

**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 State and Local Government

Hearing Date: January 26, 2023

Hearing Time: 3:00 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 Nangle, Representative Stover and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. 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 request, that seeks to restore lapsed funds for contractual obligations relating to the Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services. In 2018, DECD issued an RFP and awarded funds to five entities for projects authorized through the program. One project experienced an unanticipated delay and although a contract was in place, an accounting function, lapsed the remaining contract funds of \$741,427 to the General Fund at the end of Fiscal Year 2022.

FUND FOR EFFICIENT DELIVERY OF LOCAL & REGIONAL SVCS Z254
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**Initiative:** Provides one-time funding to restore lapsed funds for contractual awards relating to the Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services.

2021-22	2022-23
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**GENERAL FUND**  
All Other

	741,427
<b>Total</b>	0
	741,427

**Summary - GENERAL FUND**  
All Other

	2021-22	2022-23
		741,427
<b>Total</b>	0	741,427

The contract is with the District Attorney's Office and provides matching funds for the implementation of a statewide case management software system. The new system, funded in part by the eight prosecutorial districts, will replace an outdated expensive system, with a cost-effective electronic processing system that will allow all District Attorney's offices, serving sixteen counties in Maine, with the capability of electronically submitting information to the court. This collaborative effort was designed to financially benefit every county in the state and improve the criminal justice system for everyone.

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#### **FUND FOR EFFICIENT DELIVERY OF LOCAL & REGIONAL SVCS**

The initiative for the fund for Efficient Delivery of Local & Regional Services Account may be found on **page A-16** of the Budget Document.

This initiative requests one-time funding of \$741,427 to restore lapsed funds to the Efficient Delivery of Local & Regional Services Fund for the purpose of funding the contractual award to the District Attorney's Office.

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

