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STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Senator Craig Hickman, Senate Chair <sup>CH</sup>  
Representative Laura Supica, House Chair <sup>LS</sup>  
Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

DATE: January 27, 2023

RE: Recommendations on the Governor's Proposed Supplemental Budget, LD 206

On January 25, 2023, the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs reviewed the items in the Governor's proposed supplemental budget pertaining to the agencies under the committee's jurisdiction. Eleven members of the committee were present throughout the work session. Please find attached the supplemental budget report-back document, which indicates the committee's vote on each initiative and language part.

The committee members present voted to approve all initiatives unanimously, except for the following initiatives, which Representative Rudnicki opposed:

1. Ref. #8: This initiative adjusts funding to bring allocations in line with projected available resources for fiscal year 2022-23 for the Adult Use Cannabis Public Health and Safety Fund and Municipal Opt-In Fund.
2. Ref. #210: This initiative adjusts funding to bring allocations in line with projected available resources for fiscal year 2022-23 for the Gambling Control Board.
3. Ref. #223: This initiative provides funding for the increases in election ballot printing, postage and other election costs.
4. Ref. # 224: This initiative provides funding for in-state and out-of-state travel to conferences, membership dues and other related costs benefitting the corporations and uniform commercial code program areas.
5. Ref. #225: This initiative provides funding for election activities related to petition signature verification and retrieval and return of ballots.

6. Ref. #226: This initiative provides funding for the cost of Electronic Registration Information Center compliance postcards and the increase in the annual membership dues.

Representative Rudnicki also opposed Language Part O, which authorizes the State Controller to carry forward up to \$259,000 of unexpended balance at the end of fiscal years 2022-23 and 2023-24 to the next fiscal year to be used for contracted programming costs to implement online voter registration.

Thank you for your consideration of the recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs.

cc: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs  
Maureen Dawson, OFPR Analyst, AFA Committee  
Justin Purvis, Clerk, AFA Committee

Sec. A-1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Adult Use Cannabis Public Health and Safety Fund and Municipal Opt-In Fund Z263**

Initiative: Adjusts funding to bring allocations in line with projected available resources for fiscal year 2022-23.

Ref. #: 8	One Time	Committee Vote: <u>10 - 1</u>	AFA Vote: _____		
		<i>opposed: Rudnicki</i>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>		<i>absent: Timbalake</i>			
All Other		<i>Collings</i>	\$658,933	\$0	\$0
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			\$658,933	\$0	\$0

**Justification:**

This initiative aligns funding with revenue as recommended in the December 1, 2022 forecast of the Revenue Forecasting Committee.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$658,933</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>\$658,933</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Sec. A-7. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Military Training and Operations 0108**

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Building Custodian position to an Inventory & Property Associate II position.

Ref. #: 58	One Time	Committee Vote: <u>11-0</u>	AFA Vote: _____		
		<i>absent: Timberlake Collings</i>			
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>			<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services			\$883	\$0	\$0
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL</b>			<b>\$883</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Justification:**

The reorganization of this position is necessary for the management of state and federal property to include inventory, tracking, and disposal of property at various locations statewide. It is necessary to ensure accountability of state and federal property owned and/or utilized by the State Military Bureau. Custodial contracts are in place and will be used to cover the work of the Building Custodian upon approval of this reorganization.

**Military Training and Operations 0108**

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Business Manager II position to a Public Service Manager I position.

Ref. #: 59	One Time	Committee Vote: <u>11-0</u>	AFA Vote: _____		
		<i>absent: Timberlake Collings</i>			
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>			<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services			\$1,682	\$0	\$0
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL</b>			<b>\$1,682</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Justification:**

This is an approved employee-initiated reclassification. The position has evolved to include management of the full range of bureau financial and administrative functions. The position now supervises both Accounting and Procurement efforts and manages federal cooperative agreement execution and compliance for an account up to \$39 million per year in state and federal funds. This position is funded through the Master Cooperative Agreement between the State of Maine and the National Guard Bureau at 100% Federal Expenditures Fund.

**Military Training and Operations 0108**

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Inventory & Property Associate II position to an Inventory & Property Specialist position and reallocates the cost from 27% General Fund and 73% Federal Expenditures Fund to 100% Federal Expenditures Fund within the same program.

