



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



JANET T. MILLS
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February 25, 2021

Senator Joe Baldacci, Chair
Representative Ann Matlock, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Baldacci and Representative Matlock,

I write regarding LD 158, *An Act to Eliminate Inactive Boards and Commissions*, which seeks to eliminate several inactive boards including the Maine Biomedical Research Board.

The Maine Biomedical Research Program was created in the supplemental budget in 1999 (PL 1999, Chapter 731), presumably as a result of the good work done by the Joint Select Committees on Research & Development in the 118th and 119th legislative sessions.

The Maine Technology Institute administered the Maine Biomedical Research Fund, which supported biomedical research in Maine and was financed by State bonds (as well as General Funds in its early years) and its work was governed by the Maine Biomedical Research Board. The program was created for the specific purpose of promoting economic development and jobs in the state primarily by making state investments in organizations with successful results in attracting biomedical research funds from federal agencies, private foundations and private companies. Between 2001 and 2005, the State approved \$42.5 million for the Fund and those funds were awarded by the Maine Biomedical Research Board for biomedical research projects.

As of June 30, 2011, all outstanding Maine Biomedical Research Fund projects have been completed.

Since the Fiscal Year 2011 awards were disbursed, no new bond or general funds were appropriated by the Legislature and the board ceased to have a purpose. According to its annual reports with the Secretary of State, the last meeting of the Board was held on January 31, 2012. It is for this reason we would ask that the committee to move forward with the section of LD 158 that would eliminate the Maine Biomedical Research Board.

Thank you, and please do not hesitate to ask me any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Kate Foye
Legislative Liaison, Department of Economic and Community Development