

SENATE

TIM NANGLE, DISTRICT 26, CHAIR
JOSEPH M. BALDACCI, DISTRICT 9
PETER LYFORD, DISTRICT 10

LYNNE CASWELL, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
ALEX COTE, COMMITTEE CLERK



HOUSE

HOLLY B. STOVER, BOOTHBAY, CHAIR
LYNN H. COPELAND, SACO
DEQA DHALAC, SOUTH PORTLAND
MANA ABDI, LEWISTON
RANDALL ADAM GREENWOOD, WALES
JEFFREY SEAN ADAMS, LEBANON
KIMBERLY J. POMERLEAU, STANDISH
JOSEPH F. UNDERWOOD, PRESQUE ISLE
DAVID A. SINCLAIR, BATH
WALTER N. RISEMAN, HARRISON

STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair
Representative Melanie Sachs, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM: Senator Tim Nangle, Senate Chair
Representative Holly Stover, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

DATE: March 13, 2024

RE: Supplemental budget recommendations

On Thursday, February 29th and Tuesday, March 5th, the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government met to review the items within the Governor’s proposed supplemental budget (LD 2214) pertaining to the agencies and funding programs within the committee’s jurisdiction. Please find below a summary of the committee’s recommendations on the relevant provisions of the Governor’s proposed supplemental budget.

Administrative and Financial Services, Department of

The committee voted unanimously of members present to move **IN** all budget initiatives and language parts under the committee’s jurisdiction for the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, except as follows:

- Ref # 6: Central Services – Purchases 0004, the committee voted 10 – 1 to move **IN** this initiative.

Auditor, Office of the State

The committee voted unanimously of members present to move **IN** the budget initiative under the committee’s jurisdiction for the Office of the State Auditor.

Maine Office of Community Affairs, Executive Department

The committee voted 9 – 2 to move **IN** all budget initiatives under the committee’s jurisdiction for the Maine Office of Community Affairs and Language Part DD.

Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, Executive Department

- Ref # 294: Community Resilience Partnership Z376, the committee voted 9 – 2 to move **IN** this initiative and Language Part EE.

➤ Ref # 296, Ref #297 and Ref #298: Office of New Americans Z398, the committee voted 6 - 5 to move **IN** these initiatives and Language Part FF.

Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations

The committee voted unanimously of members present to move **IN** the budget initiative under the committee's jurisdiction for the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial Indigenous and Tribal Populations.

Secretary of State, Department of

The committee voted unanimously of members present to move **IN** all budget initiatives under the committee's jurisdiction for the Department of the Secretary of State and Language Part GGG.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our recommendations. Please find attached a copy of the report-back worksheet prepared by the Office of Financial and Program Review, upon which we have noted our votes on each initiative.

Please do not hesitate to let us know if we can provide any additional information or assistance related to these recommendations.

Cc: Members, State and Local Government Committee
Members, Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee

Sec. A-1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Buildings and Grounds Operations 0080

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Public Service Manager I position to a Public Service Manager II position and transfers All Other to Personal Services to fund the reorganization.

Ref. #: 16 Committee Vote: 11-0 AFA Vote: _____

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
REAL PROPERTY LEASE INTERNAL SERVICE FUND			
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$9,166
All Other	\$0	\$0	(\$9,166)
REAL PROPERTY LEASE INTERNAL SERVICE FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$0

Justification:

Bureau of Human Resources determined that the management-initiated reorganization request should result in an upgrade of the position to better align with work being performed.

Buildings and Grounds Operations 0080

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for an increase in natural gas tariffs.

Ref. #: 17 One Time Committee Vote: 11-0 AFA Vote: _____

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
GENERAL FUND			
All Other	\$0	\$300,000	\$400,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$300,000	\$400,000

Justification:

This initiative provides one-time funding for an increase in natural gas tariffs.

Central Services - Purchases 0004

Initiative: Establishes one Postal Service Worker position to support enhanced security efforts relating to receiving and screening packages delivered to state agencies in the greater Augusta area.

