

SENATE

GLENN "CHIP" CURRY, DISTRICT 11, CHAIR
DONNA BAILEY, DISTRICT 31
RICHARD A. BENNETT, DISTRICT 18

LYNNE WESTPHAL, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
SOPHIA PADDON, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
ALYSTER BLUM, COMMITTEE CLERK



HOUSE

TRACI GERE, KENNEBUNKPORT, CHAIR
TIFFANY ROBERTS, SOUTH BERWICK
CHERYL A. GOLEK, HARPSWELL
MARC G. MALON, II, BIDDEFORD
CASSIE LYNN JULIA, WATERVILLE
YUSUF M. YUSUF, PORTLAND
AMANDA N. COLLAMORE, PITTSFIELD
ARTHUR KEVIN MINGO, CALAIS
MARK WALKER, NAPLES
JOHN EDER, WATERBORO

STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

FROM: Senator Chip Curry^{cc}, Senate Chair
Representative Traci Gere^{TC}, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development

DATE: March 5, 2025

SUBJECT: Recommendations on the Governor's Proposed Biennial Budget for the
Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027,
LD 210

We are writing to provide the recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development on those portions of the Governor's Biennial Budget Bill, LD 210, that were considered at the joint public hearing on February 5, 2025. We have reviewed and discussed these initiatives and appreciate your consideration of our recommendations and comments.

Department of Economic and Community Development

Initiatives

The committee voted unanimously of members present to move **IN** all budget initiatives under the committee's jurisdiction for the Department of Economic and Community Development, except as follows:

Administration – Economic and Community Development 0069

- Ref #906: The committee voted 7-4 to move **IN** this initiative.
- Ref #908: The committee voted 7-4 to move **IN** this initiative.

The members who voted against Ref #906 and #908 expressed concern that the cost of the centralized services provided by the Department of

Administrative and Financial Services appears throughout the biennial budget with individual policy committees considering only a portion of the total cost and without the jurisdiction to examine the overall cost or the effectiveness of providing these services in this manner. The members who voted against these initiatives believe these parts of the budget need a comprehensive review by either the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee, or the State and Local Government Committee, which is the policy committee for the Division of Financial and Personnel Services and the Office of Information Technology within the Department.

Business Development 0585

- Ref #919: The committee voted 8-4 to move **IN** this initiative.

The members who voted in favor of this initiative request that language be added to the biennial budget bill that requires when the Department of Economic and Community Development use these funds to award grants under its Domestic Trade Program, the grants be limited to small and medium size businesses.

Office of Innovation 0995

- Ref #939: The committee voted 6-5 to move **IN** this initiative. The five members who voted against the initiative, voted to move **IN** the initiative with funding in the amount of \$1,500,000.

The committee voted unanimously of those present to request the Justification for this initiative be replace with the language below:

Justification: This initiative provides one-time funding for the Maine Technology Institute to Facilitate the attraction and growth of life sciences businesses in Maine, leveraging matching private investments. The life sciences section represents one of the strongest prospects for economic growth globally and in Maine. Already representing \$2.3 billion of Maine's GDP, 10,000 employees, and high average wages, the industry has a foothold in Maine that we much build upon to achieve our strategic goals of increased wages and value creation.

New Initiatives

Maine Coworking Development Fund Z195

The committee voted unanimously of members present to transfer the General Fund (\$100,000 in FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27) and Other Special Revenue Fund (\$500 in FY 2025-26 and FY 2027-28) from the Department of Economic and Community Development, Maine Coworking Development Fund to the Maine Development Foundation General Fund for the Maine Development Foundation to support the foundation's economic, workforce and community development initiations across the State. The committee supports incorporating the specific economic development goals of the Coworking Development Fund

into the broader economic development work of the Maine Development Foundation. Adding these funds to the foundation will allow the most effective use of these funds by reducing the overlap between the foundation and department in this specific area.

Maine State Housing Authority

Initiatives

The committee voted unanimously of members present to move **IN** all budget initiatives under the committee's jurisdiction for the Maine State Housing Authority (Ref #1543 and Ref #1550).

Language Parts

The committee voted unanimously of members present to move **IN** Language Part PP.

The committee voted unanimously of members present to move **OUT** Language Part QQ. Part QQ transfer approximately \$10,000,000 from the Maine State Housing Authority's Other Special Revenue account into the General Fund.

New Initiative

The committee voted unanimously of members present to recommend the following initiative be included in the biennial budget bill:

A General Fund appropriation in the amount of \$600,000 in FY 2025-26 and \$1,200,000 in FY 2026-27 to the Maine State Housing Authority to continue funding the Housing Navigation Program originally funded through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, authorized by the American Rescue Plan of 2021. The Authority will award \$300,000 per fiscal year to the current program participants. Maine State Housing Authority will use an RFP-based competition to award grants under this program.

Maine Office of Community Affairs

Initiatives

The committee voted unanimously of members present to move **IN** all budget initiatives under the committee's jurisdiction for the Maine Office of Community Affairs, except as follows:

Language Part

The committee voted unanimously of members present to move **IN** Language Part D with the following exceptions:

- The first paragraph of 5 MRSA §3205 is amended to read:

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, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over municipal matters on an annual basis.

➤ 5 MRSA §3212, sub-§4 is amended to read:

4. Rulemaking. The office ~~shall~~ may establish by rule the criteria for eligibility for grants from the program and the process of application. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

➤ Any nonconsecutive letters or section numbers in Part D will be relettered or renumbered to read consecutively.

Some members of the committee were concerned that the rules adopted by the Maine Office of Community Affairs were routine technical and not major substantive and so were not subject to review and approval by the Legislature prior to final adoption.

Department of Public Safety, Division of Building Codes and Standards

The committee voted unanimously of members present to move IN all budget initiatives under the committee's jurisdiction for the Department of Public Safety, Division of Building Codes and Standards.

We have attached the budget worksheets provided by the Office of Fiscal and Program Review and included notations of the committee's vote on each item. We hope that the input we have provided on the budget proposals within our subject matter jurisdiction is useful in your committee deliberations. Thank you for your consideration.

Enc.

cc: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development
(via email)
Maureen Dawson, Office of Financial and Program Review
Justin Purvis, AFA Committee Clerk

Sec. A-8. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

CENTERS FOR INNOVATION

Centers for Innovation 0911

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$118,009	\$118,009	\$118,009	\$118,009
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$118,009	\$118,009	\$118,009	\$118,009

Justification:

To provide aquaculture service centers for (a) conducting, evaluating, sharing and transferring applied scientific research and (b) assisting, recruiting and or incubating new Maine enterprises.

CENTERS FOR INNOVATION 0911

PROGRAM SUMMARY

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$118,009	\$118,009	\$118,009	\$118,009
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$118,009	\$118,009	\$118,009	\$118,009

CENTERS FOR INNOVATION

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$118,009	\$118,009
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$118,009	\$118,009

Sec. A-16. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, MAINE

Development Foundation 0198

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$58,444	\$58,444	\$58,444	\$58,444
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$58,444	\$58,444	\$58,444	\$58,444

Justification:

The Maine Development Foundation (MDF) is a nonprofit economic development corporation created by the Maine Legislature to capitalize on the interests, resources and efforts of the public and private sectors. MDF champions sustainable, long-term growth for Maine. The foundation is a catalyst for new ideas and provides common ground for solving problems and advancing issues. The foundation is funded by membership dues, fees for service, contracts and grants. Corporations, counties, cities, towns and other organizations can become members by contributing to the foundation. MDF runs a number of programs, including leadership development, economic education for the Legislature, sector-based growth initiatives, and workforce initiatives. The three programs that currently received General Fund support are as follows: Maine Economic Growth Council is a permanent 19-member council appointed by the Governor, the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate to establish and maintain a long range economic development plan for the state. The Council is staffed by the Maine Development Foundation. The Council's responsibilities include the development of a long-range plan, goals, benchmarks and alternative strategies for a sustainable state economy. Additionally, the Council will monitor progress in accomplishing the state's goals and benchmarks, recommend changes in the Plan to reflect the dynamics of the international, national and state economy. The Council is also charged with working with the Office of Innovation and the Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board to make R&D funding recommendations for the Governor's budget. The Realize Maine Network is created by, for and of Mainers 20-40 to serve as a catalyst, a collaborator and a convener of Maine's young people with a stake in our common future by providing professional, social, cultural, recreational and civic opportunities in Maine. Projects that lend to these opportunities are websites, social networks, listeners, leadership training and outreach programs the engage the business, academic and nonprofits worlds. This is accomplished primarily at the local level through a system of regional affiliates that span the state geographically. The Maine Downtown Center was established to encourage downtown revitalization in the state. The Maine Downtown Center advances place-based economic development in downtowns statewide resulting in business growth, job creation, building rehabilitation, cultural enhancement and organizational leadership. Funding for the Maine Downtown Center supports its core program activities: Maine Street Maine, the Maine Downtown Network, Downtown Conferences and Institutes, a joint marketing portal publicizing downtown events and activities, statewide, initiatives to support entrepreneurship and startups, subgrant programs for building improvements and energy efficiency plus training and coaching in all areas of downtown revitalization.

DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION 0198

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$58,444	\$58,444	\$58,444	\$58,444
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$58,444	\$58,444	\$58,444	\$58,444

DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, MAINE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$58,444	\$58,444
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$58,444	\$58,444

Sec. A-19. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

DOWNEAST INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED MARINE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Downeast Institute for Applied Marine Research and Education 0993

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$12,554	\$12,554	\$12,554	\$12,554
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$12,554	\$12,554	\$12,554	\$12,554

Justification:

The Downeast Institute is a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for the people of downeast and coastal Maine through marine research, marine science education, and innovations in wild and cultured fisheries. The Institute is overseen by a 16-member volunteer board of directors and employs 18 people, including scientists, educators, research assistants and others. The Institute operates a research and production shellfish hatchery that grows juvenile shellfish for public stock enhancement, aquaculture development, and field research.

DOWNEAST INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED MARINE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION 0993

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$12,554	\$12,554	\$12,554	\$12,554
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$12,554	\$12,554	\$12,554	\$12,554

DOWNEAST INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED MARINE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$12,554	\$12,554
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$12,554	\$12,554

Sec. A-20. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Administration - Economic and Community Development 0069

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Personal Services	\$741,309	\$765,809	\$875,163	\$917,194
All Other	\$1,097,088	\$1,202,448	\$1,102,448	\$1,102,448
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,838,397	\$1,968,257	\$1,977,611	\$2,019,642
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$152,768	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$500	\$273,432	\$273,432	\$273,432
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$426,200	\$273,432	\$273,432
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$283,176	\$147,602	\$147,602	\$147,602
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$283,176	\$147,602	\$147,602	\$147,602

Justification:

The Commissioner's Office, funded by the Administration Account, provides oversight of the day to day operations for the entire department, including personnel, financial and contractual obligations; coordinates the legislative and media activities; develops and maintains the department-wide budget; represents the administration on various boards, commissions and task forces; and administers several grant programs.

Administration - Economic and Community Development 0069

Initiative: Provides funding for the department's share of the cost for the financial and human resources service centers within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Ref. #: 906

Committee Vote:

IN 7-4

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND		2025-26	2026-27
All Other		\$14,950	\$28,642

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

\$14,950

\$28,642

Justification:

Service Centers within DAFS provide centralized accounting, payroll, budgeting and human resources services to departments and agencies. Service Centers are established as an internal service funds intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies for services provided. The Service Centers' expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

Administration - Economic and Community Development 0069

Initiative: Continues one limited-period Public Executive I position, previously established by Public Law 2023, chapter 412 through June 19, 2027 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 907

One Time

Committee Vote:

IN 11-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

2025-26

2026-27

Personal Services

\$146,692

\$158,069

All Other

\$6,089

\$6,563

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL

\$152,781

\$164,632

Justification:

This position administers the outdoor recreation economy federal award from the Northern Border Regional Commission. The program has been assured grant funding through fiscal year 2026-27. This initiative also provides related All Other funding to cover STA-CAP costs.

Administration - Economic and Community Development 0069

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide technology services provided by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Information Technology.

Ref. #: 908

Committee Vote:

IN 7-4

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

2025-26

2026-27

All Other

\$23,488

\$23,488

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

\$23,488

\$23,488

Justification:

MaineIT is responsible for the delivery of safe, secure, and high-performing networks and systems to state agencies for daily performance of their missions for the citizens of Maine. IT enterprise functions benefitting all state agencies are managed through this office to ensure consistency, volume discount efficiencies, and optimum performance and throughput. MaineIT is established as an internal service fund intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies for services provided. MaineIT expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs, including vendor increases, supply chain costs, and network and systems modernization and upgrades. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

**ADMINISTRATION - ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 0069
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Personal Services	\$741,309	\$765,809	\$875,163	\$917,194
All Other	\$1,097,088	\$1,202,448	\$1,140,886	\$1,154,578
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,838,397	\$1,968,257	\$2,016,049	\$2,071,772
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
Personal Services	\$0	\$152,768	\$146,692	\$158,069
All Other	\$500	\$273,432	\$279,521	\$279,995
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$426,200	\$426,213	\$438,064
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY				
All Other	\$283,176	\$147,602	\$147,602	\$147,602
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$283,176	\$147,602	\$147,602	\$147,602

Applied Technology Development Center System 0929

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$178,838	\$178,838	\$178,838	\$178,838
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$178,838	\$178,838	\$178,838	\$178,838

Justification:

The Technology Centers seek to accelerate the early stage development of technology-based businesses through focused business assistance, information exchange, established technical relationships, shared business services and reduced overhead expenses at centers statewide that deliver business incubator services. The centers are designed to complement the State's other research, development and commercialization investments by providing a supportive environment to incubate new technology intensive businesses. Funding is provided through a competitive process.

APPLIED TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTER SYSTEM 0929

PROGRAM SUMMARY

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$178,838	\$178,838	\$178,838	\$178,838
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$178,838	\$178,838	\$178,838	\$178,838

Business Development 0585

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	8.000	8.000	8.000	8.000
Personal Services	\$935,226	\$971,103	\$1,156,287	\$1,212,792
All Other	\$869,604	\$2,769,604	\$869,604	\$869,604
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,804,830	\$3,740,707	\$2,025,891	\$2,082,396

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500

Justification:

The Office of Business Development provides direct assistance to existing businesses and businesses seeking to relocate or expand in Maine. Through the Business Answers and Regulatory Red Tape Hotline, this office responds to the needs of any business with a question or issue regarding state government. The Governor's Account Executives work directly with businesses and other state agencies to facilitate quick resolution of permitting and licensing issues and can connect businesses with the correct assistance needed. Administration of the Pine Tree Zone, E-Tif, J-Tif, film tax and municipal tax incentive finance programs are also coordinated through this office.

Business Development 0585

Initiative: Establishes one Public Service Coordinator II position and provides funding for related All Other costs to create a domestic trade program to support Maine's small businesses.

Ref. #: 919

Committee Vote:

 JN 8-4

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$135,029	\$146,038
All Other	\$550,000	\$550,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$685,029	\$696,038

Justification:

The Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan supported the pilot domestic trade program and has proven extremely successful for Maine's entrepreneurs to access new domestic markets for their products. Establishing this program permanently and providing grant funds for small businesses willing to expand into new markets via diverse sales channels will result in increased sales revenue, business growth, and further coordination among partners committed to expanding trade activities.

