	\$260,139	\$275,553
All Other	\$122,377	\$111,354	\$152,102	\$132,860
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$354,023</u>	<u>\$346,551</u>	<u>\$412,241</u>	<u>\$408,413</u>

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$10,471	\$6,001
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$10,471	\$6,001

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 initiative reclassifies one Office Specialist I position to an Office Specialist II position and retroactive to August 15, 2024.

**OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION 0352
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	63.000	71.000	70.000	70.000
Personal Services	\$6,169,284	\$7,278,291	\$7,853,072	\$8,330,305
All Other	\$2,927,318	\$3,021,872	\$3,242,604	\$3,319,270
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$9,096,602	\$10,300,163	\$11,095,676	\$11,649,575

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$200,000	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$200,000	\$500	\$500	\$500

PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$10,030	\$10,030
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$18,225,315	\$18,860,320
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE	\$500	\$500
FISCAL RECOVERY		
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$18,235,845	\$18,870,850

Sec. A-68. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

RETIREMENT SYSTEM, MAINE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Retirement System - Retirement Allowance Fund 0085

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$6,153,522	\$2,181,483	\$212,118	\$212,118
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$6,153,522	\$2,181,483	\$212,118	\$212,118

Justification:

2 MRSA. §1-A establishes retirement benefits for Maine Governors and their surviving spouses and directs the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to estimate the appropriation necessary to fund benefits payable during the upcoming biennium. Under the provisions of 4 MRSA. §1402, the system is also responsible for the payment of retirement benefits to judges who retired prior to 1984 and their surviving spouses. 4 MRSA. §1403 directs the system to estimate the appropriation necessary to fund benefits payable during the upcoming biennium.

Retirement System - Retirement Allowance Fund 0085

Initiative: Provides funding for benefits for retired governors and surviving spouses under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 2, section 1-A.

Ref. #: 3083

Committee Vote: 9-0 IN AFA Vote: _____

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND		
All Other	\$8,339	\$30,643
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$8,339	\$30,643

Justification:

This will provide funding for obligated retirement funds for retired governors and surviving spouses.

**RETIREMENT SYSTEM - RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE FUND 0085
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$6,153,522	\$2,181,483	\$220,457	\$242,761
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$6,153,522	\$2,181,483	\$220,457	\$242,761

RETIREMENT SYSTEM, MAINE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$220,457	\$242,761
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$220,457	\$242,761

Sec. A-74. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

TREASURER OF STATE, OFFICE OF

Kim Wallace Adaptive Equipment Loan Program Fund Z278

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$2,000,500	\$2,000,500	\$2,000,500	\$2,000,500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$2,000,500	\$2,000,500	\$2,000,500	\$2,000,500

Justification:

The Kim Wallace Adaptive Equipment Loan Program Fund is established to allow the State Treasurer to provide funding for loans to qualified borrowers within the State to acquire adaptive equipment designed to assist the borrower in becoming independent and for other purposes as allowed under section 376.

KIM WALLACE ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM FUND Z278

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$2,000,500	\$2,000,500	\$2,000,500	\$2,000,500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$2,000,500	\$2,000,500	\$2,000,500	\$2,000,500

TREASURER OF STATE, OFFICE OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS

2025-26

2026-27

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

\$2,000,500

\$2,000,500

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS

\$2,000,500

\$2,000,500

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

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE

New Ventures Maine Z169

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$1,347,436	\$1,428,282	\$1,428,282	\$1,428,282
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,347,436	\$1,428,282	\$1,428,282	\$1,428,282

Justification:

Provides funds for this statewide economic development organization in Maine to provide programs which offer skills development and support in career planning, entrepreneurship and financial planning.

NEW VENTURES MAINE Z169

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$1,347,436	\$1,428,282	\$1,428,282	\$1,428,282
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,347,436	\$1,428,282	\$1,428,282	\$1,428,282

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$1,428,282	\$1,428,282
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$1,428,282	\$1,428,282

Sec. A-76. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

Administration - Workers' Compensation Board 0183

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	107,000	107,000	107,000	107,000
Personal Services	\$11,054,747	\$11,261,976	\$12,442,700	\$13,110,179
All Other	\$2,979,267	\$2,983,829	\$2,983,829	\$2,983,829
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$14,034,014	\$14,245,805	\$15,426,529	\$16,094,008

Justification:

The Workers' Compensation Board serves the employees and employers of the state by ensuring compliance with the workers' compensation laws, the prompt payment of benefits legally due, resolving disputes through the agency's dispute resolution process and facilitating labor-management cooperation.