Ref. #: 6 Committee Vote: 11-0 AFA Vote: _____

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
GENERAL FUND			
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$70,616

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$71,576
All Other	\$0	\$0	(\$71,576)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$0

Ref. #: 28

Committee Vote: 11-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$71,577
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$71,577

Justification:

This initiative continues and makes permanent one Public Service Manager II position previously established by Financial Order CV0691 and transfers that position from the Information Services, Federal Expenditures Fund - ARP State Fiscal Recovery to the Information Services, General Fund on January 1, 2025. This initiative also transfers All Other to Personal Services to fund the General Fund cost. This position will oversee and manage cross-functional information security programs in a matrix organization covering a range of areas and will lead efforts across the organization to drive cross functional communications through the program's lifecycle.

Risk Management - Claims 0008

Initiative: Adjusts funding in the Risk Management - Claims program by decreasing allocation in the Risk Management Fund and increasing allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds to align the funding with the authorized transfer in Public Law 2023, chapter 412, Part BBBB.

Ref. #: 8

One Time

Committee Vote: 11-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$3,500,000	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$3,500,000	\$0

Ref. #: 9

One Time

Committee Vote: 11-0

AFA Vote: _____

RISK MANAGEMENT FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	(\$3,500,000)	\$0
RISK MANAGEMENT FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$3,500,000)	\$0

Justification:

Public Law 2023, chapter 412, Part BBBB authorized the transfer of \$3.5 million from the General Fund unappropriated surplus to the Risk Management, Other Special Revenue Funds account to pay attorney's fees awarded by a court against the State and its departments, agencies, officers or employees and settlements of attorney's fees without court award in

Sec. A-4. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

AUDITOR, OFFICE OF THE STATE

Audit Bureau 0067

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Senior Auditor position to a Principal Auditor position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 168

Committee Vote:

11-0

AFA Vote:

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$1,357	\$6,305
All Other	\$0	\$73	\$339
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$1,430	\$6,644

Justification:

This request provides funding for the approved reorganization of a Senior Auditor to a Principal Auditor position to manage complex data extractions and conduct complex, detailed analysis of such data in support of the audit of the State of Maine's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and the State of Maine's compliance with federal laws and regulations. The reorganization was approved 06/14/2023. The Bureau has the authority to adjust cost rates in order to provide sufficient resources for personal services expenditures.

AUDITOR, OFFICE OF THE STATE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$1,430	\$6,644
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$1,430	\$6,644

Sec. A-12. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

GOPIF - Community Resilience Partnership Z376

Initiative: Provides funding for grants and technical assistance to Maine municipalities and tribes for climate planning and actions, including adaptation and resilience projects, as well as emissions reduction initiatives, including clean energy and energy efficiency projects.

Ref. #: 294

Committee Vote:

9 - 2

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

All Other

2022-23

2023-24

2024-25

\$0

\$0

\$5,000,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$0

\$0

\$5,000,000

Notes:

See Part EE

Justification:

This relates to Part EE of this budget.

Office of New Americans Z398

Initiative: Establishes one Public Service Coordinator II position and one Public Service Executive I position and provides funding for related All Other costs to support the Office of New Americans program.

Ref. #: 296

Committee Vote:

6 - 5

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT

2022-23

2023-24

2024-25

0.000

0.000

2.000

Personal Services

\$0

\$0

\$275,454

All Other

\$0

\$0

\$24,546

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

\$0

\$0

\$300,000

Justification:

The Office of New Americans is established within the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future for the purpose of improving the economic and civic integration of immigrants into the State's workforce and communities to strengthen the economy over the long term. The Office of New Americans, with guidance from the Office of New Americans Advisory Council, shall identify and address needs, barriers and opportunities in order to support the long-term economic and civic integration of immigrants in the State by collecting and analyzing relevant data; coordinating with all relevant local, state and federal government agencies; serving as the State's primary liaison with all relevant external stakeholders; and undertaking and promoting activities that improve the economic and civic integration of immigrants into the State's workforce and communities.