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT 0585
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	8.000	8.000	9.000	9.000
Personal Services	\$935,226	\$971,103	\$1,291,316	\$1,358,830
All Other	\$869,604	\$2,769,604	\$1,419,604	\$1,419,604
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,804,830	\$3,740,707	\$2,710,920	\$2,778,434

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500

Communities for Maine's Future Fund Z108

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

The Communities for Maine's Future Fund, known as the fund is established to provide funding for the rehabilitation, revitalization and enhancement of downtowns and village centers and main streets in the State. The fund is a dedicated, non-lapsing fund, and all revenues deposited in the fund remain in the fund. This line item provides a base allocation in the event that outside funds are received to support this program.

**COMMUNITIES FOR MAINE'S FUTURE FUND Z108
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Community Development Block Grant Program 0587

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$191,109	\$196,660	\$232,752	\$242,185
All Other	\$88,262	\$88,262	\$88,262	\$88,262
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$279,371	\$284,922	\$321,014	\$330,447
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	(1.000)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Personal Services	(\$72,553)	\$0	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$1,427,447	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$616,011	\$616,011	\$616,011	\$616,011
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$616,011	\$616,011	\$616,011	\$616,011
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	5.000	4.000	4.000	4.000
Personal Services	\$464,422	\$395,589	\$440,609	\$458,292
All Other	\$21,260,658	\$21,260,658	\$21,260,658	\$21,260,658
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$21,725,080	\$21,656,247	\$21,701,267	\$21,718,950

Justification:

The Office of Community Development receives funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Program to administer this program. Municipalities apply for these funds to undertake eligible activities as outlined in Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. Activities include housing rehabilitation, public facilities, public infrastructure, public service, economic development and planning. The General Fund (match) appropriation is used by the department to provide general management, oversight, coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of community development projects undertaken with these HUD funds throughout the state (except the entitlement communities of Auburn, Bangor, Lewiston, Portland, South Portland, Biddeford and most of Cumberland County, recently designated a HUD Urban County, which receive annual funding directly from HUD). The General Fund request is critical toward meeting the minimum federal match requirements to operate this program. The Office of Community Development also includes the Maine Code Enforcement Training and Certification Program, State Landfill Oversight Program, Maine Made Marketing Program, Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund and the Co-Working Development Fund.

Community Development Block Grant Program 0587

Initiative: Continues one limited-period Public Service Coordinator I position, previously continued by Financial Order 003630 F5 through June 19, 2027 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 925

One Time

Committee Vote:

IN 11-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$138,102	\$148,679
All Other	\$5,729	\$6,170
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$143,831	\$154,849

Justification:

This position administers a federal grant from the Northern Border Regional Commission. The program has been assured grant funding through fiscal year 2026-27. This initiative also provides related All Other funding to cover STA-CAP costs.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM 0587
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$191,109	\$196,660	\$232,752	\$242,185
All Other	\$88,262	\$88,262	\$88,262	\$88,262
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$279,371	\$284,922	\$321,014	\$330,447
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	(1.000)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Personal Services	(\$72,553)	\$0	\$138,102	\$148,679
All Other	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,505,729	\$1,506,170
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$1,427,447	\$1,500,000	\$1,643,831	\$1,654,849
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$616,011	\$616,011	\$616,011	\$616,011
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$616,011	\$616,011	\$616,011	\$616,011
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	5.000	4.000	4.000	4.000
Personal Services	\$464,422	\$395,589	\$440,609	\$458,292
All Other	\$21,260,658	\$21,260,658	\$21,260,658	\$21,260,658
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$21,725,080	\$21,656,247	\$21,701,267	\$21,718,950

Housing Opportunity Program Z336

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$242,272	\$268,772	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$2,656,126	\$2,387,354	\$2,387,354	\$2,387,354
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$2,898,398	\$2,656,126	\$2,387,354	\$2,387,354

Notes:

Part D, initiative # 961

Justification:

Public Law 2022, Chapter 672 authorized funding for the support and development of additional housing units in Maine, including units that are affordable to low and moderate income people and housing units targeted to community workforce housing needs.

Housing Opportunity Program Z336

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent 2 Public Service Coordinator II positions previously continued by Public Law 2023, chapter 412 and previously established by Public Law 2021, chapter 635 and reduces All Other to fund the positions.

Ref. #: 960

Committee Vote: IN 12-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$327,236	\$340,694
All Other	(\$327,236)	(\$340,694)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

Notes:

Part D, initiative # 962

Justification:

The Housing Opportunity Program will provide support for communities working through complicated housing zoning issues. The 2 staff will administer the program, write the grant criteria, and provide guidance, technical support and model ordinance to communities.

**HOUSING OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM Z336
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$242,272	\$268,772	\$327,236	\$340,694
All Other	\$2,656,126	\$2,387,354	\$2,060,118	\$2,046,660
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$2,898,398	\$2,656,126	\$2,387,354	\$2,387,354

International Commerce 0674

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$317,251	\$326,107	\$389,116	\$406,026
All Other	\$924,709	\$924,709	\$924,709	\$924,709
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,241,960	\$1,250,816	\$1,313,825	\$1,330,735

Justification:

The Maine International Trade Center (MITC) is a public-private partnership funded by the department and the private sector, servicing companies statewide through its office in Portland. MITC focuses on the expansion of the Maine economy and job creation through increased exports, trade, foreign direct investment and international student attraction. MITC offers technical trade assistance for all markets, with a regional focus on North Atlantic and Arctic markets through the allied MENADO program. MITC coordinates overseas activities including industry specific trade shows and trade missions, as well as foreign direct investment and international student attraction events. Its operations include the Maine North Atlantic Development Office (MENADO), Invest in Maine, StudyMaine and the Canada Desk. The budget includes funding for the State Director and MENADO Director as well as pass-through grant funding in support of its operations.

**INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE 0674
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$317,251	\$326,107	\$389,116	\$406,026
All Other	\$924,709	\$924,709	\$924,709	\$924,709
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,241,960	\$1,250,816	\$1,313,825	\$1,330,735

Leadership and Entrepreneurial Development Program Z071

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

The 123rd Legislature directed the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Innovation to design a leadership and entrepreneurial development program. This line item provides a base allocation in the event that outside funds are received to support this program.

**LEADERSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM Z071
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Maine Coworking Development Fund Z195

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

Maine Coworking Development Fund, pursuant to Title 5, section 13056-G, was established to strengthen opportunities for entrepreneurship, stimulate innovation in the State by increasing the availability of collaborative workspace environments and address a regional market demand for affordable work environments that support communication, information sharing and networking opportunities.

**MAINE COWORKING DEVELOPMENT FUND Z195
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Maine Economic Development Evaluation Fund Z057

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000

Justification:

The Commissioner of the Department of Economic & Community Development is required by statute (Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 13070-P) to submit a biennial comprehensive evaluation of state investments in economic development (except research and development and federal programs with independent evaluations). This fund (Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 13070-Q) was established to receive funds from agencies or private entities that receive General Fund appropriations or General Obligation Bonds for economic development in an amount greater than \$250,000, not to exceed 0.8%.

**MAINE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION FUND Z057
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000

Maine Economic Growth Council 0727

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$90,395	\$90,395	\$90,395	\$90,395
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$90,395	\$90,395	\$90,395	\$90,395

Justification:

The Maine Economic Growth Council exists to provide the annual Measures of Growth report on Maine's economic performance and to develop a long-range economic plan for the State. The council develops economic indicators, analyzes the performance of indicators against established benchmarks and reports findings and recommendations.

MAINE ECONOMIC GROWTH COUNCIL 0727

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$90,395	\$90,395	\$90,395	\$90,395
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$90,395	\$90,395	\$90,395	\$90,395

Maine Small Business and Entrepreneurship Commission 0675

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$683,684	\$683,684	\$683,684	\$683,684
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$683,684	\$683,684	\$683,684	\$683,684

Justification:

The Maine Small Business Commission through the Department of Economic and Community Development administers an annual contract with the University of Southern Maine to promote and support economic development by providing comprehensive business management assistance, training, resources and information to small businesses through a network of professional, certified business counselors at centers and outreach offices around the state. An independently validated, impact driven program, the Maine Small Business Development Centers is a partnership involving the U. S. Small Business Administration, Department of Economic and Community Development, the University of Southern Maine and leading state economic development organizations.

MAINE SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMMISSION 0675

PROGRAM SUMMARY

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$683,684	\$683,684	\$683,684	\$683,684
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$683,684	\$683,684	\$683,684	\$683,684

Maine State Film Office 0590

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$109,753	\$110,745	\$136,837	\$144,763
All Other	\$170,605	\$170,605	\$170,605	\$170,605
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$280,358	\$281,350	\$307,442	\$315,368

Justification:

The Maine Film Commission account receives funding from the Maine Tourism Office to host meetings of the Commission. The Maine State Film Office (MFO) was created in 1988 and its one staff member is solely responsible for assisting Maine's film industry by facilitating and promoting film, television, video gaming, photographic and emerging-media production in Maine.

MAINE STATE FILM OFFICE 0590

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$109,753	\$110,745	\$136,837	\$144,763
All Other	\$170,605	\$170,605	\$170,605	\$170,605
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$280,358	\$281,350	\$307,442	\$315,368

Municipal Grant Fund Z323

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

Public Law 2021, Chapter 319 establishes a nonlapsing fund to provide funding for municipalities for projects that further the goals of sustainable economic development. A baseline allocation of \$500 exists should funds be received from federal or private sources to establish program.

**MUNICIPAL GRANT FUND Z323
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Office of Innovation 0995

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$274,555	\$282,131	\$335,776	\$349,784
All Other	\$6,794,260	\$6,794,260	\$6,794,260	\$6,794,260
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$7,068,815	\$7,076,391	\$7,130,036	\$7,144,044

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500

Justification:

The Office of Innovation facilitates economic growth through development and implementation of the State's science and technology plan. The office works with educational institutions, not-for-profit laboratories and businesses to encourage and spur innovation in the State's economy. The major programs of the Office of Innovation are the Maine Technology Institute, the Applied Technology Development Centers System (Program 0929), and managing the State's EPSCoR program. This account includes the pass-through grant for the Maine Technology Institute (MTI). MTI was established to encourage, promote, stimulate and support research and development activity leading to the commercialization of new products and services in the State's technology-intensive industrial sectors to enhance the competitive position of those sectors and increase the likelihood that one or more of the sectors will support clusters of industrial activity and to create new jobs for Maine people. MTI is one element of the State's economic development strategy and contributes to the long-term development of a statewide research, development and product deployment infrastructure.

Office of Innovation 0995

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the Maine Technology Institute to facilitate and expedite the growth of the life sciences sector in Maine.

Ref. #: 939 One Time Committee Vote: IN 6 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND			2025-26	2026-27
All Other			\$0	\$3,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL			\$0	\$3,000,000

IN @ \$1,500,000 5

Justification:

This initiative provides one-time funding for the Maine Technology Institute to facilitate the attraction and growth of life sciences businesses in Maine that will provide at least 200 jobs and \$100 million in capital investment.

**OFFICE OF INNOVATION 0995
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$274,555	\$282,131	\$335,776	\$349,784
All Other	\$6,794,260	\$6,794,260	\$6,794,260	\$9,794,260
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$7,068,815	\$7,076,391	\$7,130,036	\$10,144,044

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500

Office of Tourism 0577

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	9.000	9.000	9.000	9.000
Personal Services	\$1,143,605	\$1,162,919	\$1,239,045	\$1,306,224
All Other	\$22,671,205	\$23,053,025	\$23,053,025	\$23,053,025
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$23,814,810	\$24,215,944	\$24,292,070	\$24,359,249

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP				
Personal Services	\$218,924	\$230,770	\$82,701	\$0
All Other	\$8,291,142	\$2,004,375	\$2,004,375	\$2,004,375
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP TOTAL	\$8,510,066	\$2,235,145	\$2,087,076	\$2,004,375

Justification:

The Office of Tourism exists to develop, promote and manage tourism in Maine. Its broad directive is to promote Maine as a four-season destination to both consumers and the travel trade. The office has conducted its programs according to a five year strategic plan for promoting tourism in Maine. The legislature, pursuant to Title 5, section 13090-K provided a dedicated, non-lapsing revenue stream for tourism promotion. On July 1st and October 1st each year, the State Controller transfers to the Tourism Marketing Promotion Fund an amount, as certified by the State Tax Assessor. The transfer amount currently is equivalent to 5% of the 8% tax and 5% of the 9% tax imposed on tangible personal property and taxable services pursuant to Title 36, section 1811. The tax amount must be based on actual sales for that fiscal year and may not consider any accruals that may be required by law. The amount transferred from General Fund sales and use tax revenue does not affect the calculation for the transfer to the Local Government Fund. A minimum of ten percent of the funds received by the Tourism Marketing Promotion Fund must be used for regional marketing promotion and regional special events promotion.

Office of Tourism 0577

Initiative: Continues 2 limited-period Public Service Coordinator I positions, previously established by Public Law 2023, chapter 412 through December 19, 2026.

Ref. #: 914 One Time Committee Vote: IN 120 AFA Vote: _____

	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP		
Personal Services	\$155,935	\$127,698
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP TOTAL	\$155,935	\$127,698

Justification:

These positions support the administration of the American Rescue Plan Act Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation federal award. Funding expires on December 31, 2026.

Office of Tourism 0577

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align with revenue projections from the December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

Ref. #: 915

Committee Vote: No Vote

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$106,231	\$350,159
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$106,231	\$350,159

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue allocations with the Revenue Forecast.

Justification:

This initiative aligns allocation with December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

**OFFICE OF TOURISM 0577
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	9.000	9.000	9.000	9.000
Personal Services	\$1,143,605	\$1,162,919	\$1,239,045	\$1,306,224
All Other	\$22,671,205	\$23,053,025	\$23,159,256	\$23,403,184
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$23,814,810	\$24,215,944	\$24,398,301	\$24,709,408

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$218,924	\$230,770	\$238,636	\$127,698
All Other	\$8,291,142	\$2,004,375	\$2,004,375	\$2,004,375
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP TOTAL	\$8,510,066	\$2,235,145	\$2,243,011	\$2,132,073

Renewable Energy Resources Fund Z072

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$88,000	\$88,000	\$88,000	\$88,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$88,000	\$88,000	\$88,000	\$88,000

Justification:

Established in 2008, the Maine Legislature authorized the establishment of the Renewable Resources Fund in the Public Utilities Commission with the Maine Technology Institute named as a recipient of an annual distribution of 35% of the funds to support the development and commercialization of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. An amount is transferred from the Public Utilities Commission to the department annually and distributes to Maine Technology Institute in the form of a grant. This line item represents an estimate of the amount to be transferred.

RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES FUND Z072

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$88,000	\$88,000	\$88,000	\$88,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$88,000	\$88,000	\$88,000	\$88,000

Rural Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grant Fund Z322

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

Public Law 2021, Chapter 420 authorized funding for the rural workforce recruitment and retention grant program designed to advertise and promote jobs in rural regions of the State and to locate and retain qualified staff. A baseline allocation of \$500 exists should funds be received from outside sources to continue this program.

**RURAL WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION GRANT FUND Z322
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Social Equity Program Z409

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$0	\$300,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$300,000	\$150,000	\$150,000

Justification:

The Social Equity Program, authorized by Public Law 2024, Chapter 683, exists to increase workforce development programs and provide support to individuals who are members of impacted communities and businesses that are owned by members of impacted communities.