Administration - Workers' Compensation Board 0183

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

Ref. #: 3215

Committee Vote: 5-4 IN AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	Minority: Sen. Bradstreet	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	Rep. Drinkwater	\$346,214	\$347,471
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	Rep. Collins	<u>\$346,214</u>	<u>\$347,471</u>
	Rep. Soboleski		

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.

Administration - Workers' Compensation Board 0183

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. #: 3216

Committee Vote: 6-3 IN AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
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Employment Rehabilitation Program 0195

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000

Justification:

The Employment Rehabilitation Fund was established for the sole purpose of making payments in accordance with Maine Revised Statutes, Title 39-A, section 101, et seq. Evaluations for rehabilitation conducted pursuant to Maine Revised Statutes, Title 39-A, section 217, subsection 1 must be paid from the Fund. The costs of implementing plans must also be paid from the Fund if an employer refuses to pay voluntarily. These expenditures may be recovered if the rehabilitation plan is successful. Employers may be entitled to a wage credit when hiring employees that have successfully completed rehabilitation pursuant to Maine Revised Statutes, Title 39-A, section 217. Pursuant to Maine Revised Statutes, Title 39-A, section 355, employers are entitled to reimbursement for certain wage loss benefits if an employee that has completed rehabilitation suffers a subsequent injury that results in a greater reduction of earning incapacity.

EMPLOYMENT REHABILITATION PROGRAM 0195

PROGRAM SUMMARY

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$125,000

Workers' Compensation Board 0751

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
Personal Services	\$14,400	\$14,400	\$14,400	\$14,400
All Other	\$10,820	\$10,820	\$10,820	\$10,820
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$25,220	\$25,220	\$25,220	\$25,220

Justification:

This program was established to support the official business of the board of directors including Board members' per diem and travel expenses. It is funded within the available current services funds.

Workers' Compensation Board 0751

Initiative: Increases funding for per diem expenses for Workers' Compensation Board members.

Ref. #: 3222

Committee Vote: 7-2 IN

AFA Vote: _____

	Minority: Rep. Collins Rep. Soboleski	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS			
Personal Services		\$2,400	\$2,400
All Other		\$16	\$16
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL		\$2,416	\$2,416

Justification:

With the advent of remote meetings, the Board's subcommittees and stakeholder groups are meeting on different days than full Board meetings, which increases the overall number of meetings per year.

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD 0751
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
Personal Services	\$14,400	\$14,400	\$16,800	\$16,800
All Other	\$10,820	\$10,820	\$10,836	\$10,836
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$25,220	\$25,220	\$27,636	\$27,636

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$16,028,827	\$16,719,563
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$16,028,827	\$16,719,563

Sec. B-1. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF

Employment Security Services 0245

Initiative: RECLASSIFICATIONS

Ref. #: 2489

Committee Vote: 9-0 IN

AFA Vote: _____

	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND		
Personal Services	\$6,596	\$8,301
All Other	(\$6,596)	(\$8,301)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

Notes:

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

LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF

	2025-26	2026-27
DEPARTMENT TOTALS		
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

PART 000

Sec. 000-1. 26 MRSA c.25, sub-c.6 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 6**TARGETED WORKFORCE INVESTMENT PROGRAM****§2040. Targeted Workforce Investment**

1. **Program established.** The Targeted Workforce Investment program is established to provide training and other workforce development activities in support of industries or occupations for which there is a defined need in the state economy.
2. **Administration.** The Department of Labor will administer the program and may expend funds in accordance with applicable funding agreements or as deemed necessary by the Commissioner of Labor. To the extent that funds are available, the program may include:
 - a. Pre-apprenticeship, career exploration programs, and outreach efforts to build a talent pipeline;
 - b. Training, education, and career pathway programs to develop industry-aligned skills;
 - c. Wraparound and case management supports to connect Mainers, especially individuals from under-represented communities, to in-demand jobs;
 - d. Investments in Registered Apprenticeship and other upskilling programs; and,
 - e. Employer outreach and education to create sustained, quality job opportunities.
3. **Funding.** The Department of Labor is authorized to accept funds, public or private, and may expend these funds for purposes that are consistent with this subchapter. Any funds received under this subchapter must be deposited in a non-lapsing account to be carried forward for use consistent with this subchapter.
4. **State agency coordination.** To better prepare the Maine workforce for investments in the State, state and quasi-state agencies shall coordinate with the Department of Labor on workforce development initiatives that affect the agencies and their respective industries. These agencies shall further consult with the Department of Labor when seeking out funding opportunities that include workforce as an allowable activity. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the

recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

**PART OOO
SUMMARY**

This Part establishes the Targeted Workforce Investment program within the Department of Labor.