Office of New Americans Z398

Sec. A-23. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

MAINE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Maine Office of Community Affairs Z396

Initiative: Establishes one Director position and provides funding for related All Other costs for the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

Ref. #: 281

Committee Vote: 9-2

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$158,437
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$12,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$170,437

Justification:

This initiative creates the Maine Office of Community Affairs and establishes a Director for the Office. The Maine Office of Community Affairs will foster communication and partnerships between the State and communities in Maine. The Office will engage with towns, cities, Tribal governments, and regional entities to provide coordinated and efficient planning, technical assistance, and financial support to better plan for challenges, pursue solutions, and create stronger, more resilient Maine communities.

Maine Office of Community Affairs Z396

Initiative: Provides Federal Expenditures Fund allocations for the Maine Office of Community Affairs program.

Ref. #: 282

Committee Vote: 9-2

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$500

Justification:

This initiative provides Federal Expenditures Fund allocations for the Maine Office of Community Affairs program.

Maine Office of Community Affairs Z396

Initiative: Provides Other Special Revenue Funds allocations for the Maine Office of Community Affairs program.

Ref. #: 283

Committee Vote: 9-2

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$500

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$500
-----------------------------------	-----	-----	-------

Justification:

This initiative provides Other Special Revenue allocations for the Maine Office of Community Affairs program.

MAINE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$0	\$170,437
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$0	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$0	\$500
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$0	\$171,437

Sec. A-26. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PERMANENT COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF RACIAL, INDIGENOUS AND TRIBAL POPULATIONS

Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations Z319

Initiative: Reduces funding for commissioner per diem payments.

Ref. #: 781

Committee Vote:

11-0

AFA Vote: _____

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
GENERAL FUND			
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	(\$28,000)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$28,000)</u>

Justification:

Updated cost estimates allow for this reduction, based on 17 Commissioners attending two meetings per month for nine months of the year.

PERMANENT COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF RACIAL, INDIGENOUS AND TRIBAL POPULATIONS

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
DEPARTMENT TOTALS			
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$0	(\$28,000)
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$28,000)</u>

Sec. A-31. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF

Administration - Archives 0050

Initiative: Establishes one Management Analyst I position to serve as a local government records manager and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 787

Committee Vote: 11-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$89,044
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$11,207
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$100,251

Justification:

Local Government records differ from state records in their use and complexity. The Maine State Archives is statutorily required to obtain retention schedules and provide guidance for local government records management, but does not currently have anyone on staff dedicated to assisting local governments and school systems with their records management needs.

Bureau of Administrative Services and Corporations 0692

Initiative: Establishes one Public Service Coordinator I position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 789

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$112,823
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$11,207
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$124,030

Justification:

This request establishes one Public Relations Specialist position to provide and ensure all information used by the public on all election forms, letters, brochures, pamphlets, signs, social media postings and the website is consistent, complete, accurate, and up-to-date. The position will serve as the Freedom of Access Act Officer for elections, which receives requests for thousands of pages of elections records annually. Additionally, the position will compose responses to public inquiries about voting and elections received daily by the Elections Division. Provides associated All Other funding.

Bureau of Administrative Services and Corporations 0692

Initiative: Establishes 3 Office Specialist II positions and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 790

Committee Vote: 11-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	3.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$257,970
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$33,622
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$291,592

Justification:

Corporate, UCC and Commission filings have increased dramatically over the last decade while head count has not. To deal with an extraordinary backlog in processing corporate filings, the division employed 3 temporary workers. Those temporary workers have remained over the last year, and while the backlog has abated, it still remains high due to the pace of filings. These positions would replace temporary workers with permanent staff to process corporate filings, UCC and commissions as well as participate in modernization of corporate services.

Bureau of Administrative Services and Corporations 0692

Initiative: Provides funding for voter education materials.

