

**LD 763 “An Act to Allow State Vehicles Assigned to Maine Emergency Management Agency
Employees To Be Used for Commuting”
Requested Work Session Information
April 12, 2021**

1. MEMA is not a first responder

While employees of MEMA are not first responders to the scene of a disaster, the Director, or his designee, is responsible to respond to the State’s Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Augusta to ensure that the resources of State Government are assembled and organized for an appropriate response. <https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/37-B/title37-Bsec704.html>.

That trip from the Director’s (or designee’s) home to the SEOC may be hazardous in nature, with trees, power lines, ice, etc. impeding travel. It is critical that the Director, or their designee, have an appropriately marked vehicle to report to the SEOC safely.

2. Reimbursement by federal government

During situations where a federally declared disaster is **not** in effect – fuel cost and maintenance will be paid through a combination of state and federal grant funds (50/50).

During federally declared disasters, fuel cost and maintenance associated with disaster-related travel will be reimbursable up to **at least** 75% through the Stafford Act, Public Assistance Program.

3. How many times has the Director been called out (e.g., over the last five years)?

Below is an account of situations in which the current MEMA Director has responded to the scene of an emergency/disaster in order to fulfill his duties under <https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/37-B/title37-Bsec704.html>.

- Westbrook Landslide
- Camp Ellis – beach erosion due to flood
- Kennebunk Sea Wall Failure
- Wiscasset Oil Spill/Truck Rollover

This list does not include situations in which the Director, or a designee, would have responded had they an appropriately equipped vehicle at their disposal. Nor does this list include commutes from their residence to the SEOC.

4. Cost associated with the initiative.

MEMA currently owns two vehicles and leases two from State Central Fleet. Central Fleet performs the necessary maintenance on all four vehicles. Federal grant funds were used to purchase the two vehicles that MEMA owns. Maintenance is paid for through a combination of 50% state and 50% federal grant funds. Fuel is paid for through the federal grant associated with the employee and the nature of their travel.

Additional cost, should this initiative pass, would be restricted to the fuel and maintenance associated with the MEMA Director, or designee, commuting.

LD 764 “An Act To Authorize the Maine Emergency Management Agency To Requisition Food Supplies for Emergency Use or Special Duty Assignments.”
Requested Work Session Information
April 12, 2021

1. How does MEMA define “special duty assignment”?

Special duty assignment, in the context of MEMA, would be considered assignment to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). Furthermore, pursuant to [Executive Order 2015-010](#), emergency use would be justified in order to provide food to members of the State Emergency Response Team called to support SEOC operations.

2. Cost associated with the initiative.

Cost will vary widely, based on the duration and severity of the disaster. For example – the October 2017 Windstorm required a full activation of the SEOC with 12-hour shifts (i.e., several MEMA staff and at least one representative from each ERT member) for a week and a half. Other examples may include activation for one day to monitor an incoming ice storm or a multi-week activation in response to and recovery from a significant tropical storm.

During situations where a federally declared disaster is **not** in effect – the cost of food will be paid through a combination of state and federal grant funds (50/50).

During federally declared disasters, the cost of food will be reimbursable up to **at least** 75% through the Stafford Act, Public Assistance Program.