

**Testimony of Kirsten LC Figueroa, Commissioner  
Department of Administrative and Financial Services**

**Before the Joint Standing Committees on  
Appropriations and Financial Affairs  
and State and Local Government**

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

**January 26, 2023**

Good afternoon, Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Nangle, Representative Stover and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. I am Kirsten Figueroa, the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. I am here today to testify in support of LD 206, the fiscal year 2023 supplemental budget bill.

**Department of Administrative and Financial Services**

On page A-1, there are two initiatives in the **Capital Construction/Repair/Improvements – Admin (0059)** program. The first initiative requests a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$300,000 to support required capital construction on the Augusta East Campus.

The Greater Augusta Utility District is upgrading its water system near the East Campus. One of the impacts of that project is reduced water pressure to East Campus office buildings and the Riverview Psychiatric Center to below the minimum level required for the operation of fire suppression systems. This funding is needed for the Bureau of General Services (BGS) to install a new high-pressure feed on campus to supply the north-campus buildings as well as to install a new line parallel to Hospital Street to connect the south-campus buildings. The project is currently scheduled to take place beginning in July 2023 through mid-September 2023.

The second initiative in this account provides a one-time \$5 million General Fund appropriation for additional renovations required for the Cultural Building. The Cultural Building was constructed in 1968-69, with a glass Atrium added in the 1980's. The building houses the Maine State Museum, the Maine State Library, and the Maine State Archives.

Care and maintenance of this building have been long ignored due to lack of funding and both were a priority for this Administration from the start.

The project began in 2020 with the urgent need to abate asbestos and replace the failed mechanical systems. As abatement proceeded and walls and ceilings were opened, additional problems with the 53+ year-old building were revealed, and many other unforeseen conditions had to be dealt with. It is the Bureau of General Services' standard practice to conduct a full facility assessment prior to renovation to identify deficiencies; however, asbestos contamination and mechanical failure prevented that.

As the contractor proceeded with demolition of interior spaces, previously concealed asbestos was identified; the deteriorated condition of the plumbing system became visible; an unsalvageable "spaghetti" of active and abandoned wiring was uncovered above ceilings; ceiling materials that the architect thought could be reinstalled were not usable; most flooring finishes could not be salvaged; and other building defects, some structural, were found. The renovations will also include bringing restrooms to ADA standards.

The price tag for the needed work is \$41,784,818, including \$1.5 million set aside for future change orders; however, only \$36,784,819 is in hand, leaving the \$5 million shortfall.

This additional appropriation of \$5 million will allow BGS to address this unanticipated work that is critical to completing the renovation of one of the most visited buildings in the state, more than 200,000 visitors per year. We are requesting the funds in the supplemental as a one-time appropriation rather than borrowing authorization due to timing. We continue to work to a reopen date of spring 2024.

Part and parcel with this request are requests you will hear from Archives and the Library. Each will be requesting funds for high density shelving and the Library will be requesting some space planning funds. Because the cost of renovations has increased, the construction project is not able to cover these non-construction costs. Adequate shelving is needed for display, storage and increased capacity.

We are requesting these funds in the supplemental to put the order in now to ensure the shelving is on hand when we're ready for the installation.

**Part D**, on **language page 3**, increases the borrowing authority for the Department of Administrative and Financial Services for financing arrangements to purchase vehicles for Central Fleet Management and adjusts the interest rate. The Central Fleet Management Division was unable to fully utilize borrowing authority in fiscal year 2021-22 due to automobile supply issues. This authorization is necessary to stay on the replacement schedule.

**Part G**, on **language page 5**, directs the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to transfer \$149,955 from the authority's operating account to the state as undedicated revenue. This balance is a result of the true-up of debt service payments on closed bond issuances.

**Part H** and **Part I** on **language page 5** relate to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Information Services, General Fund account. Part H authorizes the All Other line category to carry from fiscal year 2022-23 into fiscal year 2023-24 for the same purposes. Part I authorizes that unobligated Personal Services balances in the Information Services, General Fund account may be transferred to All Other. General Funds were authorized for positions; however, we have been unable to fill all of them. Transferring the unobligated balance, available until those vacancies are filled, will allow the Department to contract for needed statewide cybersecurity services.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you.