Ref. #: 791 One-Time Committee Vote: _____ AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$10,000	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$10,000	\$0

Justification:

This is to ensure there are sufficient materials for printing voter education materials including but not limited to the citizens' guide, I voted stickers, posters and other materials required to distribute to clerks to support the 2024 elections.

Bureau of Administrative Services and Corporations 0692

Initiative: Provides funding for software licenses and maintenance expenses for a rule-making application and database to facilitate efficiency and accessibility of agency rulemaking across agencies statewide.

Ref. #: 792 Committee Vote: 11-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$50,000	\$150,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$50,000	\$150,000

Justification:

The proposed software assumes multi-agency access and permissions, workflow management, status management, sensitive data management and archiving, notifications and reminders, and a public view. It would enable agencies to track rulemaking more closely and allow the public to easily navigate rules open to public comment and finalized rules as well.

Bureau of Administrative Services and Corporations 0692

Initiative: Provides funding for software licenses and maintenance expenses for a freedom of access act request application and database to facilitate public records requests.

Ref. #: 793 Committee Vote: 11-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$20,585	\$14,585
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$20,585	\$14,585

Justification:

The proposed software is a single-solution approach to fulfilling public records requests and managing appeals. Designed to track requests from receipt through completion and to facilitate public access to those requests, the solution will reduce staff hours dedicated to FOAA requests and increase public trust.

Bureau of Administrative Services and Corporations 0692

Initiative: Establishes one Office Specialist II position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 794 Committee Vote: _____ AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$95,165
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$11,207
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$106,372

Justification:

The Elections Division will need an administrative position to serve as a person of contact for visitors and to process incoming phone calls at the Burton M. Cross Office Building. This function is currently provided by Corporations, Uniform Commercial Code, and Commissions staff, but since there isn't sufficient space at the Burton M. Cross Office Building, Corporations is relocating to a different building with the corresponding staff.

Bureau of Administrative Services and Corporations 0692

Initiative: Provides funding for leased space to relocate the division of corporations, Uniform Commercial Code and commissions staff.

Ref. #: 795 Committee Vote: 11-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$253,294
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$253,294

Justification:

Current office space for Elections and for the Corporations, UCC and Commissions staff is insufficient. This initiative seeks to provide funding for office space outside of the Burton M. Cross Office Building and provide funding for the related relocation expenses for the Division of Corporations.

SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$80,585	\$1,040,124
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$80,585	\$1,040,124

PART DD

9-2

Sec. DD-1. 5 MRSA c.310-B is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 310-B

MAINE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

§1. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Director. "Director" means the Director of the Maine Office of Community Affairs established by section 2.

2. Office. "Office" means the Maine Office of Community Affairs established by section 2.

§2. Office established; purpose

The Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA) is established as an agency in the Executive Branch to foster communications and partnerships between the State and communities in Maine. The Office will engage with towns, cities, Tribal governments, and regional entities to provide coordinated and efficient planning, technical assistance, and financial support to better plan for challenges, pursue solutions, and create stronger, more resilient Maine communities.

The Maine Office of Community Affairs is established to support and partner with Maine communities and regional councils; by providing:

1. Assistance; data; planning, and funding. Providing technical assistance and funding related to planning to regional councils, municipalities and Tribal Governments that supports a sustainable future for the State's people, communities, natural resources, physical infrastructure, industries, businesses and institutions;

2. Coordination and Communication. Facilitating general coordination and communications between municipalities, regional councils, and state government;

§3. Director

The Director of the Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA) is appointed by the Governor and serves at the pleasure of the Governor. The Director should have demonstrated experience and leadership in municipal or regional government and should bring expertise in planning, technical assistance and/or grants programs for communities.

§4. Powers and duties

The director shall exercise the powers of the office and is responsible for the execution of the duties of the office.

