

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

**Before the Joint Standing Committees on
Appropriations and Financial Affairs
and Education and Cultural Affairs**

**“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 Years Ending
June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025”**

February 21, 2024

Good afternoon, Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. I am Kirsten Figueroa, the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. I am here today to present a portion of the fiscal year 2024-2025 supplemental budget bill, LD 2214, related to Maine’s publicly funded higher education institutions.

Three of the four initiatives for the higher education institutions relate to allocation adjustments necessary as part of the Revenue Forecasting process.

The Maine Community College System, Maine Maritime Academy and the University of Maine System each receive a percentage of the state’s share of net slot machine income from the Hollywood Casino in Bangor and the Oxford Casino for their scholarship programs. The amount of funding due to each system is updated twice each year by the Revenue Forecasting Committee. On **pages A-27, A-116, and A-131** of the supplemental budget document you will find the allocation update requests based on the December 2023 forecast:

	Page	FY24	FY25
Maine Community College System	A-27	(\$48,419)	\$1,811
Maine Maritime Academy	A-116	(\$2,904)	\$583
University of Maine System	A-131	(\$66,214)	\$15,556

There is one additional initiative for the **Maine Maritime Academy – Debt Service** program on **page A-116** of the supplemental budget document. This initiative reduces the fiscal year 2025 appropriation by \$165,377 for debt service payments related to the 10-year revenue bond authorized to upgrade the mechanical, plumbing, electrical, fire protection and heating systems of Curtis Hall, Maine Maritime Academy's primary on-campus student residential building. The actual debt service payment is slightly less than estimated; therefore, these funds are no longer needed.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you.