**SOCIAL EQUITY PROGRAM Z409
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$0	\$300,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$300,000	\$150,000	\$150,000

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$16,932,115	\$20,095,703
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$2,070,544	\$2,093,413
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$25,792,254	\$26,111,287
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	\$21,701,267	\$21,718,950
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	\$151,602	\$151,602
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP	\$2,243,011	\$2,132,073
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$68,890,793	\$72,303,028

Sec. A-28. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE

Educational Opportunity Tax Credit Marketing Fund Z174

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000

Justification:

This program provides funding for the Finance Authority of Maine to contract with a private nonprofit corporation in the amount of at least \$48,500 annually to market the program throughout the state.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT MARKETING FUND Z174

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
All Other	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000

FHM - Health Education Centers 0950

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$110,000
FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE TOTAL	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$110,000

Justification:

Health Education Centers establish funding for recruitment centers in Maine for students to attend medical school.

**FHM - HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS 0950
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$110,000
FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE TOTAL	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$110,000	\$110,000

Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Revolving Loan Program Fund Z286

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000

Justification:

Provides small loans to assist eligible immigrants living in Maine who are not yet eligible to work in the United States. Loans for up to \$700 are available to help pay for the costs associated with the process of becoming work-ready while waiting for issuance of a work permit by federal immigration authorities.

**FOREIGN CREDENTIALING AND SKILLS RECOGNITION REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM FUND Z286
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000

Maine Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program Fund Z330

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$2,000,500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$2,000,500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

The Maine Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Pilot Program provides funds to support rebuilding Maine's health care industry workforce, which was negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is designed to attract and retain health care professionals in Maine by repaying outstanding student loans of selected participants who commit to living and working in Maine for at least three years. FAME will pay up to \$25,000 per year or, in aggregate, the lesser of \$75,000 or 50% of the recipient's outstanding loan balance.

**MAINE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FUND Z330
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$2,000,500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$2,000,500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Small Enterprise Growth Fund Z235

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000

Justification:

The Small Enterprise Growth Fund through the guidance of the Finance Authority of Maine pursues its mission of investing in scalable Maine-based companies that contribute to Maine's prosperity.

SMALL ENTERPRISE GROWTH FUND Z235

PROGRAM SUMMARY

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$650,000	\$650,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$500	\$500
FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE	\$110,000	\$110,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$500	\$500
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$761,000	\$761,000

Sec. A-35. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE

Emergency Housing Matching Grant Program Fund Z390

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

Provides funds for the construction, renovation, or acquisition of new or existing buildings to provide emergency housing and shelter services or to cover the costs of leasing a building to provide emergency housing and shelter services.

**EMERGENCY HOUSING MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM FUND Z390
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Emergency Housing Relief Fund Program Z340

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$12,000,000	\$16,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$12,000,000	\$16,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000

Justification:

Provides funds to supplement or establish programs that address the needs of people experiencing homelessness or facing other immediate housing needs. Funds also provide financial assistance for various other housing emergency initiatives, such as operating subsidies for winter warming shelters and low-barrier homeless shelters and the integration of individuals in the State's workforce and communities.

**EMERGENCY HOUSING RELIEF FUND PROGRAM Z340
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$12,000,000	\$16,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$12,000,000	\$16,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000

Housing Authority - State 0442

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$59,429,414	\$93,845,500	\$23,845,500	\$23,845,500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$59,429,414	\$93,845,500	\$23,845,500	\$23,845,500

Justification:

The Housing Opportunities for Maine (HOME) Fund was created by the Legislature and the Governor in 1983 to provide a flexible source of funding to address the problems of affordable housing. The real estate transfer tax was doubled to provide a dedicated source of revenue to the Fund. Of the total tax collected, 10% stays with the county (as an agent fee) and the balance is split between the General Fund and the HOME Fund. The HOME Fund provides the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) with one of its most important financial resources. None of the money is used for any kind of administrative costs. The flexibility of the HOME Fund is significant. It enables MSHA to leverage federal funds, to reduce interest rates for first time homebuyers and for affordable multi-family developments, and to improve housing opportunities for renters in need, persons who are homeless and persons with special needs. The HOME Fund has brought homeownership to Maine citizens who otherwise would not have been able to afford it. It has also provided affordable rental housing to thousands of low-income families, the elderly, persons who are homeless, persons with disabilities and to homeowners to finance needed home modifications and repairs. Because these funds are relatively free of restrictions they are the critical piece in many projects where most of the pieces are in place but a key additional piece is needed to make the project possible.

Housing Authority - State 0442

Initiative: Adjusts funding to bring allocations in line with projected available resources for fiscal year 2025-26 and fiscal year 2026-27.

Ref. #: 1542

Committee Vote:

Do Vote

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$297,985	\$772,166
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$297,985	\$772,166

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue allocations with the Revenue Forecast.

Justification:

This initiative aligns funding with revenue as recommended in the December 1, 2024 forecast of the Revenue Forecasting Committee.

Housing Authority - State 0442

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to support the manufactured and mobile home park preservation and assistance program at MaineHousing.

Ref. #: 1543

One Time

Committee Vote:

In 11-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$3,000,000	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$3,000,000	\$0

Notes:

Part PP

Justification:

This initiative provides one-time funding to support the manufactured and mobile home park preservation and assistance program at MaineHousing.

**HOUSING AUTHORITY - STATE 0442
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$59,429,414	\$93,845,500	\$27,143,485	\$24,617,666
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$59,429,414	\$93,845,500	\$27,143,485	\$24,617,666

Housing First - MSHA Z381

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500

Justification:

Provides a base allocation to authorize the transfer of funds from the Department of Health and Human Services to be used to assist with capital and planning issues and the development of permanent housing to addresses chronic homelessness in accordance with the State's Housing First Program.

**HOUSING FIRST - MSHA Z381
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500	<hr/> \$500

Low-income Home Energy Assistance - MSHA 0708

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$7,500,545	\$7,500,545	\$545	\$545
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$7,500,545	\$7,500,545	\$545	\$545

Justification:

Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) assists the Public Utilities Commission to implement the Electric Assistance Program Fund. The Public Utilities Commission program subsidizes the electric bills of low-income households that qualify for the program. MSHA coordinates the flow of funds among the various utility companies by serving as a central processor. This program serves approximately 30,000 households per year.

**LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE - MSHA 0708
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$7,500,545	\$7,500,545	\$545	\$545
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$7,500,545	\$7,500,545	\$545	\$545

Maine Energy, Housing and Economic Recovery Program Z124

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$4,317,780	\$4,316,535	\$4,316,535	\$4,316,535
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$4,317,780	\$4,316,535	\$4,316,535	\$4,316,535

Justification:

The Maine Energy, Housing and Economic Recovery Program are used exclusively to pay debt service on issued bonds. No program funds are used to pay for any MaineHousing staff or other operational costs.

Maine Energy, Housing and Economic Recovery Program Z124

Initiative: Increases funding in fiscal year 2025-26 and decreases funding in fiscal year 2026-27 to bring debt service payments in accordance with the repayment schedule.

Ref. #: 1550

Committee Vote: IN 11-0 AFA Vote: _____

	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS		
All Other	\$672	(\$114)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$672	(\$114)

Justification:

This initiative will meet the legal contractual obligation to bond holders and avoid default.

**MAINE ENERGY, HOUSING AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM Z124
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$4,317,780	\$4,316,535	\$4,317,207	\$4,316,421
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$4,317,780	\$4,316,535	\$4,317,207	\$4,316,421

Shelter Operating Subsidy 0661

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000

Justification:

The Shelter Operating Subsidy (SOS) Program provides funding for emergency shelters that serve people who are homeless. These emergency shelters are society's ultimate safety net. Funds from this program are used statewide. Program funds help emergency shelters pay operating costs and improve conditions of emergency shelters to comply with code and regulatory requirements. These funds only cover a portion of a shelter's operating costs. The objective of the SOS Program is to keep emergency shelters operating to provide a safe haven for those who are homeless. Program funds Maine's emergency shelters that provide bed nights for Maine citizens. Maine State Housing Authority allocates the funds directly to the providers.

**SHELTER OPERATING SUBSIDY 0661
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000

HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$33,962,237	\$31,435,632
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$36,462,237	\$33,935,632

Sec. A-47. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

MAINE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Maine Office of Community Affairs Z396

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$158,437	\$165,739	\$167,186
All Other	\$0	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$170,437	\$177,739	\$179,186
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

The Maine Office of Community Affairs fosters communications and partnerships between the State and Maine towns and cities, Tribal governments and regional entities. The Office also coordinates efforts, technical assistance and financial support to better plan for challenges, pursue solutions and create stronger and more resilient communities. The Director position leads the office and staff and oversees the multiple state and federal programs designed to support local and regional governments.

**MAINE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS Z396
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$158,437	\$165,739	\$167,186
All Other	\$0	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$170,437	\$177,739	\$179,186

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$500

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$500

MAINE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$177,739	\$179,186
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$500	\$500
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$178,739	\$180,186

Sec. A-48. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

MAINE REDEVELOPMENT LAND BANK AUTHORITY

Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Fund Z346

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$1,845,000	\$1,845,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$1,845,000	\$1,845,000

Justification:

The Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority will assist municipalities and other entities redevelop abandoned, environmentally compromised or functionally obsolete properties back into productive use by using federal and technical resources.

MAINE REDEVELOPMENT LAND BANK FUND Z346

PROGRAM SUMMARY

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$1,845,000	\$1,845,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$1,845,000	\$1,845,000

MAINE REDEVELOPMENT LAND BANK AUTHORITY

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
 OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$1,845,000	\$1,845,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$1,845,000	\$1,845,000

Sec. A-51. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

MAINE-ISLAND OF IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION

Maine-Island of Ireland Trade Commission Z407

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$500

Justification:

The Maine-Island of Ireland Trade Commission shall work to advance bilateral trade and investment between Maine and the island of Ireland; initiate joint action of policy issues of mutual interest to Maine and the island of Ireland; promote business and academic exchanges between Maine and the island of Ireland; encourage mutual economic support between Maine and the island of Ireland; encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure of Maine and island of Ireland; and address other issues as determined by the commission.

MAINE-ISLAND OF IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION Z407

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$500

MAINE-ISLAND OF IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
 OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$500	\$500
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$500	\$500

Sec. A-61. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Manufactured Housing Board 0351

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$22,486	\$22,486	\$22,486	\$22,486
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$22,486	\$22,486	\$22,486	\$22,486

Justification:

The Manufactured Housing Board protects the public by licensing and regulating manufacturers, dealers of manufactured housing doing business in Maine and all mobile home parks in the state to protect the occupants from safety and health issues. The board enforces federal manufacturing and installation specifications for this kind of housing, inspects installations of manufactured housing units and assists consumers in resolving complaints with manufacturers and dealers. The board also administers the state warranty law applicable to manufactured housing. This program represents the United States Housing and Urban Development agency for the State of Maine and is authorized to discipline licensees when warranted.

MANUFACTURED HOUSING BOARD 0351

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$22,486	\$22,486	\$22,486	\$22,486
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$22,486	\$22,486	\$22,486	\$22,486

PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$22,486	\$22,486
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$22,486	\$22,486

Sec. A-66. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF

Division of Building Codes and Standards Z073

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Personal Services	\$174,066	\$179,620	\$184,724	\$198,460
All Other	\$60,014	\$60,109	\$60,109	\$60,109
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$234,080	\$239,729	\$244,833	\$258,569

Justification:

The Division of Building Codes and Standards exist to adopt, amend and maintain the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Codes and provide training for municipal building officials, local code enforcement officers, and third-party inspectors.

DIVISION OF BUILDING CODES AND STANDARDS Z073

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Personal Services	\$174,066	\$179,620	\$184,724	\$198,460
All Other	\$60,014	\$60,109	\$60,109	\$60,109
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$234,080	\$239,729	\$244,833	\$258,569

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS

2025-26

2026-27

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

\$244,833

\$258,569

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS

\$244,833

\$258,569

Sec. D-1. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Housing Opportunity Program Z336

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Housing Opportunity Program, Department of Economic and Community Development to the Housing Opportunity Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine.

Ref. #: 961

Committee Vote: IN 11-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	(\$2,060,118)	(\$2,046,660)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>(\$2,060,118)</u>	<u>(\$2,046,660)</u>

Notes:

Language Part D-5

Justification:

This initiative transfers All Other funding from the Housing Opportunity Program, Department of Economic and Community Development to the Housing Opportunity Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B.

Housing Opportunity Program Z336

Initiative: Transfers 2 Public Service Coordinator II positions from the Housing Opportunity Program, Department of Economic and Community Development to the Housing Opportunity Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. Two authorized positions and any incumbent personnel as of July 1, 2025 in the Department of Economic and Community Development are transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. All transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, will be classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Those employees will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 962

Committee Vote: IN-12-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	(2,000)	(2,000)
Personal Services	(\$327,236)	(\$340,694)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>(\$327,236)</u>	<u>(\$340,694)</u>

Notes:

Language Part D-5

Justification:

Transfers 2 Public Service Coordinator II positions from the Housing Opportunity Program, Department of Economic and Community Development to the Housing Opportunity Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B. These positions are limited-period positions that are being requested to become permanent in part A of the budget.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	(\$2,387,354)	(\$2,387,354)
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>(\$2,387,354)</u>	<u>(\$2,387,354)</u>

MAINE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Community Resilience Partnership Z412

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding for the community resilience partnership program from the GOPIF - Community Resilience Partnership program, Executive Department to the Community Resilience Partnership Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine.

Ref. #: 1341

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$3,003,660	\$3,003,660
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$3,003,660</u>	<u>\$3,003,660</u>

Ref. #: 1342

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$500</u>	<u>\$500</u>

Ref. #: 1343

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$5,000,500	\$5,000,500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$5,000,500</u>	<u>\$5,000,500</u>

Justification:

This initiative transfers All Other funding for the community resilience partnership program from the GOPIF - Community Resilience Partnership program, Executive Department to the Community Resilience Partnership Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B.

Community Resilience Partnership Z412

Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Coordinator II position from the GOPIF - Community Resilience Partnership program, Executive Department to the Community Resilience Partnership program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. One authorized position and any incumbent personnel as of July 1, 2025 in the Executive Department is transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. All transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, will be classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Those employees will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 1344

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$150,690	\$162,304
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$150,690	\$162,304

Justification:

This initiative transfers one Public Service Coordinator II position from the GOPIF - Community Resilience Partnership program, Executive Department to the Community Resilience Partnership program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B.

Division of Building Codes and Standards Z419

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding for the code enforcement program from the Division of Building Codes and Standards program, Department of Public Safety to the Division of Building Codes and Standards program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding and partnership with communities across Maine.

Ref. #: 1381

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$60,109	\$60,109
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$60,109	\$60,109

Justification:

This initiative transfers All Other funding for the code enforcement program from the Division of Building Codes and Standards program, Department of Public Safety to the Division of Building Codes and Standards program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding and partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B.

