

## OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

To: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
From: Hillary Risler, Esq., Legislative Analyst  
Date: 2/17/2021  
Subj: **LD 44, “An Act To Establish the Summer Success Pilot Program Fund (Pierce)**

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### SUMMARY

This bill establishes the Summer Success Pilot Program Fund and requires the Commissioner of Education to use the fund to encourage the facilitation of high-quality summer success pilot programs in school administrative units throughout the State as follows:

1. It provides that the fund is established as a General Fund carrying account, provides that money appropriated from the General Fund may be paid into the account, and that these funds must supplement, and not supplant federal funding.
2. It requires the commissioner to establish standards and approval for the allocation and use of fund money for summer success pilot programs offered at elementary and secondary schools in the State. It also allows the commissioner to include the following in the standards:
  - A. Guidelines similar to those of the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers program to close the achievement gap between high-performing and low performing students;
  - B. Effective models of summer success programs that involve networking and partnerships with community-based organizations that provide a range of high-quality services to support student learning and development; and
  - C. Implementation of the formative and summative assessment methods to measure student achievement in order to monitor the progress of students participating in summer success pilot programs;

3. It provides that, beginning in fiscal year 2021-22, the department is required to provide grant funding through a grant application process, to cover 90% of the costs of summer success pilot programs and that the department must prioritize distribution of funding to school administrative units with greater than 50% student participation in the federal free and reduced-price lunch program;

4. It adds the fund to the enhancing student performance and opportunity provisions of the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and provides that the amounts of the grant funding are limited to the amounts appropriated, allocated or authorized by the Legislature; and

5. It requires the commissioner to annually report to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee on the number of school administrative units administering summer success pilot programs, the nature of the summer success pilot programs receiving money from the fund, the amount of money distributed, and the number of children participating in a summer success pilot program. The report must also include a recommendation on whether the pilot program should continue as a pilot program, be modified or become a permanent program.

## **LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

129<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session: LD 502

- Voted out of committee with a divided report (OTP-AM/ONTP)
- Carried over to 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session on the Special Appropriations Table
- Died upon conclusion of the 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature

128<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session: LD 919

- Voted out of committee with a divided report (OTP-AM/ONTP)
- Vetoed by the Governor

## TESTIMONY

- Proponents:
  - Even before the pandemic students suffer from learning loss over the summer months; now the need is growing and programs like these will be essential in supporting students' learning to recover from the pandemic
  - With this bill, SAUs will be able to provide programs or partner with programs with proven track records, such as Boys & Girls Clubs
  - Concerns about the amount of funding and whether the grant process will unintentionally create inequities because some districts are better positioned with staff and the time to apply for grants, design programs, and the required 10% of the funding
  - Questions regarding who would be designing the pilot programs, what they would entail, and whether it needs to be in statute
  
- Opponents: None
  
- Neither For Nor Against:
  - Support for the concept of the bill, but concern that the grant process could provide inequities among districts and about the 10% that will need to be funded by local districts