PART PPP

6-4 IN

Minority: Sen.
Bradstreet
Rep. Drinkwater
Rep. Collins
Rep. Soboleski

Sec. PPP-1. 26 MRSA §1081, sub-§5, is enacted to read:

5. Oaths and witnesses. In the discharge of the duties imposed by this chapter, the commission and any duly authorized representative shall have power to administer oaths and affirmations, take depositions, certify official acts and issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers, correspondence, memoranda and other records deemed necessary as evidence in connection with a disputed claim. Oaths and affirmations required by reason of duties performed pursuant to this chapter may be administered by any of such persons as may be designated for the purpose by the commissioner. In the discharge of the duties imposed by this chapter, the commission or any duly authorized representative, when the interests of any interested party demand, may issue commissions to take depositions to any unemployment compensation or employment security official empowered to take such depositions under this chapter or the laws of any other state, for either of the following causes:

- A. When the deponent resides out of, or is absent from, the State;
- B. When the deponent is bound to sea or is about to go out of the State; or
- C. When the deponent is so aged, infirm or sick as to be unable to attend at the place of hearing.

Such depositions shall be taken by written interrogatories to be compiled by the commission, and the adverse party shall be afforded an opportunity to refute such testimony before a determination is made. The deponent shall be sworn and the deposition shall be signed and sworn to by the deponent before admissible as testimony at a hearing before the commission.

Subpoenas shall be issued pursuant to Title 5, section 9060.

Sec. PPP-2. 26 MRSA §1081 sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Refusal to appear. A person who without just cause fails or refuses to attend and testify or to answer any lawful inquiry or to produce books, papers, correspondence, memoranda and other records, if it is in that person's power to do so, in obedience to a subpoena of the commission or the duly authorized representative commits a Class E crime. This crime is a strict liability crime as defined in Title 17-A, section 34, subsection 4-A. If a person refuses to obey a subpoena duly issued by the commission or the duly authorized representative, any court of this State within the jurisdiction of which the person resides or transacts business has jurisdiction to issue to that person

an order requiring the person to appear and produce evidence or testimony, and any failure to obey that order may be punished by the court as contempt of court.

Sec. PPP-3. 26 MRSA §1081 sub-§7 is enacted to read:

7. Protection against self-incrimination. No person may be excused from attending and testifying or from producing books, papers, correspondence, memoranda and other records before the commission or duly authorized representative, or in obedience to the subpoena of the commission—or the duly authorized representative in any cause or proceeding before the commission,—or duly authorized representative, on the ground that the testimony or evidence, documentary or otherwise, required of that person may tend to incriminate that person or subject that person to a penalty or forfeiture; but no individual may be prosecuted or subjected to any penalty or forfeiture for or on account of any transaction, matter or thing concerning which that person is compelled, after having claimed privilege against self-incrimination, to testify or produce evidence, documentary or otherwise, except that the individual so testifying shall not be exempt from prosecution and punishment for perjury committed in so testifying.

Sec. PPP-4. 26 MRSA §1082 sub-§4-A, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 641, §3, is repealed.

Sec. PPP-5. 26 MRSA §1082 sub-§8, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 641, §4, is repealed.

Sec. PPP-6. 26 MRSA §1082 sub-§9-A, as amended by PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. O, §5, is repealed.

Sec. PPP-7. 26 MRSA §1082 sub-§10, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 641, §6, is repealed.

Sec. PPP-8. 26 MRSA §1401-A, as amended by PL 2017, c. 110, §10, is further amended to read:

F. The Center for Workforce Research and Information; and

G.

H.

I. The State Workforce Board;

J. The Bureau of Paid Family and Medical Leave; and

K. The Division of Administrative Hearings.

Sec. PPP-9. 26 MRSA §1401-C is enacted to read:

§1401-C. Division of Administrative Hearings.