Division of Building Codes and Standards Z419

Initiative: Transfers one Public Safety Inspector III position and one Office Associate II position from the Division of Building Codes and Standards program, Department of Public Safety to the Division of Building Codes and Standards program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. Two authorized positions and any incumbent personnel as of July 1, 2025 in the Department of Public Safety are transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. All transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, will be classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Those employees will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 1382

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$179,050	\$192,497
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$179,050</u>	<u>\$192,497</u>

Justification:

This initiative transfers one Public Safety Inspector III position and one Office Associate II position from the Division of Building Codes and Standards program, Department of Public Safety to the Division of Building Codes and Standards program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B.

Housing Opportunity Program Z418

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Housing Opportunity Program, Department of Economic and Community Development to the Housing Opportunity Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine.

Ref. #: 1378

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$2,060,174	\$2,046,718
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$2,060,174</u>	<u>\$2,046,718</u>

Justification:

This initiative transfers All Other funding from the Housing Opportunity Program, Department of Economic and Community Development to the Housing Opportunity Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine.

This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B.

Housing Opportunity Program Z418

Initiative: Transfers 2 Public Service Coordinator II positions from the Housing Opportunity Program, Department of Economic and Community Development to the Housing Opportunity Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. Two authorized positions and any incumbent personnel as of July 1, 2025 in the Department of Economic and Community Development are transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. All transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, will be classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Those employees will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 1379

Committee Vote: IA 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$327,180	\$340,636
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$327,180</u>	<u>\$340,636</u>

Justification:

Transfers 2 Public Service Coordinator II positions from the Housing Opportunity Program, Department of Economic and Community Development to the Housing Opportunity Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B. These positions are limited-period positions that are being requested to become permanent in part A of the budget.

Maine Climate Corps Program Z416

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program - Maine Commission for Community Service and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Department of Education to the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Maine Office of Community Affairs, respectively and within the same respective funds, to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine.

Ref. #: 1370

Committee Vote: IA 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$9,328	\$9,328
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$9,328</u>	<u>\$9,328</u>

Justification:

This initiative transfers All Other funding from the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program - Maine Commission for Community Service and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Department of Education to the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Maine Office of Community Affairs, respectively and within the same

respective funds, to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B.

Maine Climate Corps Program Z416

Initiative: Transfers one Senior Planner position from the Maine Climate Corps Program - Maine Commission for Community Service, Department of Education to the Maine Climate Corps Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. One authorized position and any incumbent personnel as of July 1, 2025 in the Department of Education is transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. All transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, will be classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Those employees will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 1371

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$105,489	\$113,731
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$105,489</u>	<u>\$113,731</u>

Justification:

Transfers one Senior Planner position from the Maine Climate Corps Program - Maine Commission for Community Service, Department of Education to the Maine Climate Corps Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B. This position is a limited-period position that is being requested to become permanent in part A of the budget.

Maine Coastal Program Z413

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding for the Maine coastal program from the Bureau of Policy and Management program, Department of Marine Resources to the Maine Coastal Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same respective funds to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine.

Ref. #: 1346

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$1,097,473	\$1,097,508
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$1,097,473</u>	<u>\$1,097,508</u>

Ref. #: 1347

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$150,500	\$150,500

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$150,500

\$150,500

Justification:

This initiative transfers All Other funding for the Maine Coastal Program from the Bureau of Policy and Management program, Department of Marine Resources to the Maine Coastal Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same respective funds to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B.

Maine Coastal Program Z413

Initiative: Transfers one Senior Planner position, one Public Service Coordinator I position, one Public Service Manager II position and 2 Marine Resource Management Coordinator positions from the Bureau of Policy and Management program, Department of Marine Resources to the Maine Coastal Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. Five authorized positions and any incumbent personnel as of July 1, 2025 in the Department of Marine Resources are transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. All transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, will be classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Those employees will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 1348

Committee Vote: IA 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

2025-26

2026-27

POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT

5.000

5.000

Personal Services

\$658,826

\$699,834

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL

\$658,826

\$699,834

Justification:

Transfers one Senior Planner position, one Public Service Coordinator I position, one Public Service Manager II position and 2 Marine Resource Management Coordinator positions from the Bureau of Policy and Management program, Department of Marine Resources to the Maine Coastal Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B. One Marine Resource Management Coordinator position was reorganized from a Senior Planner position in Part A of the budget.

Maine Coastal Program Z413

Initiative: Transfers one Marine Resource Management Coordinator position from the Bureau of Policy and Management program, Department of Marine Resources to the Maine Coastal Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. One authorized position and any incumbent personnel as of July 1, 2025 in the Department of Marine Resources is transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. All transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, will be classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Those employees will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 1349

Committee Vote: IA 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$146,891	\$152,992
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$146,891	\$152,992

Justification:

This initiative transfers one Marine Resource Management Coordinator position from the Bureau of Policy and Management program, Department of Marine Resources to the Maine Coastal Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B. This position is a limited-period position that is being requested to become permanent in Part A of the budget.

Maine Coastal Program Z413

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Bureau of Policy and Management program, Department of Marine Resources to Maine Coastal Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine.

Ref. #: 1350

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$12,787	\$13,052
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$12,787	\$13,052

Justification:

This initiative transfer All Other funding related to one Marine Resource Management Coordinator position that is also being transferred from the Department of Marine Resources to the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

Maine Commission for Community Service Z415

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program - Maine Commission for Community Service and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Department of Education to the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Maine Office of Community Affairs, respectively and within the same respective funds, to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine.

Ref. #: 1360

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$53,276	\$53,276
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$53,276	\$53,276

Ref. #: 1361

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$2,269,136	\$2,269,136
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$2,269,136	\$2,269,136

Ref. #: 1362

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$194,282	\$194,282
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$194,282	\$194,282

Justification:

This initiative transfers All Other funding from the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program - Maine Commission for Community Service and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Department of Education to the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Maine Office of Community Affairs, respectively and within the same respective funds, to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B.

Maine Commission for Community Service Z415

Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Manager I position and 3 Senior Planner positions in the Maine Commission for Community Service program from Department of Education to the Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same respective funds and transfers and reallocates the cost of one Senior Planner position in the Maine Commission for Community Service program from 60% Federal Expenditures Fund and 40% General Fund in the Department of Education to 75% General Fund and 25% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Maine Office of Community Affairs. Five authorized positions and any incumbent personnel as of July 1, 2025 in the Department of Education are transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. All transferred positions will be classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of positions as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Each employee will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 1363

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$79,117	\$85,301
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$79,117	\$85,301

Ref. #: 1364

Committee Vote: IN-10-0 AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	4.000	4.000
Personal Services	\$515,761	\$543,772
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$515,761	\$543,772

Justification:

Transfers one Public Service Manager I position and 3 Senior Planner positions from the Maine Commission for Community Service program, Department of Education to the Maine Commission for Community Service program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same respective funds and transfers and reallocates the cost of one Senior Planner position from 60% Federal Expenditures Fund and 40% General Fund in the Maine Commission for Community Service program, Department of Education to 75% General Fund and 25% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Maine Commission for Community Service program, Maine Office of Community Affairs to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B. The federal grant funding one of the Senior Planner positions is no longer available to cover the full costs of the position.

Maine Commission for Community Service Z415

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the cost of one Secretary Specialist position from 75% Federal Expenditures Funds and 25% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Maine Commission for Community Service program, Department of Education to 70% General Fund and 30% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Maine Commission for Community Service program, Maine Office of Community Affairs to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. One authorized position and any incumbent personnel as of July 1, 2025 in the Department of Education is transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. All transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, will be classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Those employees will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 1365

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$62,947	\$67,917
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$62,947	\$67,917

Ref. #: 1366

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$26,975	\$29,106
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$26,975	\$29,106

Justification:

This initiative transfers and reallocates the cost of one Secretary Specialist position from 75% Federal Expenditures Funds and 25% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Maine Commission for Community Service program, Department of Education to 70% General Fund and 30% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Maine Commission for Community Service program, Maine Office of Community Affairs to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B. There is not enough available funding in the Other Special Revenue Funds to support 25% of the cost of the position and there is not enough funding in the Federal Expenditures Fund to maintain funding at 75% of the cost of the position. This initiative aligns the cost of this position with available funding.

Maine Commission for Community Service Z415

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Secretary Specialist position to a Management Analyst I position.

Ref. #: 1367

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$1,158	\$1,333
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$1,158</u>	<u>\$1,333</u>

Ref. #: 1368

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$496	\$571
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$496</u>	<u>\$571</u>

Justification:

This initiative provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Secretary Specialist position to a Management Analyst I position. This position will assume financial reporting responsibilities including updating program budgets, expenditures, tracking in-kind match and account reconciliation.

Maine Floodplain Program Z420

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding for the Maine floodplain program from Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Maine Office of Community Affairs to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine.

Ref. #: 1384

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$14,190	\$14,190
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$14,190</u>	<u>\$14,190</u>

Ref. #: 1385

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$49,909	\$49,909
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$49,909</u>	<u>\$49,909</u>

Ref. #: 1386

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$500

\$500

Justification:

This initiative transfers All Other funding for the Maine Floodplain Program from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Maine Floodplain Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same respective funds and transfers position related All Other funding from 85% General Fund and 15% Other Special Revenue Funds, DACF Administration program in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to 100% General Fund, Municipal Planning Assistance program in the Maine Office of Community Affairs to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B. The funding associated with the position related All Other costs in the DACF Administration program, Other Special Revenue Funds in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry will not be transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs so additional funding is being requested in the General Fund to cover the position related All Other costs in the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

Maine Floodplain Program Z420

Initiative: Transfers one Senior Planner position and one Planner II position from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Maine Floodplain Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same respective funds to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. Two authorized positions and any incumbent personnel as of July 1, 2025 in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry are transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. All transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, will be classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Those employees will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 1387

Committee Vote:

IN 100

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

2025-26

2026-27

POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT

1.000

1.000

Personal Services

\$101,480

\$105,606

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

\$101,480

\$105,606

Ref. #: 1388

Committee Vote:

IN 100

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

2025-26

2026-27

POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT

1.000

1.000

Personal Services

\$126,284

\$134,251

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL

\$126,284

\$134,251

Justification:

This initiative transfers one Senior Planner position and one Planner II position from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Maine Floodplain Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same respective funds to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B.

Maine Office of Community Affairs Z396

Initiative: Establishes one Secretary Specialist position and one Public Service Coordinator I position to provide administrative support for the new Office of Community Affairs and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 1336

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2,000	2,000
Personal Services	\$214,376	\$231,076
All Other	\$17,826	\$17,826
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$232,202	\$248,902

Justification:

This initiative establishes one Secretary Specialist position and one Public Service Coordinator I position to provide administrative support for the new Office of Community Affairs and provides funding for related All Other costs. These positions will provide administrative support for the new office, including but not limited to grant and financial reporting, preparing invoices, and other general operating administrative services.

Maine Office of Community Affairs Z396

Initiative: Continues 3 limited-period Public Service Manager II positions and one limited-period Public Service Executive II position previously established by financial order through January 1, 2030 to support activities under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration climate resilience regional challenge grant and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 1337

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$552,805	\$598,336
All Other	\$35,652	\$35,652
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$588,457	\$633,988

Justification:

The 3 limited-period Public Service Manager II positions and one limited-period Public Service Executive II position will support activities under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Resilience Regional Challenge (CRRC) grant with a focus on reducing climate impacts through nature-based solutions; strengthening the resilience of Maine's working waterfronts; and building enduring capacity to prepare for, and respond to, climate effects on our communities, people and economy.

Maine Office of Community Affairs Z396

Initiative: Provides funding for DICAP costs.

Ref. #: 1338

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$500 \$500

Justification:

The DICAP costs are not currently known because the office has not yet been fully implemented. This initiative provides a base allocation so the office can continue operations once the office is fully implemented and the DICAP costs become known.

Maine Office of Community Affairs Z396

Initiative: Provides funding for the Department's share of the cost for the financial and human resources service center within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Ref. #: 1339

Committee Vote:

IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

2025-26 2026-27

All Other

\$20,000 \$20,000

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

\$20,000 \$20,000

Justification:

Service Centers within DAFS provide centralized accounting, payroll, budgeting and human resources services to departments and agencies. Service Centers are established as an internal service fund intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies for services provided. This recoupment process results in billing rates to departments and agencies.

Maine Service Fellows Program Z417

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program - Maine Commission for Community Service and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Department of Education to the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Maine Office of Community Affairs, respectively and within the same respective funds, to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine.

Ref. #: 1373

Committee Vote:

IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

2025-26 2026-27

All Other

\$500 \$500

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL

\$500 \$500

Ref. #: 1374

Committee Vote:

IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

2025-26 2026-27

All Other

\$500 \$500

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$500 \$500

Justification:

This initiative transfers All Other funding from the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program - Maine Commission for Community Service and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Department of Education to the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Climate Corps Program and the Maine Service Fellows Program in the Maine Office of Community Affairs, respectively and within the same respective funds, to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B.

Maine Service Fellows Program Z417

Initiative: Transfers one limited-period Volunteer Services Coordinator position from the Maine Service Fellows Program, Department of Education to the Maine Service Fellows Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. One authorized position and any incumbent personnel as of July 1, 2025 in the Department of Education is transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. All transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, will be classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Those employees will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 1375

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$98,505	\$106,448
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$98,505</u>	<u>\$106,448</u>

Justification:

This initiative transfers one limited-period Volunteer Services Coordinator position from the Maine Service Fellows Program, Department of Education to the Maine Service Fellows Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs as established by Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B. This limited-period position is being requested to continue through September 30, 2029 in Part A of the budget.

Maine Service Fellows Program Z417

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Maine Services Fellows Program, Department of Education to the Maine Service Fellows Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine.

Ref. #: 1376

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$12,433	\$12,072
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$12,433</u>	<u>\$12,072</u>

Justification:

This initiative transfer All Other funding related to one limited-period Volunteer Services Coordinator position that is also being transferred from the Department of Education to the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

Municipal Planning Assistance Z414

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding for the municipal planning assistance program from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Maine Office of Community Affairs to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine.

Ref. #: 1352

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$179,789	\$179,789
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$179,789</u>	<u>\$179,789</u>

Ref. #: 1353

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$577,978	\$577,978
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$577,978</u>	<u>\$577,978</u>

Justification:

This initiative transfers All Other funding for the Municipal Planning Assistance Program from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Municipal Planning Assistance program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same respective funds and transfers position related All Other funding from 85% General Fund and 15% Other Special Revenue Funds, DACF Administration program in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to 100% General Fund, Municipal Planning Assistance program in the Maine Office of Community Affairs to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B. The funding associated with the position related All Other costs in the DACF Administration program, Other Special Revenue Funds in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry will not be transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs so additional funding is being requested in the General Fund to cover the position related All Other costs in the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

Municipal Planning Assistance Z414

Initiative: Transfers one Senior Planner position and one Public Service Manager I position and transfer and reallocates the cost of one Senior Planner position from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Municipal Planning Assistance program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same funds and from the Other Special Revenue Funds to the General Fund respectively. Three authorized positions and any incumbent personnel as of July 1, 2025 in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry are transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. All transferred positions will be classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of positions as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Each employee will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 1354

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$267,518	\$281,947
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$267,518</u>	<u>\$281,947</u>

Ref. #: 1355

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$105,489	\$113,731
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$105,489</u>	<u>\$113,731</u>

Justification:

Transfers one Senior Planner position and one Public Service Manager I position from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Municipal Planning Assistance program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same respective funds and one Senior Planner position from the Geology and Resource Information program, Other Special Revenue Funds in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Municipal Planning Assistance program, General Fund in the Maine Office of Community Affairs to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B. The Senior Planner position is currently funded in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's DICAP account and will no longer be funded by that DICAP revenue once transferred. The Maine Office of Community Affairs does not currently have a functioning DICAP account to fund the position.