1. Duties of the director. The director shall:

A. Appoint and remove the staff of the office and prescribe the duties of the staff as necessary to implement the duties of the office, including:

(1) Hiring professional personnel competent by education, training and experience in the fields of planning and development, local and regional government, climate science and resilience, housing, building codes, and general policy making; and

(2) Employing office assistance as necessary to support the work of the office;

B. Supervise and administer the affairs of the office and advise the Governor and other officials of State Government on matters of communications and partnerships between the State and communities and regional councils in Maine;

C. At the request of the Governor, act for the State in the initiation of or participation in any multi-governmental agency program related to the purposes of the office;

D. At the request of the Governor, prepare and submit a budget for the office; and

E. At the request of the Governor, report on the activities of the office and, after consultation with and approval by the Governor, submit such recommendations for legislative action as are determined necessary to further the purposes of this chapter.

2. Duties of the office. Under the supervision of the director, the office shall:

A. Provide technical assistance and resources to municipalities, regional councils, and Tribal Governments on issues related to planning, resilience, and development;

B. Collect and collate data and statistics relating to these matters and provide them to municipalities and Tribal Governments;

C. Assist municipalities and Tribal Governments, as well as the state, in applying for, using and leveraging federal funding resources on issues of importance to communities and the State;

D. Make grants from money appropriated to the program by the Legislature and any funds received by the office for the purposes of the program, including federal funding or private funds; and solicit applications for grants and make grant awards to eligible communities and to service provider organizations as determined by the office, including establishing eligibility requirements and other criteria to consider in awarding grants;

E. Administer contracts with the state's Regional Councils and Economic Development Districts to provide technical assistance and resources to municipalities and Tribal Governments on issues related to planning, resilience, and development, including but not limited to land-use planning, planning for housing and other residential development, climate resilience planning and related infrastructure planning, building codes, and other forms of local development assistance to support state, regional, and local goals; and,

F. Consult with and provide ongoing coordination with state agencies on programs and issues related to planning technical assistance and funding to communities in Maine, including but not limited to the Department of Transportation, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Marine Resources, Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Department of Economic and Community Development, Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Emergency Management Agency, Department of Public Safety, Maine Housing Authority, Governor's Energy Office, Efficiency Maine Trust, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, and the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority.

§5. Acceptance and administration of funds

The office may accept, administer and expend funds, including but not limited to funds from the Federal Government or from private sources, for purposes consistent with this chapter. The director shall provide a report of the amount of any outside funding received from private sources and its designated purpose to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature with jurisdiction over municipal issues on an annual basis.

§6. Contracts; agreements

The office may employ expert and professional consultants, contract for services as the director determines necessary, within the limits of the funds provided and consistent with the powers and duties of the office, and enter into agreements with the Federal Government and other agencies and organizations as will promote the objectives of this chapter.

Sec. DD-2. 2 MRSA §6 sub-§3 as amended by PL 2019, c. 343 Part D is further amended to read:

3. Range 89. The salaries of the following state officials and employees are within salary range 89:

Director, Bureau of General Services;

Director, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations;

State Budget Officer;

State Controller;

Director, Bureau of Forestry;

Director, Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future;

Director, Energy Resources Office;

Director of Human Resources;

Director, Bureau of Parks and Lands;

Director of the Governor's Office of Communications;

Director, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources; ~~and~~
Director, Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning; and
Director, Maine Office of Community Affairs.

**PART DD
SUMMARY**

This Part creates the Maine Office of Community Affairs and establishes a Director for the Office. The Maine Office of Community Affairs will foster communication and partnerships between the State and communities in Maine. The Office will engage with towns, cities, Tribal Governments, and regional entities to provide coordinated and efficient planning, technical assistance, and financial support to better plan for challenges, pursue solutions, and create stronger, more resilient Maine communities. A future reorganization of certain existing programs from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Department of Marine Resources, the Department of Economic and Community Development, and the Department of Public Safety under one umbrella will assist municipalities and Tribal Governments throughout the state to more easily access technical assistance and resources related to planning and development, as well as increasing community resilience.

