

Date:

(Filing No. S-)

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 441, L.D. 1023, “Resolve, to Reestablish and Continue the Work of the Blue Economy Task Force”

Amend the resolve by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, to Reestablish the Blue Economy Task Force to Support Maine's Emergence as a Center for Blue Economy Innovation and Opportunity in the 21st Century'

Amend the resolve by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved: That the Department of Economic and Community Development shall convene the Blue Economy Task Force, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," to support the State's emergence as a center for blue economy innovation and opportunity in the 21st century.

As used in this resolve, "blue economy" means business sectors that rely on the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic health, improved livelihoods, jobs or ecosystem health, and "sustainable" means practices that support the economic growth of a community while maintaining or improving the health of marine ecosystems and without negatively impacting social, environmental and cultural aspects of the community.

Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved: That the task force consists of 23 members as follows.

1. The President of the Senate shall appoint one member of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall appoint 2 members of the House of Representatives, including a member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature. Members appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House serve at the pleasure of their respective appointing authority.

2. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall appoint 19 members.

A. Members appointed by the commissioner serve at the pleasure of the commissioner and must include representatives of public and private research institutions, businesses that are innovating in various blue economy sectors, fisheries businesses, aquaculture

1 businesses and equity investors in blue economy businesses. The commissioner shall
2 ensure that a majority of the members of the task force membership appointed pursuant
3 to this subsection represent a blue economy business or an entity directly involved in
4 the commercialization of blue economy-related research and innovation.

5 B. The commissioner shall to the greatest extent practicable ensure that members who
6 served on the Blue Economy Task Force, as established by Resolve 2023, chapter 119
7 and referred to in this resolve as "the prior task force," are provided an opportunity to
8 serve on the task force established by this resolve. If a member of the prior task force
9 is unable or unwilling to serve on the task force established in section 1, the
10 commissioner shall ensure that the member appointed to serve on the task force in that
11 prior member's place represents the same interests or background as the prior member.

12 3. The President of the Maine Technology Institute or the president's designee shall
13 serve as a member of the task force.

14 The appointing authorities identified in this section shall ensure that all appointments
15 are made no later than June 30, 2025.

16 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Economic and Community
17 Development shall appoint 2 cochairs from among the task force's members, one who is
18 employed by a state agency and one who is not employed by a state agency. The cochairs
19 shall set the schedule and agenda for task force meetings and preside at the meetings.

20 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force has, but is not limited to, the following
21 duties.

22 1. The task force shall develop recommendations for the establishment of the Center
23 for the Blue Economy, referred to in this section as "the center," which must include, but
24 is not limited to:

25 A. An organizational structure and budget for the ongoing funding of the center;

26 B. A requirement that the center be either housed within an existing institution, such
27 as the University of Maine System, or as a stand-alone, independent entity; and

28 C. The scope of the authorities and responsibilities of the center, which may include,
29 but are not limited to:

30 (1) Supporting businesses and other institutions in the State to build on the blue
31 economy advantages of and reduce the obstacles to further development of the blue
32 economy in the State identified by the prior task force in its report submitted
33 pursuant to Resolve 2023, chapter 119, section 6;

34 (2) Advancing research and development and supporting innovation in the blue
35 economy, including the financing of innovations and growth in blue economy
36 output and employment;

37 (3) Promoting communication and collaboration among blue economy institutions
38 and businesses;

39 (4) Providing common services to blue economy businesses and institutions,
40 including research support and access to journals and technologies such as
41 laboratories, 3-D printing and data management; and

(5) Supporting the development of blue economy sectors as outlined in current or future sector-specific development plans and roadmaps.

2. The task force shall recommend improvements and expansions of blue economy workforce education and training to encompass the elementary and secondary school system and public and private institutions of higher education.

Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the Department of Economic and Community Development shall provide necessary staffing assistance to the task force. At the request of the task force, other state agencies and state entities shall provide information and analysis to assist the task force in its deliberations and reporting.

Sec. 6. Funding. Resolved: That the task force may accept grants, private contributions and any other outside funding to support the task force in carrying out its duties.

Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That the task force shall prepare and submit a written report containing its initial findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development no later than December 3, 2025. After reviewing the initial report, the committee may report out legislation relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature. The task force shall prepare and submit a written report containing its final findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters no later than November 4, 2026. After reviewing the final report, the committee may report out legislation relating to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF
Blue Economy Task Force N546**

Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize expenditures of money received from public or private sources.

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

Maine Technology Capacity Fund N545

Initiative: Provides one-time funds to match funds in support of blue economy-related research, economic development and education and training.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$100,000	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$100,000	\$0

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF
DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

2025-26 2026-27

GENERAL FUND	\$100,000	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$500	\$500
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$100,500	\$500

Amend the resolve by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This resolve, which is the minority report of the committee, replaces the resolve and changes the title. The amendment directs the Department of Economic and Community Development to convene the Blue Economy Task Force to develop recommendations for the establishment of the Center for the Blue Economy and other recommendations. The task force is directed to submit its report to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development no later than December 3, 2025 and the committee may report out legislation relating to that initial report. The task force is directed to submit its final report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters no later than November 4, 2026 and the committee may report out legislation relating to that final report. The amendment also provides an appropriation of \$100,000 in fiscal year 2025-26 to support the Maine Technology Capacity Fund to provide matching funds in support of blue economy-related research, economic development, and education and training.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)