Municipal Planning Assistance Z414

Initiative: Transfers one Senior Planner position and one Planner II position from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Municipal Planning Assistance program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. Two authorized positions and any incumbent personnel as of July 1, 2025 in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry are transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. All transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, will be classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Those employees will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 1356

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$214,475	\$230,828
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$214,475</u>	<u>\$230,828</u>

Justification:

This initiative transfers one Senior Planner position and one Planner II position from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Municipal Planning Assistance program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B. These positions are limited-period positions that are being requested to become permanent in part A of the budget.

Municipal Planning Assistance Z414

Initiative: Transfers position related All Other funding from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

Ref. #: 1357

Committee Vote:

IN DO

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$14,888	\$14,888
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$14,888	\$14,888

Justification:

This initiative transfers position related All Other funding from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Municipal Planning Assistance program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund and transfers position related All Other funding from 85% General Fund and 15% Other Special Revenue Funds, DACF Administration program in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to 100% General Fund, Municipal Planning Assistance program in the Maine Office of Community Affairs. This All Other funding is related to one Senior Planner position that is also being transferred from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The funding associated with the costs in the DACF Administration program, Other Special Revenue Funds in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry will not be transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs so additional funding is being requested in the General Fund to cover the costs in the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

MAINE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$6,897,561	\$6,980,354
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$6,288,400	\$6,435,348
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$5,585,941	\$5,599,388
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$18,771,902	\$19,015,090

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF

Division of Building Codes and Standards Z073

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding for the code enforcement program from the Division of Building Codes and Standards program, Department of Public Safety to the Division of Building Codes and Standards program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding and partnership with communities across Maine.

Ref. #: 3051

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	(\$60,109)	(\$60,109)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	(\$60,109)	(\$60,109)

Notes:

See Part D.

Justification:

This initiative transfers All Other funding for the code enforcement program from the Division of Building Codes and Standards program, Department of Public Safety to the Division of Building Codes and Standards program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding and partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B.

Division of Building Codes and Standards Z073

Initiative: Transfers one Public Safety Inspector III position and one Office Associate II position from the Division of Building Codes and Standards program, Department of Public Safety to the Division of Building Codes and Standards program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. Two authorized positions and any incumbent personnel as of July 1, 2025 in the Department of Public Safety are transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. All transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, will be classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Those employees will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 3052

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	(2,000)	(2,000)
Personal Services	(\$184,724)	(\$198,460)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	(\$184,724)	(\$198,460)

Notes:

See Part D.

Justification:

This initiative transfers one Public Safety Inspector III position and one Office Associate II position from the Division of Building Codes and Standards program, Department of Public Safety to the Division of Building Codes and Standards program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B.

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	(\$244,833)	(\$258,569)
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	(\$244,833)	(\$258,569)

SECTION TOTALS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$0	\$4,510,207	\$4,593,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$0	\$6,288,400	\$6,435,348
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$0	\$5,341,108	\$5,340,819
SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$0	\$16,139,715	\$16,369,167

IN 10-0
with
changes
(see memo)

PART D

Sec. D-1. 5 MRSA §3109, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. 0000, §1, is repealed.

Sec. D-2. 5 MRSA c. 310-B, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 643, §D2, is amended to read:

CHAPTER 310-B

MAINE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

SUBCHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§3201. 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 appointed pursuant to section 3203.

2. Office. "Office" means the Maine Office of Community Affairs established by section 3202.

§3202. Office established; purpose

The Maine Office of Community Affairs is established ~~as an agency in the executive branch~~ to foster communications and partnerships across state agencies and between the State and communities in this State. The office shall engage with municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils to provide coordinated and efficient planning, technical assistance and financial support to better plan for challenges, pursue solutions and create stronger, more resilient communities.

The office is established to partner with communities in this State and regional councils by:

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

2. Coordination and communication. Facilitating general coordination and communication between municipalities, tribal governments, regional councils and State Government.

§3203. Director

The Director of the Maine Office of Community Affairs is appointed by the Governor and serves at the pleasure of the Governor. The director must have demonstrated experience and leadership in municipal or regional government and must bring expertise in planning, technical assistance and grant programs for communities.

§3204. 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 director. The director shall:

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

(1) Hiring professional staff that have 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 additional staff 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 communication and partnerships between the State, municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils in this State;

C. At the request of the Governor, act for the State in the initiation of or participation in any multigovernmental 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 recommendations for legislative action as are determined necessary to further the purposes of this chapter.

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

A. Provide technical assistance and resources to municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils on issues related to planning, climate resilience and development;

B. Collect and collate data and statistics relating to the issues described in paragraph A and provide them to municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils;

C. Assist municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils, 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 office by the Legislature and any funds received by the office for the purposes of the office, including federal funding or private funds; 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 regional councils and regional planning and development districts to provide technical assistance and resources to municipalities and tribal governments on issues related to planning, climate 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 this State, 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; Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency; Department of Public Safety; Maine State Housing Authority; Governor's Energy Office; Efficiency Maine Trust; the Maine Historic Preservation Commission; and the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority.

G. The office may adopt rules as necessary for the proper administration and enforcement of this chapter, pursuant to the Maine Administrative Procedures Act. Unless otherwise specified, rules adopted pursuant to this chapter are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2 A.

§3205. 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 having jurisdiction over municipal matters on an annual basis.

A. The office may adopt rules to administer grants and other fund disbursements. Rules adopted pursuant to this program are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

B. To maximize the availability of technical and financial assistance programs to all communities, including municipalities and tribes, and to multi-community regions and service providers, financial assistance programs administered competitively by this Office are exempt from rules adopted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services procurement authorities in Title 5, Ch. 155 and any rules promulgated thereto for use in the purchasing of services and the awarding of grants and contracts.

C. The office shall publish a program statement describing its grant programs and advertising its availability to eligible applicants.

D. Grants awarded pursuant to this exemption may be for a period of up to 2 years. Recipients of grant funds through the programs shall cooperate with the office's performance of periodic evaluations. The recipients shall meet the office's specific reporting requirements.

E. The office may adjudicate appeals of grant disbursement decisions made under its authority. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, an adjudicatory hearing on an appeal must be held in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.

§3206. 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 that promote the objectives of this chapter.

Sec. D-3. 5 MRSA c. 310-B, sub-c. 2 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 2

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

§3207. Community Resilience Partnership Program

1. Definition. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "community" means a municipal government, tribal government, plantation, township or unorganized territory.

2. Program established; administration. The Community Resilience Partnership Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the office to provide direction, assistance and grants to communities in the State to help the communities reduce carbon emissions, transition to clean energy and become more resilient to the effects of climate change. The office shall administer the program to provide technical and financial assistance for local and regional planning and implementation projects consistent with the State's emissions reduction targets under Title 38, section 576 A and the state climate action plan under Title 38, section 577.

3. Grants. The program shall 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.

A. The program may solicit applications for grants and make grant awards through a competitive process to eligible communities and to service provider organizations as determined by the program.

B. The office may establish eligibility requirements and other criteria to consider in awarding grants, as long as the criteria support the goals to help communities reduce carbon emissions, transition to clean energy and become more resilient to the effects of climate change.

4. Other technical assistance. The program may provide other technical assistance and knowledge sharing that may include, but is not limited to, assisting communities with information about available grant opportunities, sharing best practices from jurisdictions inside and outside the State, providing model language for local ordinances and policies and providing information to the general public that may support local and statewide policy changes meant to reduce emissions, encourage the transition to clean energy and increase resiliency to the effects of climate change.

§3208. Coastal zone management program

Implement and manage coastal zone management program. The office, under direction of the director, shall manage and coordinate implementation and ongoing development and improvement of a state coastal zone management program in accordance with and in furtherance of the requirements of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, 16 United States Code, Sections 1451 to 1466 (2012) and the State's coastal management policies established in Title 38, section 1801. The office may:

- A. Implement aspects of the state coastal zone management program and be the lead state agency for purposes of federal consistency review under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, 16 United States Code, Section 1456 (2012);
- B. Receive and administer funds from public or private sources for implementation of the state coastal zone management program; and
- C. Act as the coordinating agency among the several officers, authorities, boards, commissions, departments and political subdivisions of the State on matters relative to management of coastal resources and related human uses in the coastal area.

§ 3209. Floodplain management

The floodplain management program is established within the office. The office shall serve as the state coordinating agency for the National Flood Insurance Program pursuant to 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 60 and in that capacity shall oversee delivery of technical assistance and resources to municipalities for the purpose of floodplain management activities and shall administer the State Floodplain Mapping Fund under Title 5, section 3210.

§ 3210. State Floodplain Mapping Fund

1. Fund established. The State Floodplain Mapping Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a dedicated, nonlapsing fund administered by the office for the purpose of providing funds for the mapping of floodplains in the State using light detection and ranging technology.

2. Sources of funding. The fund consists of any money received from the following sources:

- A. Contributions from private sources;
- B. Federal funds and awards;
- C. The proceeds of any bonds issued for the purposes for which the fund is established; and
- D. Any other funds received in support of the purposes for which the fund is established.

3. Disbursements from the fund. The office shall apply the money in the fund toward the support of floodplain mapping in the State, including, but not limited to, the acquisition of light detection and ranging elevation data and the processing and production of floodplain maps.

Sec. D-4. 5 MRSA c. 310-B, sub-c. 3 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 3

MUNICIPAL PLANNING ASSISTANCE

§3211. Municipal planning assistance program; purpose, administration

Under the provisions of this program, a municipality or multimunicipal region may request financial or technical assistance from the office for the purpose of planning and implementing a growth management program. A municipality or multimunicipal region that requests and receives a financial assistance grant shall develop and implement its growth management program in cooperation with the office and in a manner consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in this subchapter and in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2.

To accomplish the purposes of this subchapter, the office shall develop and administer a technical and financial assistance program for municipalities or multimunicipal regions. The program must include direct financial assistance for planning and implementation of growth management programs, standards governing the review of growth management programs by the office, technical assistance to municipalities or multimunicipal regions and a voluntary certification program for growth management programs.

§ 3211-A. Municipal planning assistance program; technical and financial assistance

The technical and financial assistance program for municipalities, regional councils and multimunicipal regions is established to encourage and facilitate the adoption and implementation of local, regional and statewide growth management programs.

The office may enter into financial assistance grants only to the extent that funds are available. In making grants, the office shall consider the need for planning in a municipality or multimunicipal region, the proximity of the municipality or multimunicipal region to other areas that are conducting or have completed the planning process and the economic and geographic role of the municipality or multimunicipal region within a regional context. The office shall give priority in making grants to any municipality or multimunicipal region that has adopted a local climate action plan and, if the municipality or multimunicipal region has adopted a comprehensive plan or growth management program, prepared a climate vulnerability assessment pursuant to Title 30-A, section 4326, subsection 1, paragraph L. The office may consider other criteria in making grants, as long as the criteria support the goal of encouraging and facilitating the adoption and implementation of local and multimunicipal growth management programs consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in this subchapter.

1. Planning assistance grants.

2. Implementation assistance grants.

2-A. Financial assistance grants. A contract for a financial assistance grant must:

A. Provide for the payment of a specific amount for the purposes of planning and preparing a comprehensive plan;

B. Provide for the payment of a specific amount for the purposes of implementing that plan; and

C. Include specific timetables governing the preparation and submission of products by the municipality or multimunicipal region.

The office may not require a municipality or multimunicipal region to provide matching funds in excess of 25% of the value of that municipality's or multimunicipal region's financial assistance contract for its first planning assistance grant and implementation assistance grant. The office may require a higher match for other grants, including, but not limited to, grants for the purpose of updating comprehensive plans. This match limitation does not apply to distribution of federal funds that the office may administer.

2-B. Use of funds. A municipality or multimunicipal region may expend financial assistance grants for:

A. The conduct of surveys, inventories and other data-gathering activities;

B. The hiring of planning and other technical staff;

C. The retention of planning consultants;

D. Contracts with regional councils for planning and related services;

E. Assistance in the development of ordinances;

F. Retention of technical and legal expertise;

G. The updating of growth management programs or components of a program;

G-1. Evaluation of growth management programs; and

H. Any other purpose agreed to by the office and the municipality or multimunicipal region that is directly related to the preparation of a comprehensive plan or the implementation of a comprehensive plan adopted in accordance with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in this subchapter.

2-C. Program evaluation. Any recipient of a financial assistance grant shall cooperate with the office in performing program evaluations required under Title 30-A, section 4331.

2-D. Encumbered balances at year-end. Notwithstanding Title 5, section 1589, at the end of each fiscal year, all encumbered balances accounts for financial assistance and regional planning grants may be carried forward for 2 years beyond the year in which those balances are encumbered.

3. Technical assistance. Using its own staff, the staff of other state agencies, contractors and the resources of the regional councils, the office shall provide technical assistance to municipalities or multimunicipal regions in the development, administration and enforcement of growth management programs. The technical assistance component of the program must include a set of model land use ordinances or other implementation strategies developed by the office that are consistent with this subchapter.

4. Regional council assistance. As part of the technical and financial assistance program, the office may develop and administer a program to develop regional education and training programs, regional policies to address state goals and regional assessments. Regional assessments may include, but are not limited to, public infrastructure, inventories of agricultural and commercial forest lands, housing needs, recreation and open space needs, and projections of regional growth and economic development. The program may include guidelines to ensure methodological consistency among the State's regional councils. To implement this program, the office may contract with regional councils to assist the office in reviewing growth management programs, to develop necessary planning information at a regional level or to provide support for local planning efforts.

5. Coordination. State agencies with regulatory or other authority affecting the goals established in this subchapter shall conduct their respective activities in a manner consistent with the goals established under this subchapter, including, but not limited to, coordinating with municipalities, regional councils and other state agencies in meeting the state goals; providing available information to regions and municipalities as described in Title 30-A, section 4326, subsection 1; cooperating with efforts to integrate and provide access to geographic information system data; making state investments and awarding grant money as described in section Title 5, section 3211-C; and conducting reviews of growth management programs as provided in Title 5, section 3211-B, subsection 3, paragraph A. Without limiting the application of this section to other state agencies, the following agencies shall comply with this subchapter:

A. Department of Economic and Community Development;

B. Department of Environmental Protection;

C. Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry;

D. Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife;

E. Department of Marine Resources;

F. Department of Transportation;

G. Department of Health and Human Services;

H. Finance Authority of Maine; and

I. Maine State Housing Authority.

§3211-B. Municipal planning assistance program; review of programs

1. Comprehensive plans. A municipality or multimunicipal region that chooses to prepare a growth management program and receives a planning grant under Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 shall submit its comprehensive plan to the office for review. A municipality or multimunicipal region that chooses to prepare a growth management program without receiving a planning grant under this subchapter may submit its comprehensive plan to the office for review. The office shall review plans for consistency with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2. A contract for a planning assistance grant must include

specific timetables governing the review of the comprehensive plan by the office. A comprehensive plan submitted for review more than 12 months following a contract end date may be required to contain data, projections and other time-sensitive portions of the plan or program that are in compliance with the office's most current review standards.

2. Growth management programs. A municipality or multimunicipal region may at any time request a certificate of consistency for its growth management program.

