



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 367

H.P. 273

House of Representatives, February 2, 2017

**An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Government
Oversight Committee To Develop a Long-range Strategic Plan for
Economic Improvement in the State**

Reported by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford for the Government Oversight Committee pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 997, subsection 2.

Reference to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §929-A, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. MMM, §1,
3 is amended to read:

4 **1. The Maine Economic Growth Council; establishment.** The Maine Economic
5 Growth Council, referred to in this ~~section and section 929-B~~ chapter as "the council," is
6 established to develop, maintain and evaluate a ~~long-term~~ long-range economic plan for
7 the State.

8 **Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §929-B**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 272, §3, is repealed.

9 **Sec. 3. 10 MRSA §929-C**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 420, §6, is repealed.

10 **Sec. 4. 10 MRSA §929-D** is enacted to read:

11 **§929-D. Powers and duties**

12 **1. Develop and maintain a long-range strategic plan for the State's economy.**
13 By December 31, 2018, the council shall develop a long-range strategic economic
14 improvement plan for a sustainable state economy in accordance with this subsection.
15 The plan must be sufficiently broad in scope to address relevant state, national and
16 international economic, financial, demographic, natural resources and infrastructure
17 factors. The council shall update the plan by December 31, 2020 and every 4 years
18 thereafter. Plan updates may include, but are not limited to, adjustments to objectives,
19 action items, timelines or benchmarks in response to changing economic conditions and
20 market trends and taking into account current progress on planned efforts. The council
21 shall complete a full review and revision of the plan by December 31, 2022 and every 4
22 years thereafter. Plan revisions may include, but are not limited to, reconsideration and
23 revision of the State's overall long-range economic improvement strategy and related
24 goals.

25 A. In developing and revising the plan, the council shall:

26 (1) Employ a continuous process with a 5-year to 10-year planning horizon;

27 (2) Include consideration of:

28 (a) The types of industries and jobs with significant growth potential in the
29 State;

30 (b) The State's evolving industrial base;

31 (c) The dynamic regional, national and international markets and Maine's
32 comparative, competitive and absolute advantages;

33 (d) Other relevant studies and evaluations in the private and public sectors
34 regarding the long-term economic growth of the State;

35 (e) The quantity and quality of the State's workforce;

36 (f) Discrepancies in challenges and opportunities among different regions in
37 the State;

- 1 (g) Opportunities and challenges for small businesses; and
2 (h) Maximizing the return on investment in the State;
3 (3) Use a public and private partnership approach that is objective and
4 nonpartisan with appointment of working groups and advisory committees as
5 necessary to represent stakeholders; and
6 (4) Use a transparent public process that allows for public input as appropriate.

7 B. The plan must consist of:

- 8 (1) Goals and objectives for the long-term economic improvement of the State
9 that support a high quality of life for all people in the State;
10 (2) Specific, quantifiable and measurable benchmarks against which progress
11 toward accomplishing the goals and objectives of the plan can be measured;
12 (3) Strategies to accomplish the benchmarks based upon the best practices in this
13 State, other states and other countries; and
14 (4) Recommendations with respect to allocation of resources.

15 **2. Monitor progress.** The council shall regularly assess progress toward
16 achievement of the strategic plan goals, objectives and benchmarks and produce a written
17 progress report by December 31, 2020 and every 2 years thereafter.

18 **3. Submit and present plans and reports.** The council shall:

19 A. Submit the strategic plan, progress reports, updated plans and revised plans
20 developed pursuant to subsections 1 and 2 in writing to the Governor and Legislature
21 by the dates set forth in subsections 1 and 2. The council may distribute the plans
22 and reports to those additional entities it considers appropriate, including state and
23 quasi-state agencies, public institutions of higher education in the State, regional
24 economic development agencies and other stakeholders; and

25 B. By January 31, 2019, present the initial strategic plan developed pursuant to
26 subsection 1 in public meetings to the joint standing committee of the Legislature
27 having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs, the joint standing
28 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, commerce and economic
29 development matters and other joint standing committees whose policy areas are
30 captured in key components of the plan. Annually thereafter, the council shall brief
31 these committees on the current status of the plan, including presentation of any
32 progress reports, updated plans or revised plans required by paragraph A.

