

**TESTIMONY
OF MAUREEN TERRY, LEGISLATIVE LIAISON
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs,
and the Joint Select Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Hearing Date: February 27, 2025
Hearing Time: 3:00 p.m.

**“An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund
and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing
Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State
Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026
and June 30, 2027”**

Good afternoon, Senator Rotundo, Representative Gatine and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Lawrence and Representative Sachs and members of the Joint Select Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. My name is Maureen Terry, and I am the Legislative Liaison in the Department of Economic and Community Development. I am here today to testify in support of LD210, the Biennial Budget.

For the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), the biennial budget presented to you today, does not request any additional funding.

ENERGY RATE RELIEF FUND Z344

What the Budget purchases:

Public Law 2021, Resolves 168 authorized funding from the State Fiscal Recovery Funds to provide relief payments to covered utilities. This program is not currently active.

	<u>Actual</u> 2023-24	<u>Current</u> 2024-25	<u>Budgeted</u> 2025-26	<u>Budgeted</u> 2026-27
Program Summary - OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	500	500	500	500
Total	500	500	500	500

Initiative: NONE

	<u>Actual</u> 2023-24	<u>Current</u> 2024-25	<u>Budgeted</u> 2025-26	<u>Budgeted</u> 2026-27
Revised Program Summary - OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	500	500	500	500
Total	500	500	500	500

OFFICE OF BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT Z245

What the Budget purchases:

Activities of the Office of Broadband Development are coordinated through the Maine Connectivity Authority.

	<u>Actual</u> 2023-24	<u>Current</u> 2024-25	<u>Budgeted</u> 2025-26	<u>Budgeted</u> 2026-27
Program Summary - OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
Positions - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Personal Services	278,113	285,561	286,890	310,605
All Other	1,068,000	1,068,000	1,068,000	1,068,000
Total	1,346,113	1,353,561	1,354,890	1,378,605

Initiative: NONE

	<u>Actual</u> 2023-24	<u>Current</u> 2024-25	<u>Budgeted</u> 2025-26	<u>Budgeted</u> 2026-27
Revised Program Summary - OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
Positions - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Personal Services	278,113	285,561	286,890	310,605
All Other	1,068,000	1,068,000	1,068,000	1,068,000
Total	1,346,113	1,353,561	1,354,890	1,378,605

ENERGY RATE RELIEF FUND

The **baseline budget** for the Energy Rate Relief Fund can be found on **page A-190**. This Other Special Revenue account was established to accept funds from the Maine Jobs and Recovery Program when the program was active. The baseline allocation in this inactive account exists as a placeholder only. **There are no new initiatives for this program.**

OFFICE OF BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT

By statute, the Office of Broadband Development provides assistance to the ConnectMaine Authority Board in the administration and financial assistance to communities for expanding broadband and services. As you have just heard from Nick Battista, ConnectMaine entered into a Memorandum of Understanding that designates that the Maine Connectivity Authority will execute on behalf of ConnectMaine at this time. This collaboration, which includes the work previously done by the Office of Broadband, ensures operations are streamlined and resources are maximized in the deployment of broadband infrastructure.

The **baseline budget** request for the Office of Broadband Development may be found on **page A-196**. This account has two unfunded positions. The All Other allocation exists as a place holder only as there are no anticipated revenues or cash in this account. It is unclear whether there will be a role for the Office of Broadband Development in the future so for now, we would like to keep the account active but unfunded. **There are no initiatives for this program.**

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