A. Upon a request for review under this section, the office shall review the program and determine whether the program is consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2.

B. Certification by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or the office of a municipality's or multimunicipal region's growth management program under Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 is valid for 10 years. To maintain certification, a municipality or multimunicipal region shall periodically review its growth management program and submit to the office in a timely manner any revisions necessary to account for changes, including changes caused by growth and development. Certification does not lapse in any year in which the Legislature does not appropriate funds to the office for the purposes of reviewing programs for recertification.

C. Upon a request for review under this section, the office may review rate of growth, impact fee and zoning ordinances to determine whether the ordinances are consistent with a comprehensive plan that has been found consistent under this section without requiring submission of all elements of a growth management program. An affirmative finding of consistency by the office is required for a municipality or multimunicipal region to assert jurisdiction as provided in section Title 4, section 3211-C.

3. Review of growth management program. In reviewing a growth management program, the office shall:

A. Solicit written comments on any proposed growth management program from regional councils, state agencies, all municipalities contiguous to the municipality or multimunicipal region submitting a growth management program and any interested residents of the municipality or multimunicipal region or of contiguous municipalities. The comment period extends for 45 days after the office receives the growth management program.

(1) Each state agency reviewing the proposal shall designate a person or persons responsible for coordinating the agency's review of the growth management program.

(2) Any regional council commenting on a growth management program shall determine whether the program is compatible with the programs of other municipalities that may be affected by the program and with regional policies or needs identified by the regional council;

B. Prepare all written comments from all sources in a form to be forwarded to the municipality or multimunicipal region;

C. Within 90 days after receiving the growth management program, send all written comments on the growth management program to the municipality or multimunicipal region and any applicable regional council. If warranted, the office shall issue findings specifically describing how the submitted growth management program is not consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 and the recommended measures for remedying the deficiencies.

(1) In its findings, the office shall clearly indicate its position on any point on which there are significant conflicts among the written comments submitted to the office.

(2) If the office finds that the growth management program was adopted in accordance with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2, the office shall issue a certificate of consistency for the growth management program.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph D, if a municipality or multimunicipal region requests a certificate of consistency for its growth management program, any unmodified component of that program that has previously been reviewed by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and has received a finding of consistency will retain that finding during program certification review by the office as long as the finding of consistency is current as defined in rules adopted by the office;

D. Provide ample opportunity for the municipality or multimunicipal region submitting a growth management program to respond to and correct any identified deficiencies in the program. A finding of inconsistency for a growth management program may be addressed within 24 months of the date of the finding without addressing any new review standards that are created during that time interval. After 24 months, the program must be resubmitted in its entirety for state review under the office's most current review standards; and

E. Provide an expedited review and certification procedure for those submissions that represent minor amendments to certified growth management programs.

The office's decision on consistency of a growth management program constitutes final agency action.

3-A. Review of comprehensive plan. In reviewing a comprehensive plan, the office shall:

A. Solicit written comments on any proposed comprehensive plan from regional councils, state agencies, all municipalities contiguous to the municipality or multimunicipal region submitting a comprehensive plan and any interested residents of the municipality or multimunicipal region or of contiguous municipalities. The comment period extends for 25 business days after the office receives the comprehensive plan. Each state agency reviewing the proposal shall designate a person or persons responsible for coordinating the agency's review of the comprehensive plan;

B. Prepare all written comments from all sources in a form to be forwarded to the municipality or multimunicipal region;

C. Within 35 business days after receiving the comprehensive plan, notify the municipality or multimunicipal region if the plan is complete for purposes of review. If the office notifies the municipality or multimunicipal region that the plan is not complete for purposes of review, the office shall indicate in its notice necessary additional data or information;

D. Within 10 business days of issuing notification that a comprehensive plan is complete for purposes of review, issue findings specifically describing whether the submitted plan is consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 and identify which inconsistencies in the plan, if any, may directly affect rate of growth, zoning or impact fee ordinances.

(1) In its findings, the office shall clearly indicate its position on any point on which there are significant conflicts among the written comments submitted to the office.

(2) If the office finds that the comprehensive plan was developed in accordance with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2, the office shall issue a finding of consistency for the comprehensive plan.

(3) A finding of inconsistency must identify the goals under Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 not adequately addressed, specific sections of the rules relating to comprehensive plan review adopted by the office not adequately addressed and recommendations for resolving the inconsistency;

E. Send all written findings and comments on the comprehensive plan to the municipality or multimunicipal region and any applicable regional council; and

F. Provide ample opportunity for the municipality or multimunicipal region submitting a comprehensive plan to respond to and correct any identified deficiencies in the plan. A finding of inconsistency for a comprehensive plan may be addressed within 24 months of the date of the finding without addressing any new review standards that are created during that time interval. After 24 months, the plan must be resubmitted in its entirety for state review under the office's most current review standards.

If the office finds that a plan is not consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2, the municipality or multimunicipal district that submitted the plan may appeal that finding to the office within 20 business days of receipt of the finding in accordance with rules adopted by the office, which are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2 A.

The office's decision on consistency of a comprehensive plan constitutes final agency action.

A finding by the office pursuant to paragraph D that a comprehensive plan is consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 is valid for 12 years from the date of its issuance. For purposes of Title 30-A, section 4314, subsection 3 and Title 30-A, section 4352, subsection 2, expiration of a finding of consistency pursuant to this subsection does not itself make a comprehensive plan inconsistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in this subchapter.

4. Updates and amendments. A municipality or multimunicipal region may submit proposed amendments to a comprehensive plan or growth management program to the office for review in the same manner as provided for the review of new plans and programs. Subsequent to voluntary certification under Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2, the municipality or multimunicipal region shall file a copy of an amendment to a growth management program with the office within 30 days after adopting the amendment and at least 60 days prior to applying for any state grant program that offers a preference for consistency or certification.

5. Regional councils. Subject to the availability of funding and pursuant to the conditions of a contract, each regional council shall review and submit written comments on the comprehensive plan or growth management program of any municipality or multimunicipal region within its planning region. The comments must be submitted to the office and contain an analysis of:

A. Whether the comprehensive plan or growth management program is compatible with identified regional policies and needs; and

B. Whether the comprehensive plan or growth management program is compatible with plans or programs of municipalities or multimunicipal regions that may be affected by the proposal.

§3211-C. Municipal planning assistance program; state capital investments

1. Growth-related capital investments. The State may make growth-related capital investments only in:

A. A locally designated growth area, as identified in a comprehensive plan adopted pursuant to and consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines of Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 or as identified in a growth management program certified under section 3211-B.

B. In the absence of a consistent comprehensive plan, an area served by a public sewer system that has the capacity for the growth-related project, an area identified in the latest **Federal Decennial Census** as a census-designated place or a compact area of an urban compact municipality as defined by Title 23, section 754; or

C. Areas other than those described in paragraph A or B for the following projects:

(1) A project related to a commercial or industrial activity that, due to its operational or physical characteristics, typically is located away from other development, such as an activity that relies on a particular natural resource for its operation;

(2) An airport, port or railroad or industry that must be proximate to an airport, a port or a railroad line or terminal;

(3) A pollution control facility;

(4) A project that maintains, expands or promotes a tourist or cultural facility that is required to be proximate to a specific historic, natural or cultural resource or a building or improvement that is related to and required to be proximate to land acquired for a park, conservation, open space or public access or to an agricultural, conservation or historic easement;

(5) A project located in a municipality that has none of the geographic areas described in paragraph A or B and that prior to January 1, 2000 formally requested but had not received from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry funds to assist with the preparation of a comprehensive plan or that received funds from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to assist with the preparation of a comprehensive plan within the previous 2 years. This exception expires for a municipality 2 years after such funds are received; or

(6) A housing project serving the following: individuals with mental illness, developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, brain injuries, substance use disorder or a human immunodeficiency virus; homeless individuals; victims of domestic violence; foster children; children or adults in the custody of the State; or individuals with a household income of no more than 80% of the area median income if the project has 18 or fewer units and receives funding through a program administered by the Maine State Housing Authority. A nursing home is not considered a housing project under this paragraph.

2. State facilities. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services shall develop site selection criteria for state office buildings, state courts, hospitals and other quasi-public facilities and other civic buildings that serve public clients and customers, whether owned or leased by the State, that give preference to the priority locations identified in this subsection while ensuring safe, healthy, appropriate work space for employees and clients and accounting for agency requirements. On-site parking may only be required if it is necessary to meet critical program needs and to ensure reasonable access for agency clients and persons with disabilities. Employee parking that is within reasonable walking distance may be located off site. If there is a change in employee parking from on-site parking to off-site parking, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services must consult with the duly authorized bargaining agent or agents of the employees. Preference must be given to priority locations in the following order: service center downtowns, service center growth areas and downtowns and growth areas in other than service center communities. If no suitable priority location exists or if the priority location would impose an undue financial hardship on the occupant or is not within a reasonable distance of the clients and customers served, the facility must be located in accordance with subsection 1. The following state facilities are exempt from this subsection: a lease of less than 500 square feet; and a lease with a tenure of less than one year, including renewals.

2-A. State's role in implementation of growth management programs. All state agencies, as partners in local and regional growth management efforts, shall contribute to the successful implementation of comprehensive plans and growth management programs adopted under this subchapter by making investments, delivering programs and awarding grants in a manner that reinforces the policies and strategies within the plans or programs. Assistance must be provided within the confines of agency policies, available resources and considerations related to overriding state interest.

3. Preference for other state grants and investments.

3-A. Preference for other state grants and investments. Preference for other state grants and investments is governed by this subsection.

A. When awarding a grant or making a discretionary investment under any of the programs under paragraph B, subparagraphs (1) and (2) or when undertaking its own capital investment programs other than for projects identified in Title 30-A section 4301, subsection 5 B, a state agency shall respect the primary purpose of its grant or investment program and, to the extent feasible, give preference:

(1) First, to a municipality that has received a certificate of consistency for its growth management program under section 3211-B.

(2) Second, to a municipality that has adopted a comprehensive plan that the former State Planning Office, the Municipal Planning Assistance Program at the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, or the office has determined is consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines of Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 and has adopted zoning ordinances that the former State Planning Office, the Municipal Planning Assistance Program at the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, or the office has determined are consistent with the comprehensive plan; and

(3) Third, to a municipality that has adopted a comprehensive plan that the former State Planning Office, the Municipal Planning Assistance Program at the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, or the office has determined is consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines of this subchapter.

If a municipality has submitted a comprehensive plan, zoning ordinance or growth management program to the former State Planning Office, the Municipal Planning Assistance Program at the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, or the office for review, the time for response as established in section 3211-B has expired and comments or findings have not been provided to the municipality, a state agency when awarding a grant or making a discretionary investment under this subsection may not give preference over the municipality to another municipality.

B. This subsection applies to:

(1) Programs that assist in the acquisition of land for conservation, natural resource protection, open space or recreational facilities under Title 5, chapter 353; and

(2) Programs intended to:

(a) Accommodate or encourage additional growth and development;

(b) Improve, expand or construct public facilities; or

(c) Acquire land for conservation or management of specific economic and natural resource concerns.

C. This subsection does not apply to state grants or other assistance for sewage treatment facilities, public health programs or education.

D. The office shall work with state agencies to prepare mechanisms for establishing preferences in specific investment and grant programs as described in paragraph B.

4. Application. Subsections 1 and 2 apply to a state capital investment for which an application is accepted as complete by the state agency funding the project after January 1, 2001 or which is initiated with the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services by a state agency after January 1, 2001.

§3211-D: Development Ready Advisory Committee

The Development Ready Advisory Committee, referred to in this section as "the committee," is established pursuant to Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 6-J to develop and maintain best practices for municipalities in infrastructure, land use, housing, economic development, conservation and historic preservation policy. The committee will provide coordination and subject matter expertise to municipalities to advance the likelihood of success across the community development lifecycle.

1. Membership. The members of the committee are as follows:

A. Director of the office;

B. The Executive Director of the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority or the executive director's designee;

C. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the commissioner's designee;

D. The Commissioner of Transportation or the commissioner's designee;

E. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection or the commissioner's designee;

F. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or the commissioner's designee;

H. The Director of the Maine State Housing Authority or the director's designee;

G. The Director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission or the director's designee; and

H. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries And Wildlife or the commissioner's designee;

I. The following members, selected by and serving at the pleasure of the director:

(1) Three representatives of Maine municipalities;

(2) Five representatives from the regional councils selected for geographic diversity and subject matter expertise;

(3) a representative of an organization that develops or funds affordable housing projects;

(4) a representative of a local or statewide organization promoting civil rights that has racial justice or racial equity as its primary mission;

(5) a representative of an organization that advocates for conservation of Maine's natural resources, and

(6) a representative of a regional or statewide economic development organization.

2. Duties. The committee shall develop best practices for community development intended to support the following goals:

A. Assisting communities in preparing for sustainable growth and in a way that maximizes financial return for state and local economies, improve quality of life for local residents, address housing needs for households of all income levels and advance environmental protection and transportation goals and specific locally identified priority needs;

B. Providing technical assistance and coordination to communities to facilitate the adoption of best practices for growth across the following sectors:

1. Transportation and infrastructure;

2. Housing creation and preservation;

3. Economic development;

4. Conservation; and

5. Historic preservation.

C. Assisting communities in designating priority investment areas in consultation with regional planning organizations, including but not limited to village centers, downtowns and adjacent neighborhoods, rural crossroads, high-impact corridors, working waterfronts and rural farmsteads;

D. Ensuring that development efforts are achievable by communities and based on the appropriateness of the location for development and the overall merit of the development project and community's commitment to the development project based on the community's stated goals; and

E. Providing resources and education for municipalities to improve capacity to access funding sources for community development project implementation.

3. Chair and officers. The director of the office shall serve as chair of the committee. The members of the committee shall annually elect one of its members as vice-chair and one of its members as secretary to set the agenda and schedule meetings. The committee may elect other officers, create subcommittees and designate their duties.

4. Voting rights. Each member of the committee has a vote.

5. Meetings. The committee shall meet at least twice a year.

6. Quorum. A majority of the members of the committee constitutes a quorum.

7. Staff support. The office shall provide staff support to the committee to carry out the purposes of this section.

Sec. D-5. 5 MRSA c. 310-B, sub-c. 4 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 4

Housing Planning

§3212. Housing Opportunity Program

1. Program established; administration. The Housing Opportunity Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the office to encourage and support the development of additional housing units in the State, including housing units that are affordable for low-income and moderate-income individuals and housing units targeted to community workforce housing needs. The office shall administer the program and provide technical and financial assistance to support communities implementing zoning and land use-related policies necessary to support increased housing development. The program must support regional approaches and municipal model ordinance development and encourage policies that support increased housing density, where feasible, to protect working lands and natural lands.

2. Housing Opportunity Fund. The Housing Opportunity Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a fund within the office for the purpose of providing funds for the program. The fund consists of money appropriated to the fund by the Legislature and any funds received by the office for the purposes of the program.

A. The office shall solicit applications for grants from the fund through a competitive application process. Grants may be awarded to experienced service providers and municipalities to support municipal ordinance development, provide technical assistance and encourage public participation and community engagement in the process of increasing housing opportunities. Programs receiving grants under this paragraph may encourage regional coordination between municipalities.

