

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

Date: April 28, 2021
To: Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business
From: Rachel Olson, Legislative Analyst
Re: LD 1476, Resolve, Directing the Maine Economic Growth Council To Create and Share Measures of Progress (Gere)

Bill Summary

This resolve directs the Maine Economic Growth Council, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Community Development and the State Economist, to create measures of social and economic progress in the State and to create a graphical user interface, referred to as "the dashboard," that provides information about key performance indicators of economic and social progress. The content of the dashboard must be informed by the Maine Economic Growth Council's "2020 Measures of Growth Report" and must measure progress against the 7 growth strategies described in the State's economic development strategy, "Maine Economic Development Strategy 2020-2029: A Focus on Talent and Innovation." The dashboard must be accessible on the Internet to help citizens and lawmakers to understand the State's status on key metrics, show change over time and highlight areas of strength and areas that need improvement. It allows the council to consult and otherwise collaborate with a statewide development foundation to create the measures of progress and the dashboard. It requires the measures of progress and the dashboard to be designed to facilitate communications between constituents and stakeholders, the building of consensus around shared goals and the work of policy makers in planning investments and otherwise setting policy. The council is directed to report twice yearly to the Legislature the results captured in the dashboard and on the State's progress toward achieving the goals described in the State's economic development strategy.

Testimony:

Proponents: Representative Gere, sponsor;

Neither for nor against: Martha Bentley, DECD; Yellow Light Breen, Maine Economic Growth Council and Maine Development Foundation;

Possible Amendments:

The sponsor indicated that an amendment addressing three key concerns with the original draft, as outlined in the sponsor's written testimony, would be available for the work session.

Fiscal Impact: Not yet determined.