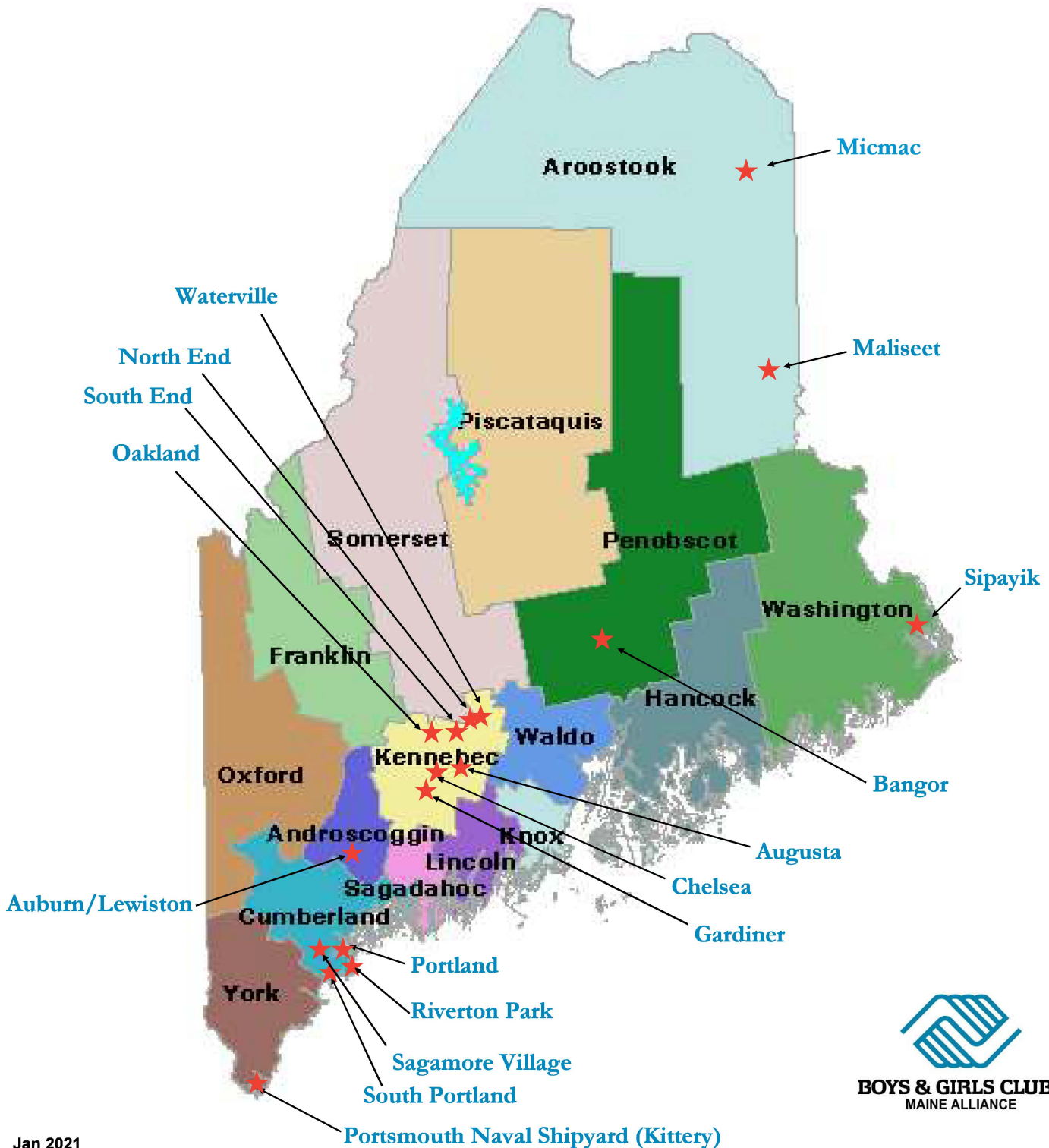
## COMMITTEE REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- In regard to Title I Funding and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Centers, are those programs fully utilized, what are the amounts of money the SAU's can access, and are the funds being provided meeting all of the needs throughout the State?
  
- Map or list of communities that have Boys & Girls Clubs

# BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS IN MAINE CHARTERED SITES AS OF January 2021

Our mission is to inspire all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

- Boys & Girls Clubs in Maine **currently serve 21,061 youth via membership and community outreach at 17 sites.**
- More than 66% of Club members receive free or reduced price school lunches. At the Clubs, 282,544 healthy meals and snacks were served last year.
- The cost of providing comprehensive youth development services at our Clubs in Maine totals \$6.6 million.
- Boys & Girls Clubs in Maine are independent affiliates of Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA), with local board leadership, program initiatives and revenue sources. BGCA provides a wide range of program resources and support.



## PRELIMINARY FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

- Not yet determined, but the bill includes an appropriation of \$243,000 in FY 2021-22
- The Fiscal impact from the **129<sup>th</sup> Legislature, LD 502** explained that:
  - The estimated annual cost of the pilot program provided by the Department of Education is based on the assumption that one SAU in each of the 9 superintendent regions in the State will participate in the pilot program at a cost of \$27,000 per SAU (\$30,000 x 90%). The cost-per-region assumes the need for 3 teachers for 4 half-day sessions with 30 children participating. The estimate also includes transportation costs.
  - Additional costs to the Department of Education to establish and administer the program can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.
- DOE submitted testimony for this bill that that:
  - They do not currently have a staff member with requisite knowledge and capacity to absorb and effectively carry out the responsibilities overseeing the program – additional funding would be need to support the creation of a position; and
  - LEA's must use these additional state funds to supplement, not supplant, federal funds, and given access to ESEA and emergency stabilization funding, additional education funding for summer programming may be duplicative