1. Division established. There is established within the Department of Labor the Division of Administrative Hearings to hear and decide appeals from decisions pertaining to Chapter 7, Chapter 13, and any other appeals as the commissioner may require.

A. The Division shall be under the direction of the Director of the Division of Administrative Hearings appointed by the commissioner and subject to the Civil Service Law. The Director must be an attorney admitted to practice law in the State.

B. The Director shall administer the office, supervise and assign cases to the administrative hearing officers, and preside at hearings as necessary.

C. Administrative hearing officers shall preside at appeal proceedings. These administrative hearing officers shall be under the direction of the Director and hired subject to the Civil Service Law.

2. Oaths and witnesses. In the discharge of the duties imposed by this chapter, the commissioner, the Division of Administrative Hearings and any duly authorized representative of them shall have power to administer oaths and affirmations, take depositions, certify official acts and issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers, correspondence, memoranda and other records deemed necessary as evidence in connection with a disputed claim or the administration of this chapter. Oaths and affirmations required by reason of duties performed pursuant to this chapter may be administered by any of such persons as may be designated for the purpose by the commissioner. In the discharge of the duties imposed by this chapter, the commissioner, the Division of Administrative Hearings or any duly authorized representative of them, when the interests of any interested party demand, may issue commissions to take depositions to any unemployment compensation or employment security official empowered to take such depositions under this chapter or the laws of any other state, for either of the following causes:

A. When the deponent resides out of, or is absent from, the State;

B. When the deponent is bound to sea or is about to go out of the State; or

C. When the deponent is so aged, infirm or sick as to be unable to attend at the place of hearing.

Such depositions shall be taken by written interrogatories to be compiled by the commission or the Division of Administrative Hearings, and the adverse party shall be afforded an opportunity to refute such testimony before a determination is made. The deponent shall be sworn and the deposition shall be signed and sworn to by the deponent before admissible as testimony at a hearing before the Division of Administrative Hearings or the commission.

Subpoenas shall be issued pursuant to Title 5, section 9060.

3. Refusal to appear. A person who without just cause fails or refuses to attend and testify or to answer any lawful inquiry or to produce books, papers, correspondence, memoranda and other records, if it is in that person's power to do so, in obedience to a subpoena of the commissioner, the Division of Administrative Hearings or the duly authorized representative of any of them commits a Class E crime. This crime is a strict liability crime as defined in Title 17-A, section 34, subsection 4-A. If a person refuses to obey a subpoena duly issued by the commissioner, the Division of Administrative Hearings or the duly authorized representative of any of them, any court of this State within the jurisdiction of which the person resides or transacts business has jurisdiction to issue to that person an order requiring the person to appear and produce evidence or testimony, and any failure to obey that order may be punished by the court as contempt of court.

4. Protection against self-incrimination. No person may be excused from attending and testifying or from producing books, papers, correspondence, memoranda and other records before

the Division of Administrative Hearings or duly authorized representative, or in obedience to the subpoena of the Division of Administrative Hearings or the duly authorized representative in any cause or proceeding before the Division of Administrative Hearings or duly authorized representative, on the ground that the testimony or evidence, documentary or otherwise, required of that person may tend to incriminate that person or subject that person to a penalty or forfeiture; but no individual may be prosecuted or subjected to any penalty or forfeiture for or on account of any transaction, matter or thing concerning which that person is compelled, after having claimed privilege against self-incrimination, to testify or produce evidence, documentary or otherwise, except that the individual so testifying shall not be exempt from prosecution and punishment for perjury committed in so testifying.

Sec. PPP-10. 26 MRSA §1194 sub-§5, as amended by PL 1987, c.641, §10 is further amended to read:

5. Commission review. The commission may on its own motion affirm, modify or set aside any decision of the Division of Administrative Hearings on the basis of the evidence previously submitted in that case or direct the taking of additional evidence, or may permit any of the parties of that decision to initiate further appeals before it. The commission shall permit such further appeal by any of the parties interested in a decision of the Division of Administrative Hearings and by the deputy whose decision has been overruled or modified by the Division of Administrative Hearings. The commission may remove to itself or transfer to the ~~chief administrative hearing officer~~ Director of the Division of Administrative Hearings or to another administrative hearing officer the proceedings on any claim pending before the Division of Administrative Hearings. Any proceedings so removed to the commission shall be heard in accordance with the requirements in subsection 3. All hearings conducted pursuant to this section may be heard by a quorum of commissioners, as defined in section 1081, subsection 3. The commission shall promptly notify the interested parties of its findings and decisions.