Ref. #: 60	One Time	Committee Vote: <u>11-0</u>	AFA Vote: _____		
		<i>absent: Timberlake Collings</i>			
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services			(\$4,898)	\$0	\$0

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	(\$4,898)	\$0	\$0
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Ref. #: 61                      One Time                      Committee Vote: 11-0                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

*absent: Timberlake  
Collings*

<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>			
Personal Services	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	\$6,006	\$0	\$0
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL</b>	\$6,006	\$0	\$0

**Justification:**

This is an approved management-initiated reorganization. The representative tasks of current classification are largely not applicable to the MEARNG Planning and Programming Branch's needs for this position. The new classification reflects the need to eliminate warehouse duties and provide dedicated technical and administrative real property activities. This position supports activities under the Master Cooperative Agreement between the State of Maine and the National Guard Bureau.

**Veterans Services 0110**

Initiative: Adjusts funding to bring allocations in line with projected available resources for fiscal year 2022-23.

Ref. #: 63                      One Time                      Committee Vote: 11-0                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

*absent: Timberlake  
Collings*

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>			
All Other	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	(\$6,619)	\$0	\$0
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	(\$6,619)	\$0	\$0

**Justification:**

This initiative aligns funding with revenue as recommended in the December 1, 2022 forecast of the Revenue Forecasting Committee.

**Veterans Services 0110**

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Management Analyst II position to a Public Service Coordinator I position.

Ref. #: 64                      One Time                      Committee Vote: 11-0                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

*absent: Timberlake  
Collings*

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
Personal Services	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
	\$2,863	\$0	\$0
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	\$2,863	\$0	\$0

**Justification:**

This is an approved management-initiated reorganization. Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services has continued to evolve as State and Federal programs and benefits are introduced and updated. This position will be primarily responsible for conducting ongoing refinements to the Bureau's case management program to evaluate workload, capture relevant veteran

data, and increase the Bureau's efficiency.

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**Veterans Services 0110**

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of a Grounds & Equipment Maintenance Manager position to a Deputy Superintendent-Cemetery position.

Ref. #: 65                      One Time                      Committee Vote: 11-0                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<i>absent: Timberlake Collings</i>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Personal Services		\$2,531	\$0	\$0
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>		<u>\$2,531</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

**Justification:**

This is an approved management-initiated reorganization. Administration and maintenance of the grounds at the 4 Maine Bureau of Veterans Services cemeteries has become increasingly complex and multi-faceted. The Bureau requires an assistant to the superintendent to manage the overall operations at the 4 veterans cemeteries.

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**Veterans Services 0110**

Initiative: Provides funding for burial of State National Guard and Reserve members in the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery system pursuant to Public Law 2021, chapter 593, An Act Regarding Eligibility for Burial in the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System.

Ref. #: 66                      One Time                      Committee Vote: 11-0                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<i>absent: Timberlake Collings</i>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other		\$22,500	\$0	\$0
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>		<u>\$22,500</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

**Justification:**

This initiative provides funding for the burial of National Guardsmen and Reservists in the Maine Veterans' Cemetery System. In 2022, the Legislature passed Public Law 2021, chapter 593 to enact Maine Revised Statutes, Title 37-B, section 504, subsection 4 which allowed the interment of these service members in the State Veteran Cemeteries. Unfortunately, the National Cemetery Association and Department of Veterans Affairs will not provide a headstone or grave marker for these service members, nor will they provide the State with their standard plot allowance. The plot allowance is used for the perpetual care and maintenance of the Maine Veterans' Cemetery System. Interring National Guardsmen and Reservists in our Maine Veterans' Cemetery System will utilize a considerable amount of land and resources, both of which are limited. Without this funding, families of our interred Guardsmen and Reservists will have to pay for these services. This funding will ensure each interred service member is provided with a headstone or grave marker and ongoing care to the cemetery plot is provided.

**DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**

<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$22,996</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>\$8,571</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>(\$6,619)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$24,948</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Sec. A-23. Appropriations and allocations.**

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Gambling Control Board Z002**

Initiative: Adjusts funding to bring allocations in line with projected available resources for fiscal year 2022-23

Ref. #: 210                      One Time                      Committee Vote: 10-1                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

*opposed: Rudnicki  
absent: Timbulaka  
Collings*

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other	\$1,596,922	\$0	\$0
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,596,922</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Justification:**

This initiative aligns funding with revenue as recommended in the December 1, 2022 forecast of the Revenue Forecasting Committee.

**PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF**

<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$1,596,922</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$1,596,922</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>



Sec. A-25. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF

**Bureau of Administrative Services and Corporations 0692**

Initiative: Provides funding for the increases in election ballot printing, postage and other election costs.

Ref. #: 223	One Time	Committee Vote: <u>10-1</u>	AFA Vote: _____		
		<i>opposed: Ruchnicki</i>			
		<i>Absent: Timberlake</i>			
		<i>Callings</i>			
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	
All Other		\$119,440	\$0	\$0	
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$119,440</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	

**Justification:**

Supply chain and staffing issues have increased the cost of materials and delivery, which in turn has increased the cost of statewide elections dramatically over the past two years - by about 25%. This request reflects a 25% increase for each election held during the budget period. For fiscal year 2022-23, this includes the 11/2022 Gubernatorial General Election - a \$104,440 increase and the Waldo County Special Election - a \$15,000 increase.

**Bureau of Administrative Services and Corporations 0692**

Initiative: Provides funding for in-state and out-of-state travel, membership dues and other related costs.

Ref. #: 224	One Time	Committee Vote: <u>10-1</u>	AFA Vote: _____		
		<i>opposed: Ruchnicki</i>			
		<i>Absent: Timberlake</i>			
		<i>Callings</i>			
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>		<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	
All Other		\$5,153	\$0	\$0	
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>		<b>\$5,153</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	

**Justification:**

Provides funding for in-state and out-of-state travel to conferences, membership dues and other related program costs benefitting the corporations and uniform commercial code program areas.

**Bureau of Administrative Services and Corporations 0692**

Initiative: Provides funding for election activities related to petition signature verification and retrieval and return of ballots.

Ref. #: 225	One Time	Committee Vote: <u>10-1</u>	AFA Vote: _____		
		<i>opposed: Ruchnicki</i>			
		<i>Absent: Timberlake</i>			
		<i>Callings</i>			
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	
All Other		\$87,000	\$0	\$0	
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$87,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	

**Justification:**

Funding for contract worker positions was needed to assist with the verification of petitions in November. There were 159,814 signatures verified on two petitions within 30-day periods. These contracted positions were needed because election staff were not available to complete the work without assistance, due to the election preparations; post-election requirements such as the election tabulation; and Ranked-choice voting (RCV) central count; as well as vacancies and recruitment issues. In addition, funding was needed for memory devices from municipalities and for leased space for the RCV count and election recounts.

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**Bureau of Administrative Services and Corporations 0692**

Initiative: Provides funding for the cost of Electronic Registration Information Center compliance postcards and the increase in the annual membership dues.

Ref. #: 226	One Time	Committee Vote: <u>10 - 1</u>	AFA Vote: _____		
		Opposed: <i>Rodnicka</i>			
		Absent: <i>Timberlake</i>			
		<i>Collings</i>			
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
All Other			\$99,717	\$0	\$0
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>			<b>\$99,717</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Justification:**

Funding will be needed to meet ERIC requirements associated with the printing and mailing of compliance postcards for the purpose of registering eligible, but unregistered voters. The 130th Legislature directed the Secretary of State to join the ERIC program and provided funding to pay the annual maintenance fee for 2021-22 and 2022-23. The ERIC Board voted in 2022 to raise the annual fee for 2022-23 based on increased costs to ERIC.

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**SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF**

<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$306,157</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$5,153</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$311,310</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**PART O**

**Sec. O-1. Carry provision; Department of Secretary of State, Bureau of Administrative Services and Corporations program.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, at the end of fiscal year 2022-23 and fiscal year 2023-24, the State Controller shall carry forward any unexpended balance remaining of the \$259,000 appropriated in Public Law 2021, chapter 439, section 14 in the Department of Secretary of State, Bureau of Administrative Services and Corporations program, General Fund account, All Other line category to the next fiscal year to be used for contracted programming costs to implement online voter registration.

**PART O  
SUMMARY**

This Part authorizes the State Controller to carry forward up to \$259,000 of unexpended balance in the All Other line category in the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Administrative Services and Corporations program, at the end of fiscal years 2022-23 and 2023-24 to the All Other line category for the next fiscal year in the Department of Secretary of State, Bureau of Administrative Services and Corporations program to be used for contracted programming costs to implement online voter registration.

Committee Vote: 10-1

opposed: Ruelnicki

Absent: Timberlake  
Estlingo