33 **4. Fiscal agent.** The Department of Economic and Community Development shall
34 serve as the council's fiscal agent providing regular financial reports to the council on
35 funds received and expended and an annual audit. The council shall seek funds and
36 accept gifts, if necessary, to support the council's objectives.

37 **5. Staff support.** The council shall contract with the Maine Development
38 Foundation for project management, contracted services and staff support for carrying out
39 the purposes of this section.

1 **Sec. 5. 10 MRSA §929-E** is enacted to read:

2 **§929-E. Strategic plan implementation**

3 **1. Consideration of strategic plan.** The Governor, the Legislature and agencies
4 receiving the initial strategic plan, progress reports and updated and revised plans
5 pursuant to section 929-D, subsection 3, paragraph A shall consider the goals, objectives,
6 benchmarks and recommendations contained in the plans and reports when planning,
7 administering and budgeting resources for programs and activities intended to, or with the
8 potential to, affect the State's economy.

9 **2. Progress reports.** To assist the council in preparing the progress reports pursuant
10 to section 929-D, subsection 2, state agencies with responsibilities, programs or activities
11 relevant to the plan's goals, objectives and benchmarks shall provide information
12 requested by the council.

13 **Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §8876, last ¶**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 720, §9 and PL 2011,
14 c. 657, Pt. W, §7 and PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23, is further amended to read:

15 The director shall coordinate the efforts of this program fully with ongoing bureau
16 and federal forestry program planning efforts and with the efforts of the Maine Economic
17 Growth Council to develop a ~~long-term~~ long-range plan for the State's economy pursuant
18 to Title 10, section ~~929-B~~ 929-D.

19 **Sec. 7. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
20 allocations are made.

21 **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**
22 **Maine Economic Growth Council 0727**

23 Initiative: Provides one-time funds for the initial development of a strategic long-range
24 economic plan for the State. Funds appropriated for this purpose may not lapse but must
25 be carried forward to be used to complete the development of the strategic economic plan
26 authorized by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 929-D.

28	GENERAL FUND	2017-18	2018-19
29	All Other	\$150,000	\$0
30			
31	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$150,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>

32 **Maine Economic Growth Council 0727**

33 Initiative: Provides funds for the ongoing costs of monitoring, assessing and revising the
34 strategic long-range economic plan for the State. Funds appropriated for this purpose
35 may not lapse but must be carried forward to be used to complete the development of the
36 strategic economic plan authorized by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section
37 929-D.

38

1	GENERAL FUND	2017-18	2018-19
2	All Other	\$120,000	\$120,000
3			
4	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$120,000	\$120,000
5			
6	ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY		
7	DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF		
8	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2017-18	2018-19
9			
10	GENERAL FUND	\$270,000	\$120,000
11			
12	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$270,000	\$120,000

13 **SUMMARY**

14 This bill provides additional clarity, requirements and resources for the Maine
15 Economic Growth Council's efforts to fulfill its current statutory mandate to develop,
16 monitor and maintain a long-range strategic economic improvement plan for the State. It
17 also includes provisions to support the State's achievement of the goals and objectives in
18 that plan by establishing requirements for the Governor, Legislature and agencies with
19 relevant programs and activities to consider the long-range strategic economic
20 improvement plan and provide information to the Maine Economic Growth Council at the
21 request of the council. This bill would increase the annual General Fund appropriation to
22 the Maine Economic Growth Council from its current \$55,000 to \$175,000 and would
23 provide a one-time additional appropriation of \$150,000 for development of the initial
24 plan in order to meet the timelines required in this bill.