PART EE

9-2

Sec. EE-1. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; GOPIF - Community Resilience Partnership. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2025, the State Controller shall transfer \$5,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Executive Department, GOPIF - Community Resilience Partnership, Other Special Revenue Funds account for the purpose of supporting grants and technical assistance to Maine municipalities and tribes for climate planning and actions, including adaptation and resilience projects, as well as emissions reduction initiatives including clean energy and energy efficiency projects. These funds may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor.

**PART EE
SUMMARY**

This Part requires the transfer of \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2024-25 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to Executive Department, GOPIF - Community Resilience Partnership, Other Special Revenue Funds account for the purpose of supporting grants and technical assistance to Maine municipalities and tribes for climate planning and actions, including adaptation and resilience projects, as well as emissions reduction initiatives including clean energy and energy efficiency projects.

PART FF

6-5

Sec. FF-1. 5 MRSA §3110 is enacted to read:

§3110. Office of New Americans

1. Establishment; purpose; administration. The Office of New Americans is established within the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future for the purpose of improving the economic and civic integration of immigrants into the State's workforce and communities to strengthen the economy over the long term. The Office of Policy Innovation and the Future shall administer the Office of New Americans.

2. Director; duties. The director of the Office of New Americans shall manage the following activities within the Office of New Americans::

- A. Hiring professional personnel competent by education, training and experience to carry out the work of the Office of New Americans;
- B. Supervising and administering the affairs of the Office of New Americans;
- C. Determining the necessary budget for the Office of New Americans; and
- D. Reporting on the activities of the Office of New Americans.

3. Duties of the Office of New Americans. Under the supervision of the director of the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future and the director of the Office of New Americans, and with guidance from the Office of New Americans Advisory Council established in section 3111, the Office of New Americans shall identify and address needs, barriers and opportunities in order to support the long-term economic and civic integration of immigrants in the State by:

- A. Collecting and analyzing relevant data;
- B. Coordinating with all relevant local, state and federal government agencies;
- C. Serving as the State's primary liaison with all relevant external stakeholders; and
- D. Undertaking and promoting activities that improve the economic and civic integration of immigrants into the State's workforce and communities.

4. Activities. The Office of New Americans shall undertake and promote activities that improve the economic and civic integration of immigrants into the State's workforce and communities. Activities may include, but are not limited to:

- A. Strengthening workforce opportunities by providing guidance and promoting improved pathways for professional accreditation and licensure, supporting enhanced career pathways and engaging with businesses to increase employment, retention and advancement of immigrant employees;
- B. Expanding, improving and increasing access to English language learning programs;

C. Strengthening financial literacy programs, financial education and entrepreneurship supports to assist individuals, immigrant entrepreneurs and small business owners;

D. Supporting the expansion of access to legal services and protections;

E. Partnering with and supporting municipalities, school administrative units, educational institutions, community-based organizations and businesses providing assistance or opportunities to immigrants;

F. Participating in the nationwide Office of New Americans State Network, or its successor network, to access information and best practices from other states;

G. Collaborating with and providing guidance to agencies of State Government and the entity designated by the Federal Government to administer the State's refugee resettlement services in developing and executing policies that support the purpose of the Office of New Americans;

H. Coordinating with and advising federal agencies and the State's congressional delegation on federal policies that support the purpose of the Office of New Americans;

I. Advising the Governor and Legislature regarding any statutory, regulatory or other policies or practices that may be addressed to better support the purpose of the Office of New Americans; and

J. Promoting greater understanding of the history of immigration in the State, the contributions and influence of immigrants in the State and how communities may support immigrants' integration into local civic and economic life.

5. Rulemaking. The Office of New Americans may adopt rules as necessary for the proper administration of this section and section 3111 pursuant to the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. Unless otherwise specified, rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

6. Report. Beginning February 1, 2026, the Office of New Americans shall report biennially to the Governor and to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over relevant matters with information and recommendations relating to the work and needs of the Office of New Americans.