B. The office shall solicit applications for and shall award through a competitive application process grants for the following:

(1) Community housing planning services to municipalities to support the creation of housing development plans, including municipal ordinances, and policy amendments to support those plans. Grants awarded must be for a period of up to 3 years, with required progress reports each year; and

(2) Community housing implementation services.

C. The office shall provide technical assistance, housing policy development and guidance directly to regional groups, municipalities and other housing stakeholders, to the extent feasible with available resources. This may include, but is not limited to, assisting municipalities with information about available grant opportunities, sharing best practices from jurisdictions inside and outside of the State, providing model language for local ordinances and policies and

providing information to the general public, which may support local and statewide policy changes meant to increase the supply of housing.

3. Program evaluation. A recipient of grant funds through the program shall cooperate with the office in performing evaluations and specific reporting requirements.

4. Rulemaking. The office shall establish by rule the criteria for eligibility for grants from the program and the process of application. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2 A.

§3213: Code Enforcement

The office shall administer the programs related to municipal code enforcement and Maine building codes as directed in relevant statutes found in Titles 10, 25 and 30-A, formerly administered by the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Sec. D-6. 5 MRSA c. 310-B, sub-c.5 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 5

VOLUNTEER MAINE

§3214. Commission established

There is established the Maine Commission for Community Service, referred to in this subchapter as "the commission," to foster the State's ethic of community service; encourage community service and volunteerism as a means of meeting critical human, environmental, educational and public safety needs throughout the State; address climate challenges through community service and volunteerism; serve as the State's liaison regarding national and community service and volunteer activities; foster collaboration among service agencies; and receive gifts and grants, implement statewide service programs and make subgrants to state and local entities in accordance with the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, 42 United States Code, Sections 12501 to 12682 (1994).

§3214-A. Membership; terms

1. Membership; qualifications. The commission consists of no fewer than 15 and no more than 25 voting members appointed by the Governor and subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters. The commission must include the following:

- A. A representative of a community-based agency or organization;
- B. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;
- C. A representative of local government;
- D. A representative of a local labor organization;
- E. A representative of business;

F. An individual who is at least 16 years of age but no more than 25 years of age and who is a participant in or supervisor of a service program for youth or a campus-based or national service program;

G. A representative of a national service program;

H. An individual with expertise in the education, training and development needs of youth, particularly disadvantaged youth;

I. An individual with experience in promoting the involvement of adults aged 55 and older in national service and volunteerism; and

J. A representative of the State's volunteer community.

A member may fulfill the representation requirement for more than one category in this subsection.

The appointments may also include educators, including representatives from institutions of higher education and local education agencies; experts in the delivery of human, educational, environmental or public safety services to communities and persons; representatives of Native American tribes and nations; out-of-school or at-risk youth; and representatives of programs that are administered or receive assistance under the federal Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, 42 United States Code, Section 4951, et seq. (1973). The commission also must include a nonvoting liaison designated by the federal Corporation for National and Community Service. The appointments must reflect diversity with respect to geography, race, ethnicity, age, gender, disability characteristics and political affiliation. Not more than 50% plus one member may be from the same political party. The number of voting members who are officers or employees of the State may not exceed 25% of the total membership.

The chair must be an appointed voting member of the commission, selected by the voting members. Members may not vote on issues affecting organizations they have served in a staff or volunteer capacity at any time during the preceding 12 months.

2. Terms of office. The appointed members serve 3-year staggered terms. Terms expire on September 1st. The Governor shall appoint members to vacancies on the commission as they occur or upon expiration of terms. Any vacancy must be filled for the unexpired portion of the term in which the vacancy occurs.

3. Reimbursement. Members are entitled to compensation for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties on the commission in the same manner as state employees.

§3214-B. Duties

The commission shall:

1. Vision. Develop a state vision statement for national, state and community service;

2. Ethic of service. Demonstrate an ethic of service through its activities, policies, and procedures and annually evaluate how effectively these are fostering the state vision and service ethic;

3. National and community service plan. Develop a 3-year comprehensive national and community service plan and update the plan annually. The commission shall ensure an open and inclusive process for maximum participation in development of the plan and determination of state priorities;

4. Preselect programs and prepare applications. Preselect national service programs as defined in the National Service Trust Act, 42 United States Code, Section 12501, et seq. and prepare a grant application to the Corporation for National and Community Service;

5. Assist state education agencies. Assist the Department of Education and institutions of higher education in the preparation of applications for national and community service grants;

6. Administer grant programs. Evaluate, monitor and administer grant programs;

7. Provide technical assistance. Serve as a clearinghouse for information on national and community service and provide technical assistance to local nonprofit organizations and other entities in planning, applying for funds and implementing national service programs;

8. Provide development assistance and training. Provide program development assistance and training to national service programs in the State;

9. Recruitment and placement. Serve as a clearinghouse for people interested in national and community service placements and agencies recruiting volunteers;

10. State priorities. Make recommendations to the Corporation for National and Community Service with respect to priorities within the State for programs receiving assistance under the federal Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, 42 United States Code, Section 4951, et seq. (1973);

11. Coordination. Coordinate and foster collaboration among state agencies, colleges, universities, municipalities, federal agencies and volunteer service programs, including, but not limited to, coordination of and collaboration regarding the activities of the Maine Climate Corps Program established pursuant to Title 5, section 3216 and related national and other climate-related service programs;

12. Advisory committees. Establish advisory committees as needed, with membership not limited to commission members;

13. Fund raising. Carry out fund-raising efforts to supplement federal funding and to meet all federal matching requirements;

13-A. Maine Service Fellows Program. Develop and administer the Maine Service Fellows Program under Title 5, section 3215; and

14. Annual report. Submit an annual report to the Governor, the Legislature and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters by January 31st of each year.

§3214-C. Staff and administrative services

The office shall provide staff and administrative services as follows.

1. Executive director. The director, in consultation with the commission, shall hire an executive director as a member of the office staff. The executive director oversees day-to-day operations of the commission, hires staff members with the approval of the commission and the director and carries out other responsibilities as directed by the commission.

2. Administrative services. The director shall provide the executive director and the commission with continuing administrative support as appropriate. The office may establish a dedicated account on behalf of the commission to receive funds contributed by private and public agencies for use solely for commission purposes.

§3214-D. Private support organization

1. Designation of private support organization. The executive director of the commission, with the consent of the voting members of the commission, shall designate a nonprofit corporation as the private support organization for the commission. The nonprofit corporation must be incorporated under the laws of this State and for purposes that are consistent with the goals, objectives, programs, responsibilities and functions of the commission.

The commission's private support organization must be organized and operated exclusively to receive, hold, invest and administer property and funds and to make expenditures to and for the benefit of the commission.

2. Board of directors. A member of the private support organization's board of directors may not also be a member of the commission. The executive director of the commission, or the executive director's designee, shall serve as a nonvoting ex-officio member of the private support organization's board of directors.

3. Scope of work. The private support organization shall operate under a memorandum of understanding negotiated annually by the commission that outlines a plan of work consistent with the purposes and goals of the commission and shall submit an annual budget for review and approval by the commission by June 1st.

The memorandum of understanding must further stipulate the reversion to the commission, or to the State if the commission ceases to exist, of money and property held in trust by the private support organization if the private support organization is no longer designated by the commission pursuant to subsection 1.

4. Use of property. The commission may authorize the private support organization to use the commission's facilities, equipment and other property, except money, in keeping with the purposes of the private support organization.

§3215. Maine Service Fellows Program

The Maine Service Fellows Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the commission. Individuals who participate in the program are referred to in this section as "program fellows." The commission shall administer the program in accordance with this section.

1. Program purposes. The commission shall establish the program to:

A. Increase the opportunities for individuals to devote a year of service to communities in the State;

B. Attract to and retain in the State motivated adults who have completed a college degree within the prior 5 years to serve in positions where they can apply skills and abilities to projects for the benefit of citizens of the State;

C. Provide rural and underserved communities in the State a resource to address critical health and human, public safety, education and environmental needs; and

D. Strengthen civic engagement of both the program fellows and community residents through solutions based in whole or in part in volunteer service.

2. Program design. The program must be designed to coordinate with appropriate organizations in the served communities. Program fellows must be required to commit up to 20% of their time in the program to developing regional networks of volunteer programs whose common goals can result in mutual benefits. An entity may submit a proposal to sponsor a program fellow based on guidelines established under this subsection. Services provided by a program fellow may include but are not limited to services to address home evictions, to support workforce development, to mitigate and prevent substance use disorder and to promote mental health. The commission may identify other priority needs of communities to be addressed by the program and may make those services available to eligible communities. The commission shall establish guidelines for the program that include but are not limited to:

A. Limiting the eligibility of entities that may sponsor program fellows to local or county government, school districts, nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations and similar entities;

B. Establishing standards for local sponsors regarding supervision and support of program fellows during their service;

C. Ensuring that projects and project proposals are well-designed and measure their impact and do not include partisan or political activity;

D. Ensuring that program fellows are not used to replace positions eliminated or position hours reduced as a result of budget cuts by the sponsor;

E. Requiring criminal background checks or other safeguards if projects involve working with vulnerable populations such as schoolchildren or if otherwise required to receive federal funds;

F. Focusing the program on rural communities as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service's rural-urban continuum codes, except that the commission shall use criteria other than the codes for defining rural communities in Penobscot County;

G. Authorizing private sector and local partner contributions to program operations for travel reimbursements or training costs; and

H. Any other guideline that the commission believes will benefit the program.

3. Compensation. To the extent funds are available, the commission shall ensure that program fellows receive the following compensation for service:

A. A stipend set by the commission to achieve an annual income of up to 212% of the nonfarm income official federal poverty level. To the extent the stipend is paid from the General Fund or any other account of the commission, personal liability insurance and workers' compensation insurance, paid for from the same source of funds, must also be provided. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, program fellows are not employees of the State for the purposes of Title 5, Part 20;

B. A program completion bonus that includes, to the extent established by the commission by rule, an educational loan payment in an amount up to 20% of the stipend value paid on behalf of the program fellow to the holder of the loan; and

C. An allowance to pay for individual health insurance not to exceed 2% of the stipend amount.

4. Funding. The commission may seek and receive both private and federal funds, grants and gifts in support of the program. The commission may accept funding from other state agencies to support program fellows whose work will support and promote goals of programs administered by those agencies.

5. Rules. The commission may adopt rules necessary to carry out the purposes of this section. Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

§3216. Maine Climate Corps Program

The Maine Climate Corps Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the commission to provide grants, technical assistance and training to community service corps programs with the mission of responding to the impacts of climate change. Eligible community service corps programs under the program must be designed to:

1. Direct service projects. Conduct evidence-based direct service projects developed through community collaboration, including collaboration with indigenous communities, that address principles of equity, justice and accessibility;

2. Climate impacts. Address through measurable performance one or more of the following areas: transportation, energy, housing, the State's coastal zone as defined under the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's coastal zone

management program, public health, land and fresh water preservation, community resilience and climate-related education;

3. Disproportionately affected communities; representation. Prioritize assistance to disproportionately affected communities and ensure that individuals in service positions represent the economic and demographic diversity of communities, including persons who are historically marginalized; and

4. Additional standards. Meet additional program standards, including, but not limited to, requirements to:

A. Enroll individuals for set terms in service positions;

B. Provide individuals in full-time service positions with stipends, health insurance, liability insurance and accidental death or dismemberment insurance;

C. Provide individuals in service positions with training, education and service experiences that further employability or career preparation; and

D. Meet any other standards set by the commission or nationally for similar programs.

Sec. D-7. 5 MRSA c. 373, as amended, is repealed.

Sec. D-8. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§6-J, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 664, §2 is amended to read:

6-J.

Economic Development	Development Ready Advisory Committee	Expenses Only	30-A MRSA §5161-5 MRSA <u>§3211-D</u>
-------------------------	--	------------------	---

Sec. D-9. 5 MRSA §13056-J, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 635, Pt. U, §1, is repealed.

Sec. D-10. 10 MRSA §9722, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2011, c. 633, §5, if further amended to read:

1. Establishment. The Technical Building Codes and Standards Board, established in Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 5-A and located within the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs, is established to adopt, amend and maintain the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, to resolve conflicts between the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code and the fire and life safety codes in Title 25, sections 2452 and 2465 and to provide for training for municipal building officials, local code enforcement officers and 3rd-party inspectors.

Sec. D-11. 10 MRSA §9722, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2007, c. 699, §6, if further amended to read:

3. Ex officio member; chair. ~~The Commissioner of Public Safety~~ Director of the Maine Office of Community Affairs, or the ~~commissioner's~~ director's designee, serves as an ex officio

member and as the chair of the board. The chair is a nonvoting member, except in the case of a tie of the board. The chair is responsible for ensuring that the board maintains the purpose of its charge when executing its assigned duties, that any adoption and amendment requirements for the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code are met and that training and technical assistance is provided to municipal building officials.

Sec. D-12. 10 MRSA §9723, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2019, c. 517, §1 is further amended to read:

2. Training program standards; implementation. The committee shall direct the training coordinator of the Division of Building Codes and Standards, established in Title 25, section 2372, to develop a training program for municipal building officials, local code enforcement officers and 3rd-party inspectors. ~~The Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs, pursuant to Title 30-A, section 4451, subsection 3-A, shall implement the training and certification program established under this chapter.

Sec. D-13. 12 MRSA §408, as revised by PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5 is repealed.

Sec. D-14. 12 MRSA §409, as revised by PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5 is repealed.

Sec. D-15. 12 MRSA §6052, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. QQ, §5 is repealed.

Sec. D-16. 25 MRSA §2371, as amended by PL 2011, c. 633, §§7,8, is further amended to read:

§2371. Definitions

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

1. Board. "Board" means the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board established in Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 5-A.

2. Building official. "Building official" means a building official appointed pursuant to section 2351-A.

3. Bureau.

4. Code. "Code" means the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code adopted pursuant to Title 10, chapter 1103.

5. Commissioner. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Safety.

6. Director. "Director" means the Director of the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Title 5, chapter 310-B.

~~5-A~~7. Division. "Division" means the Division of Building Codes and Standards established in section 2372.

8. Office. "Office" means the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Title 5, chapter 310-B.

69. Third-party inspector. "Third-party inspector" means a person certified by the State to conduct inspections under Title 30-A, section 4451 for compliance with the code. A 3rd-party inspector may not hold a pecuniary interest, directly or indirectly, in any building for which the 3rd-party inspector issues an inspection report pursuant to section 2373 and may not serve as a 3rd-party inspector in any municipality where that 3rd-party inspector has been appointed as a building official or code enforcement officer.

Sec. D-17. 25 MRSA §2372, as amended by PL 2019, c. 517, §2, is further amended to read:

§2372. Division of Building Codes and Standards

1. Established. The Division of Building Codes and Standards is established within the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal office~~ to provide administrative support and technical assistance to the board in executing its duties pursuant to Title 10, section 9722, subsection 6.