PART PPP SUMMARY

Sections 1, 2, and 3 enact language that moves existing authority in Title 26 Section 1082 for the Unemployment Insurance Commission to Section 1081, which applies only to the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

Section 4, 5, 6, and 7 repeal the language that applies to both the Division of Administrative Hearings and the Unemployment Insurance Commission. This language is enacted in a new section specific to the Division of Administrative Hearings and a new section specific to the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

Section 8 adds the Division of Administrative Hearings as a bureau within the Department of Labor. In addition, the Bureau of Paid Family and Medical Leave is added as a bureau of the Department of Labor. The Bureau of Paid Family and Medical Leave was inadvertently omitted previously from this listing.

Section 9 enacts language that moves existing authority in Title 26 Section 1082 for the Division of Administrative Hearings to Section 1401-C, which applies only to the Division of Administrative Hearings.

PART QQQ

Sec. QQQ-1. 26 MRSA §1401-B, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2013, c. 467, §5, is further amended to read:

B. The commissioner shall appoint to serve at the commissioner's pleasure:

- (1) Deputy Commissioner;
- (2) Director of Legislative Affairs;
- (3) Director of Operations;
- (4) Director of Communications;
- (5) Director, Bureau of Labor Standards;
- (6) Director, Bureau of Employment Services; ~~and~~
- (7) Director, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services; ~~and~~
- (8) Associate Commissioner.

5-3 IN

Minority: Sen. Bradstreet
Rep. Drinkwater
Rep. Collins

**PART QQQ
SUMMARY**

This Part amends Title 26 §1401-B sub-§1 ¶B to add an Associate Commissioner position to those appointed by the Commissioner of Labor. This position is already listed in Title 5 §943 as a major policy-influencing position.

PART RRR

7-3 IN

Minority: Sen. Bradstreet
Rep. Collins
Rep. Soboleski

Sec. RRR-1. 35-A §7104 sub-§5, as amended by PL 2019 c. 343 Pt. UUU §4, is further amended to read:

5. Funds for Communications Equipment Fund. The commission shall annually transfer ~~\$85,000~~ \$250,000 from a state universal service fund established pursuant to this section to the Communications Equipment Fund established under Title 26, section 1419-A.

If the Department of Labor, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services does not receive from federal or other sources funds in addition to the ~~\$85,000~~ \$250,000 sufficient to carry out the purposes of Title 26, section 1419-A, the commission, at the request of the Department of Labor, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, may transfer from the state universal service fund to the Communications Equipment Fund an additional \$100,000.

The commission may require contributions to the state universal service fund in an amount necessary to collect amounts transferred pursuant to this subsection.

**PART RRR
SUMMARY**

This Part increases the level of funding provided to the Communications Equipment Fund through the State Universal Service Fund of the Public Utilities Commission.

PART YYY

Sec. YYY-1. Sec. ?-1. 39-A MRSA §154, sub-§6, ¶A as amended by PL 2023, c. 17, §1, is further amended to read:

A. The assessments levied under this section may not be designed to produce more than \$14,700,000 beginning in the 2023-24 fiscal year revenue than is sufficient for expenditures allocated pursuant to subsection 2 and to maintain a reserve of up to 1/4 of the board's annual budget. Assessments collected that exceed ~~the~~ this limit by a margin of more than 10% must be used to reduce the assessment that is paid by insured employers pursuant to subsection 3. Any amount collected above the board's allocated budget and within the 10% margin must be used to create a reserve of up to 1/4 of the board's annual budget.

5-3 IN

Minority: Sen. Bradstreet
Rep. Drinkwater
Rep. Collins

**PART YYY
SUMMARY**

This Part amends the provision of law governing the Workers' Compensation Board Administrative Fund to ensure the board will be able to fund expenditures allocated by the Legislature and maintain its reserve. This Part removes current statutory language that places a specific dollar amount on the maximum value of assessments that may be levied from insured employers and replaces it with language providing that assessments levied may not be designed to produce more revenue than is sufficient for the Workers' Compensation Board to fund the expenditures allocated by the Legislature and to maintain a reserve of up to 1/4 of the board's annual budget. This part retains language from current law that requires that any funds collected above the maximum assessment that exceed a margin of 10% be used to reduce the assessments paid by insured employers.