Sec. FF-2. 5 MRS §3111 is enacted to read:

§3111. Office of New Americans Advisory Council

The Office of New Americans Advisory Council, as established in section 12004-I, subsection 6-K, is created as an advisory council to the Office of New Americans established in section 3110 on matters affecting the long-term economic and civic integration of immigrants in the State.

1. Duties of advisory council. The advisory council shall advise the Office of New Americans on matters affecting the long-term economic and civic integration of immigrants in the State.

2. Membership. The advisory council consists of 19 members as follows:

A. At least 10 members who are immigrants, 8 appointed by the Governor, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House;

B. Two members of the Senate from the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature, appointed by the President of the Senate;

C. Two members of the House of Representatives from the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature, appointed by the Speaker of the House

D. Three members appointed by the President of the Senate representing the following:

(1) A school administrative unit;

(2) An adult education program; and

(3) A small business;

E. Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House representing the following:

(1) An organization providing refugee resettlement services;

(2) A provider of legal assistance to immigrants; and

(3) A municipality; and

F. Four members appointed by the Governor representing the following:

(1) A large business;

(2) A business or organization with demonstrated expertise in of-housing assistance or housing production;

(3) An organization with demonstrated expertise in workforce development; and

(4) An employer with demonstrated experience providing immigrant apprenticeship opportunities, support and training programs.

In making appointments of members to the advisory council, the appointing authorities shall make a good faith effort to ensure that the members of the advisory council reflect geographic, gender, ethnic and racial diversity.

3. Terms of office; removal. Members of the advisory council serve 3-year terms and may be reappointed. A vacancy for an unexpired term must be filled in accordance with subsection 2. A member may serve until a replacement is appointed. The Governor may terminate the membership of any appointee for good cause. The reason for the termination must be communicated in writing to a member whose membership is terminated. The membership of

any member of the advisory council must be terminated if the member is absent from 3 consecutive meetings without communicating good cause to a chair of the advisory council.

4. Cochairs. The Governor shall appoint 2 cochairs from among the members appointed and serving pursuant to subsection 2.

5. Meetings; staffing. The advisory council shall meet at the discretion of the cochairs. Meetings may be cancelled or postponed at the discretion of the cochairs. All meetings of the advisory council are public proceedings within the meaning of Title 1, chapter 13, subchapter 1. The Office of New Americans shall provide staffing services as necessary to the advisory council.

6. Compensation; expenses. Members of the advisory council not otherwise compensated by their employer for their time serving on the council may be compensated for their time and reimbursed for expenses, to the extent resources are available. The Office shall determine the amount and manner of compensation and reimbursement for expense provided to these members.

Sec. FF-3. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§6-K is enacted to read:

6-K.

<u>Economic</u>	<u>Office of New Americans Advisory Council Expenses Only</u>	<u>5 MRSA</u>
<u>Development</u>		<u>§3111</u>

**PART FF
SUMMARY**

This Part establishes the Office of New Americans within the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future and also establishes an advisory council to the Office of New Americans.

PART GGG

Sec. GGG-1. Carrying provision; Department of Secretary of State, Administration - Archives. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, at the end of fiscal year 2023-24, the State Controller shall carry forward up to \$1,500,000 appropriated for high-density shelving at the former Eastside Wellness Center and in the Cultural Building in the Maine State Archives as authorized in Public Law 2023, chapter 3 to fiscal year 2024-25 in the Administration – Archives program, General Fund account, Capital Expenditures line category.

11-0

**PART GGG
SUMMARY**

This Part authorizes the Secretary of State to carry forward up to \$1,500,000 allocated for high-density shelving at the former Eastside Wellness Center and in the Cultural Building in the Maine State Archives as authorized in Public Law 2023, chapter 3 to fiscal year 2024-25 in the Administration – Archives program, General Fund account, Capital Expenditures line category.