

**TESTIMONY  
OF HEATHER JOHNSON, COMMISSIONER  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and  
the  
Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development,  
Economic Advancement and Business

Hearing Date: January 24, 2023  
Hearing Time: 1:30 p.m.

**“An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the  
General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government  
and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper  
Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023.”**

Good afternoon, Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. My name is Heather Johnson, and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development. I am here today to testify in support of LD206, the Supplemental Budget.

For the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), the supplemental budget has one initiative that was submitted by DAFS and adjusts the allocation for the Office of Tourism to reflect revenue changes projected by the Revenue Forecasting Committee. The annual budget for the Office of Tourism is derived from 5% of the tax paid on accommodations and meals. 95% of revenues from accommodations and meals goes into the General Fund.

OFFICE OF TOURISM 0577

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

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

All Other

	2021-22	2022-23
		3,425,364
Total	0	3,425,364

Summary - OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

All Other

	2021-22	2022-23
		3,425,364
Total	0	3,425,364

Total Agency/Department

All Funds	4,166,791
GENERAL FUND	741,427
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	3,425,364

## **OFFICE OF TOURISM**

The initiative for the Office of Tourism may be found on **page A-16**. The Office of Tourism exists to support and expand the tourism industry and promote the State as a tourist destination. Its broad directive is to promote Maine as a four-season destination to both consumers and the travel trade. According to the U.S. Travel Association, direct tourism expenditures recovered more quickly in Maine than any other state following the pandemic. In 2021, Maine welcomed 15.6 million visitors, a 29 percent increase over 2020 and tourism expenditures increased by more than 60% to \$7.8 billion.

The **initiative**, which was submitted by DAFS, adjusts the allocation by \$3,425,364 to reflect the projected available resources for fiscal year 2023.

**This concludes my testimony for the Department of Economic and Community development.**

