

SENATE

GLENN "CHIP" CURRY, DISTRICT 11, CHAIR  
LOUIS JOSEPH LUCHINI, DISTRICT 7  
SCOTT C. CYRWAY, DISTRICT 16

RACHEL OLSON, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
JODY BRETON, COMMITTEE CLERK



HOUSE

TIFFANY ROBERTS, SOUTH BERWICK, CHAIR  
SARAH PEBWORTH, BLUE HILL  
KYLE R. BAILEY, GORHAM  
VALLI D. GEIGER, ROCKLAND  
TAVIS ROCK HASENFUS, READFIELD  
SUSAN BERNARD, CARIBOU  
SUSAN M.W. AUSTIN, GRAY  
JOHN ANDREWS, PARIS  
JOHN E. DUCHARME, III, MADISON  
AMANDA N. COLLAMORE, PITTSFIELD

STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS

To: Senator Catherine Breen, Senate Chair  
Representative Teresa Pierce, House Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

From: Senator Chip Curry, Senate Chair *CC*<sup>RO</sup>  
Representative Tiffany Roberts, House Chair *TR*<sup>RO</sup>  
Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement, and Business

Re: Report on LD 221: 2022-23 Biennial Budget – Change Package

Date: May 24, 2021

Our committee has voted on the initiatives contained in the Governor’s Change Package for LD 221 that fall within the jurisdiction of our committee.

Please find enclosed a report showing the committee’s votes on all the Change Package initiatives.

The following 10 members were present throughout the review and discussion and voted to support all the initiatives: Sen. Curry, Sen. Cyrway, Rep. Roberts, Rep. Geiger, Rep. Pebworth, Rep. Collamore, Rep. Austin, Rep. Hasenfus, Rep. Bailey, and Rep. Bernard. Rep. Ducharme was unable to be present for the entire review, but voted to support all of the initiatives taken up while he was present. Sen. Luchini and Rep. Andrews were absent.

In addition, the committee would like to continue to recommend the following amendments to LD 221, as put forth in our original letter:

1. Maine Economic Growth Council (0727) within the Department of Economic and Community Development, page A-144 – The IDEA Committee voted unanimously of those present to increase the appropriation for the Maine Economic Growth Council to an on-going appropriation of \$85,000 per year. The increased funding would enable the Council and the Maine Development Foundation to sustain an enhanced level of effort that was funded from one-time outside sources in 2019 and 2020. This increased funding supports the alignment and integration of the Council’s efforts and of *Measures of Growth* to better inform and track the State’s long-range economic development strategy and economic recovery strategies – work the Committee considers significant, especially at this time. (Absent: Sen. Luchini and Rep. Andrews)

| <b>Program Summary - General Fund</b> | <b>Budgeted<br/>2021-22</b>         | <b>Budgeted<br/>2022-23</b>         |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| All Other                             | <del>\$55,395</del> <u>\$85,000</u> | <del>\$55,395</del> <u>\$85,000</u> |

2. Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Revolving Loan Program Fund (Z286) administered by the Finance Authority of Maine, page A-208 – The IDEA Committee voted unanimously of those present to reduce the appropriation for this fund to \$25,000 a year this biennium and to appropriate the remaining \$50,000 a year to support existing programs within FAME that are heavily utilized, but underfunded, such as those outlined in the Committee’s other recommendations. Although the Committee supports the work of the Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Revolving Loan Program, the program has yet to utilize the funds appropriated to it during the last biennium due to factors outside of FAME’s control, such as uncertainties in federal work permits and the pandemic. As a result, the program currently has funds that can meet the anticipated demand over the biennium. This recommendation to reduce funding is a one-time recommendation in response to the current situation. (Absent: Sen. Luchini and Rep. Andrews)

| <b>General Fund</b> | <b>Budgeted<br/>2021-22</b>         | <b>Budgeted<br/>2022-23</b>         |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| All Other           | <del>\$75,000</del> <u>\$25,000</u> | <del>\$75,000</del> <u>\$25,000</u> |

3. Student Financial Assistance Programs (0653) administered by the Finance Authority of Maine, page A-209 – The IDEA Committee voted unanimously of those present to appropriate an on-going additional \$400,000 to the Student Financial Assistance Programs for the Doctors for Maine’s Future Scholarship Program to support medical school scholarships for eligible students who attend a qualifying Maine-based medical school program and have a substantial connection to Maine. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of supporting LD 273, *An Act To Sustain the Doctor’s for Maine’s Future Scholarship Program*, for which these funds are requested. The Committee believes that both of these programs, as well as the Nursing Education Loan Prepayment Program mentioned below, are successful programs that are vital to the economy and people of Maine. (Absent: Sen. Luchini and Rep. Andrews)