2. Staff. The ~~commissioner~~ director may appoint and may remove for cause staff of the division, including:

A. A technical codes coordinator certified in building standards pursuant to Title 30-A, section 4451, subsection 2-A, paragraph E, who serves as the division director and principal administrative and supervisory employee of the board. The technical codes coordinator shall attend meetings of the board, keep records of the proceedings of the board and direct and supervise the personnel employed to carry out the duties of the board, including but not limited to providing technical support and public outreach for the adoption of the code, amendments, conflict resolutions and interpretations. Technical support and public outreach must include, but may not be limited to:

- (1) Providing nonbinding interpretation of the code for professionals and the general public; and
- (2) Establishing and maintaining a publicly accessible website to publish general technical assistance, code updates and interpretations and post-training course schedules; and

B. An office specialist to provide administrative support to the division and the board.

Sec. D-18. 25 MRSA §2374, as amended by PL 2019, c. 517, §3, is further amended to read:

§2374. Uniform Building Codes and Standards Fund

The Uniform Building Codes and Standards Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within the ~~Department of Public Safety office~~ to fund the activities of the division under this chapter and the activities of the board under Title 10, chapter 1103 and Title 30-A, section 4451, subsection 3-A. Revenue for this fund is provided by the surcharge established by section 2450-A. The ~~Department of Public Safety office~~ shall determine an amount to be transferred annually from the fund for training and certification under Title 30-A, section 4451,

subsection 3-A to the Maine Code Enforcement Training and Certification Fund established in Title 30-A, section 4451, subsection 3-B. Any balance of the fund may not lapse, but must be carried forward as a continuing account to be expended for the same purpose in the following fiscal year.

Sec. D-19. 25 MRSA §2450-A, as repealed and replaced by PL 2013, c. 424, Pt. A, §13, is amended to read:

§2450-A. Surcharge on plan review fee for Uniform Building Codes and Standards Fund

In addition to the fees established in section 2450, a surcharge of 4¢ per square foot of occupied space must be levied on the existing fee schedule for new construction, reconstruction, repairs, renovations or new use for the sole purpose of funding the activities of the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board with respect to the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, established pursuant to Title 10, chapter 1103, the activities of the Division of Building Codes and Standards under chapter 314 and the activities of the ~~Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Community Development~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs under Title 30-A, section 4451, subsection 3-A, except that the fee for review of a plan for the renovation of a public school, including the fee established under section 2450, may not exceed \$450. Revenue collected from this surcharge must be deposited into the Uniform Building Codes and Standards Fund established by section 2374.

Sec. D-20. 30-A MRSA, c. 187, sub-c. II, art. 3-A, as amended is repealed.

Sec. D-21. 30-A MRSA §4451, as amended by PL 2019, c. 517, §5 is further amended to read:

§4451. Training and certification for code enforcement officers

1. Certification required; exceptions. A municipality may not employ any individual to perform the duties of a code enforcement officer who is not certified by the former State Planning Office, the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Community Development, ~~or the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ or the Maine Office of Community Affairs, except that:

A. An individual other than an individual appointed as a plumbing inspector has 12 months after beginning employment to be trained and certified as provided in this section;

B. Whether or not any extension is available under paragraph A, the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs may waive this requirement for up to one year if the certification requirements cannot be met without imposing a hardship on the municipality employing the individual;

C. An individual may be temporarily authorized in writing by the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Engineering to be employed as a plumbing inspector for a period not to exceed 12 months; and

D. An individual whose certification has expired or is about to expire may be temporarily authorized in writing by the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~

Maine Office of Community Affairs to extend that individual's certification for a period not to exceed 12 months in cases where the necessary training or examination is suspended under subsection 3-B, paragraph E.

2. Penalty. Any municipality that violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$100 may be adjudged. Each day in violation constitutes a separate offense.

2-A. Code enforcement officer; definition and duties. As used in this subchapter, "code enforcement officer" means a person certified under this section and employed by a municipality to enforce all applicable laws and ordinances in the following areas:

- A. Shoreland zoning under Title 38, chapter 3, subchapter 1, article 2-B;
- B. Comprehensive planning and land use under Part 2, Subpart 6-A;
- C. Internal plumbing under chapter 185, subchapter 3;
- D. Subsurface wastewater disposal under chapter 185, subchapter 3; and
- E. Building standards under chapter 141; chapter 185, subchapter 1; Title 5, sections 4582-B, 4582-C and 4594-F; Title 10, chapter 1103; and Title 25, chapter 313.

3. Training and certification of code enforcement officers. In cooperation with code enforcement officer professional associations, the Maine Community College System, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Health and Human Services, except as otherwise provided in paragraph H, the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall establish a continuing education program for individuals engaged in code enforcement. This program must provide training in the technical and legal aspects of code enforcement necessary for certification. The training program must include training to provide familiarity with the laws and ordinances related to the structure and practice of the municipal code enforcement office, municipal planning board and appeals board procedures, application review and permitting procedures, inspection procedures and enforcement techniques.

- A. [PL 1991, c. 163 (RP).]
- ~~B.~~ [PL 1991, c. 163 (RP).]
- ~~C.~~ [PL 1991, c. 163 (RP).]
- ~~D.~~ [PL 1991, c. 163 (RP).]
- ~~E.~~ [PL 1991, c. 163 (RP).]
- ~~F.~~ [PL 1991, c. 163 (RP).]
- ~~G.~~ [PL 1991, c. 163 (RP).]

~~H.~~ If funding is not available to support the training and certification program authorized under this subsection, the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of

Community Affairs shall discontinue training and certification activities related to laws and ordinances referenced in subsection 2-A, paragraphs A and B and shall adopt by routine technical rules under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A a program to register code enforcement officers that meet training and education qualifications. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall publish the list of persons registered for code enforcement who have submitted evidence of required qualifications. Persons registered under this paragraph must meet the requirements for training and certification under this subchapter. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall consult with the Department of Health and Human Services for the purposes of carrying out training and certification activities related to laws and ordinances referenced in subsection 2-A, paragraphs C and D. Within one month of discontinuation of training and certification under this paragraph, the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters a recommendation for funding the training and certification program or for further changes in program requirements.

3-A. Training and certification of inspectors in the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. In accordance with the training and certification requirements developed pursuant to Title 10, section 9723, the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall provide the training necessary to certify municipal building officials, local code enforcement officers and 3rd-party inspectors.

3-B. Maine Code Enforcement Training and Certification Fund. The Maine Code Enforcement Training and Certification Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a nonlapsing fund to support training and certification programs administered by the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs for code enforcement officers, local plumbing inspectors, municipal building officials and 3rd-party inspectors in accordance with this subchapter.

A. On July 1st of each year, the funds identified in section 4215, subsection 4 for training and certifying local plumbing inspectors must be transferred to the fund.

B. On July 1st of each year, the funds identified in Title 25, section 2374 for training and certifying municipal building officials, local code enforcement officers and 3rd-party inspectors must be transferred to the fund.

C. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall place in the fund any money it receives from grants to support the requirements of this subchapter.

D. Funds related to code enforcement training and certification may be expended only in accordance with allocations approved by the Legislature and solely for the administration of this subchapter. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year may not lapse but must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

E. If the fund does not contain sufficient money to support the costs of the training and certification provided for in this subchapter, the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs may suspend all or reduce the level of training and certification activities.

4. Examination. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall conduct at least one examination each year to examine candidates for certification at a time and place designated by it. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs may conduct additional examinations to carry out the purposes of this subchapter.

5. Certification standards. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall adopt routine technical rules under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to establish the qualifications, conditions and licensing standards and procedures for the certification and recertification of individuals as code enforcement officers. A code enforcement officer need only be certified in the areas of actual job responsibilities. The rules established under this subsection must identify standards for each of the areas of training under subsection 2-A, in addition to general standards that apply to all code enforcement officers.

6. Certification; terms; revocation. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall certify individuals as to their competency to successfully enforce ordinances and other land use regulations and permits granted under those ordinances and regulations and shall issue certificates attesting to the competency of those individuals to act as code enforcement officers. Certificates issued by the former State Planning Office, the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Community Development, or the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs are valid for 6 years unless revoked by the District Court. An examination is not required for recertification of code enforcement officers. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall recertify a code enforcement officer if the code enforcement officer successfully completes at least 12 hours of approved training in each area of job responsibility during the 6-year certification period.

A. The District Court may revoke the certificate of a code enforcement officer, in accordance with Title 4, chapter 5, when it finds that:

- (1) The code enforcement officer has practiced fraud or deception;
- (2) Reasonable care, judgment or the application of a duly trained and knowledgeable code enforcement officer's ability was not used in the performance of the duties of the office; or
- (3) The code enforcement officer is incompetent or unable to perform properly the duties of the office.

B. Code enforcement officers whose certificates are invalidated under this subsection may be issued new certificates provided that they are newly certified as provided in this section.

7. Other professions unaffected. This subchapter may not be construed to affect or prevent the practice of any other profession.

Sec. D-22. 30-A MRSA §5161, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 664, §3 is repealed.

Sec. D-23. Transition provisions, Community Resilience Partnership Program. The following provisions govern the transition of the Community Resilience Partnership Program from the Governor's Office of Policy, Innovation and the Future to the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the Community Resilience Partnership Program.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the Community Resilience Partnership Program or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the Community Resilience Partnership Program continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the Community Resilience Partnership Program become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the Community Resilience Partnership Program may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

6. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer any unobligated balances remaining in the Community Resilience Partnership Program, other special revenue and federal funds to the Maine Office of Community Affairs no later than the effective date of this Act.

Sec. D-24. Transition provisions, coastal zone management program. The following provisions govern the transition of the coastal zone management program from the Bureau of Policy and Management program, Department of Marine Resources to the Maine Coastal Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the coastal zone management program.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the coastal zone management program or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the coastal zone management program continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the coastal zone management program become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the coastal zone management program may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

6. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer any unobligated balances related to the coastal zone management program remaining in the Bureau of Policy and Management program, Department of Marine Resources, other special revenue and federal funds to the Maine Office of Community Affairs no later than the effective date of this Act.

Sec. D-25. Transition provisions, municipal planning assistance program. The following provisions govern the transition of the municipal planning assistance program from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Municipal Planning Assistance program, Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the municipal planning assistance program.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the municipal planning assistance program or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the municipal planning assistance program continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the municipal planning assistance program become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the municipal planning assistance program may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

6. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer any unobligated balances related to the municipal planning assistance program remaining in the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, federal funds to the Maine Office of Community Affairs no later than the effective date of this Act.

Sec. D-26. Transition provisions, Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program. The following provisions govern the transition of the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program from the Department of Education to the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

6. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer any unobligated balances related to the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program remaining in the Department of Education, other special revenues fund and federal funds to the Maine Office of Community Affairs no later than the effective date of this Act.

Sec. D-27. Transition provisions, Housing Opportunity Program. The following provisions govern the transition of the Housing Opportunity Program from the Department of Economic and Community Development to the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the Housing Opportunity Program.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the Housing Opportunity Program or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the Housing Opportunity Program continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the Housing Opportunity Program become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the Housing Opportunity Program may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

Sec. D-28. Transition provisions, Division of Building Codes and Standards program. The following provisions govern the transition of the Division of Building Codes and Standards program from the Department of Public Safety to the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the Division of Building Codes and Standards program.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the Division of Building Codes and Standards program or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the Division of Building Codes and Standards program continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the Division of Building Codes and Standards program become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the Division of Building Codes and Standards program may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

6. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer any unobligated balances related to the Division of Building Codes and Standards program remaining in the Department of Public Safety, other special revenue funds to the Maine Office of Community Affairs no later than the effective date of this Act.

Sec. D-29. Transition provisions, floodplain management program. The following provisions govern the transition of the floodplain management program from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Maine Floodplain Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the municipal planning assistance program.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the floodplain management program or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the floodplain management program continue in effect.

Committee from the Maine Development Land Bank Authority, the Housing Opportunity Program from the Department of Economic & Community Development, the Maine Commission for Community Service, Maine Service Fellows Program, the Maine Climate Corp program, and the Volunteer Maine from the Department of Education, and the Division of Building Codes and Standards from the Department of Public Safety

PART PP

IN 11-0

Sec. PP-1. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; Housing Authority - State. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2026, the State Controller shall transfer \$3,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine State Housing Authority, Housing Authority - State, Other Special Revenue Funds account to support a manufactured home and mobile home park preservation and assistance program. Program funds must be prioritized for the purpose of maintaining housing affordability in manufactured home and mobile home parks, including by supporting ownership by mobile home owners' associations, resident-owned housing cooperatives or other nonprofit organizations. Funds may also be used to prevent homelessness among those negatively impacted by the sale or change of use of such parks. Before June 30, 2027, unobligated amounts remaining from this transfer must be transferred to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

**PART PP
SUMMARY**

This Part directs the State Controller to transfer \$3,000,000 to the Maine State Housing Authority, Housing Authority - State, Other Special Revenue Funds account to support a manufactured home and mobile home park preservation and assistance program.

PART QQ

out 12-0

Sec. QQ-3. 36 MRSA §4641-B, sub-§4-B, ¶E-1 as enacted by PL 2023, c. 412, Part AAAA, §3, is amended to read:

E-1. In fiscal year 2025-26 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Treasurer of State shall credit the revenues derived from the tax imposed pursuant to section 4641-A, subsection 1 in accordance with this paragraph.

(1) At the beginning of the fiscal year, the Maine State Housing Authority shall certify to the Treasurer of State the amount that is necessary and sufficient to meet the authority's obligations relating to bonds issued or planned to be issued by the authority under Title 30-A, section 4864.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the floodplain management program become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the floodplain management program may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

6. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer any unobligated balances related to the floodplain management program remaining in the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, other special revenue funds and federal funds to the Maine Office of Community Affairs no later than the effective date of this Act.

Sec. D-30. Transition provisions, Development Ready Advisory Committee. The following provisions govern the transition of the Development Ready Advisory Committee from the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority to the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the Development Ready Advisory Committee.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the Development Ready Advisory Committee or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the Development Ready Advisory Committee continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the Development Ready Advisory Committee become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the Development Ready Advisory Committee may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

PART D SUMMARY

This Part amends the general provisions of the Maine Office of Community Affairs. This Part also transitions several programs through State government to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. This includes the Community Resilience Partnership from the Executive Department, the Coastal Zone Management program from the Department of Marine Resources, the State Floodplain Mapping Fund and the Municipal Planning Assistance program from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Development Ready Advisory

(2) On a monthly basis, the Treasurer of State shall apply 50% of the revenues in accordance with this subparagraph. The Treasurer of State shall first pay revenues available under this subparagraph to the Maine State Housing Authority, which shall deposit the funds in the Maine Energy, Housing and Economic Recovery Fund established in Title 30-A, section 4863, until the amount paid equals the amount certified by the Maine State Housing Authority under subparagraph (1), after which the Treasurer of State shall credit 1/2 of any remaining revenues available under this subparagraph to the General Fund and 1/2 of any remaining revenues available under this subparagraph to the Housing First Fund established in Title 22, section 20-A, subsection 2.

(3) On a monthly basis, the Treasurer of State shall credit 50% of the revenues to the Maine State Housing Authority. The Maine State Housing Authority shall deposit the funds received pursuant to this subparagraph in the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund created in Title 30-A, section 4853. Beginning July 1, 2025, the Maine State Housing Authority shall use 25% of funds transferred to the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund under this subparagraph to support the creation of new housing units, through new construction or adaptive reuse, that are affordable to low-income households.

(3-A) Transfers to General Fund. For the months beginning on or after July 1, 2025, \$4,847,891 in fiscal year 2025-26 and \$5,147,141 in fiscal year 2026-27 from the total transfers pursuant to subparagraph 3 to the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund in Title 30-A, section 4852, must be transferred to General Fund undedicated revenue.

PART QQ SUMMARY

This Part directs a portion of the real estate transfer tax to the General Fund in fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27.