**Student Financial Assistance Programs 0653**

| <b>General Fund</b>                               | <b>Budgeted<br/>2021-22</b>                 | <b>Budgeted<br/>2022-23</b>                 |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| All Other                                         | \$17,670,394                                | \$17,670,394                                |
| Doctors for Maine's Future<br>Scholarship Program | <u>\$400,000</u>                            | <u>\$400,000</u>                            |
| <b>General Fund Total</b>                         | <del>\$17,670,393</del> <u>\$18,070,394</u> | <del>\$17,670,393</del> <u>\$18,070,394</u> |

4. Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program, administered by the Finance Authority of Maine – The IDEA Committee voted unanimously of those present for a one-time appropriation of \$1,000,000 to the Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program established in Title 10, section 1019. The Committee voted unanimously in support of LD 119, *An Act To Increase Faculty in Nursing Education Programs by Amending the Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program*, for which these funds are requested. (Absent: Sen. Luchini and Rep. Andrews)

5. Administrative Services (0094) with the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, pages A-420 – A-421 – The IDEA Committee voted 6-5 in favor of recommending an on-going General Fund appropriation of \$40,000 to the Administrative Services Division with DPFPR for the purpose of conducting Sunrise Reviews pursuant to Title 5, section 12015, subsection 3. The minority recommends an on-going appropriation of \$20,000. As the volume and complexity of these reviews has increased, the department no longer has the adequate or appropriate funding or staff to conduct them. Similar recommendations have been put forward in amendments to LD 110. (Majority: Sen. Curry; and Reps. Roberts, Geiger, Pebworth, Hasenfus, and Bailey. Minority: Sen. Cyrway; and Reps. Austin, Bernard, Collamore, and Ducharme. Absent: Sen. Luchini and Rep. Andrews.)

Thank you for your consideration of the recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. Our committee analyst will work with your committee analyst to provide language to implement any of our recommendations should you choose to move forward with them. We are available to answer any questions that you may have on our recommendations.

Enclosure

cc: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs  
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business  
Maureen Dawson, Principal Analyst, OFPR  
Rachel Tremblay, Legislative Analyst, OFPR  
Commissioner Heather Johnson, DECD  
Commissioner Anne L. Head, DPFPR  
William Norbert, FAME

Please ADD the following to Part A, Section 1 of LD 221 as follows:

Economic and Community Development, Department of

OFFICE OF TOURISM 0577

2021-22

2022-23

Initiative: Increases allocation to align with dedicated revenue as projected by the May 2021 Revenue Forecasting Report.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

All Other

405,000

575,000

Total

405,000

575,000

#4

VOTE: 11 - 0

Absent:  
Sen. Luchini  
Rep. Andrews

Please ADD the following to Part A, Section 1 of LD 221 as follows:

Finance Authority of Maine

STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS 0653

|                                                                                                                                         | 2021-22          | 2022-23    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| <b>Initiative:</b> Provides ongoing funds to the Maine State Grant Program to increase the minimum grant award from \$1,000 to \$2,500. |                  |            |
| <b>GENERAL FUND</b>                                                                                                                     |                  |            |
| All Other                                                                                                                               | 10,000,000       | 10,000,000 |
| <b>#5</b> VOTE: <u>11-0</u>                                                                                                             | Total 10,000,000 | 10,000,000 |

Absent:  
Sen. Luchini  
Rep. Andrews

Professional and Financial Regulation, Department of

LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT 0352

2021-22

2022-23

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Professional Licensing Supervisor position previously established by Financial Order 001471 F1 and provides allocation for related All Other.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Positions - LEGISLATIVE COUNT

Absent:

1,000

1,000

Personal Services

Sen. Luchini

88,166

92,414

Rep. Andrews

All Other

2,540

2,662

#1

VOTE: 11-0

Total

90,706

95,076

2021-22

2022-23

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Office Specialist II Supervisor position previously established by Financial Order 001472 F1 and provides allocation for related All Other.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Positions - LEGISLATIVE COUNT

Absent:

1,000

1,000

Personal Services

Sen. Luchini

81,649

85,764

Rep. Andrews

All Other

2,352

2,471

#2

VOTE: 11-0

Total

84,001

88,235

Please ADD the following to Part A, Section 1 of LD 221 as follows:

Professional and Financial Regulation, Department of

LICENSURE IN MEDICINE - BOARD OF 0376

2021-22

2022-23

**Initiative:** Restores one Commissioner member position to permanent status as authorized in PL 2019 chapter 627. The position was made limited period in error in PL 2021 chapter 29.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Positions - FTE COUNT

0.077

0.077

Total

0.077

0.077

#3

VOTE: 10-0

Absent:  
Sen. Luchini  
Rep. Andrews  
Rep. Ducharme