

SENATE

MIKE TIPPING, DISTRICT 8, CHAIR
JOSEPH E. RAFFERTY, DISTRICT 34
RICHARD T. BRADSTREET, DISTRICT 15

STEVE LANGLIN, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
SOPHIA PADDON, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
ELIANA BECA, COMMITTEE CLERK



HOUSE

AMY J. ROEDER, BANGOR, CHAIR
VALLI D. GEIGER, ROCKLAND
MATTHEW D. BECK, SOUTH PORTLAND
CHARLES A. SKOLD, PORTLAND
RAFAEL LEO MACIAS, TOPSHAM
MARSHALL F. ARCHER, SACO
GARY A. DRINKWATER, MILFORD
LAUREL D. LIBBY, AUBURN
ALICIA CAROL COLLINS, SIDNEY
MICHAEL SOBOLESKI, PHILLIPS

STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON LABOR

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Senator Mike Tipping, Senate Chair ^{MT}
Representative Amy Roeder, House Chair ^{AR}
Joint Standing Committee on Labor

DATE: March 4, 2026

RE: Supplemental budget recommendations (LD 2212, *An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027*)

The Joint Standing Committee on Labor (“the Committee”) met on Wednesday, March 4, 2026 to discuss the initiatives that pertain to the Committee’s jurisdiction in the Governor’s proposed supplemental budget.

Attached is the report-back template noting the Committee’s votes on the initiatives.

In addition, the Committee unanimously wishes to express its desire to help State of Maine retirees who have been adversely affected by the 2011 changes to their benefits. The Committee is aware that a full rectification to this problem is costly and knows that the cost only continues to grow. Therefore, the Committee urges the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs to take action that helps retirees regain some traction and footing. The Committee has favorably reported out several bills that sit on the Special Appropriations Table that could made significant headway to remedy the financial strain that retirees face.

Additionally, the Committee has recommended that the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs heavily consider the following proposals on the Special Appropriations Table:

- LD 111, *An Act to Increase the State's Share of Retired Teacher Health Insurance*
- LD 137, *An Act to Expand the 1998 Special Retirement Plan to Include Employees Who Work for the Office of Chief Medical Examiner*
- LD 462, *An Act to Amend the Eligibility Criteria for Creditable Service in the Armed Forces of the United States Under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System*
- LD 579, *An Act to Include Certain Mental Health Workers Under the 1998 Special Plan for Retirement*

Finally, the Labor Committee voted unanimously to express its support for funding LD 703, *An Act to Establish a Health Care Gap Year Program for Recent College Graduates*.

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to provide input on the initiatives in the Governor's proposed supplemental budget. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sec. A-21. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF

Administration - Labor 0030

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for competitive grants to workforce training organizations to develop training courses and new career exploration or apprenticeship programs with credentialing standards related to artificial intelligence, to integrate artificial intelligence into existing training programs or to encourage employers to invest in related skills to keep their workforces competitive, innovative and productive.

Ref. #: 561 One Time Committee Vote: 5-3 OUT AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$300,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$300,000

Justification:

This initiative provides a one-time General Fund appropriation for the department to issue competitive grants to workforce training organizations with an emphasis on artificial intelligence.

Employment Security Services 0245

Initiative: Transfers one Principal Economic Research Analyst position from the Employment Security Services program, Federal Expenditures Fund to the Workforce Research program, Federal Expenditures Fund.

Ref. #: 563 Committee Vote: 8-0 IN AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)	(1.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$39,236)	(\$166,066)
All Other	\$0	(\$588)	(\$2,489)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$39,824)	(\$168,555)

Justification:

This initiative transfers one Principal Economic Research Analyst position between programs within the Department of Labor in order to more accurately account for work effort.

Employment Services Activity 0852

Initiative: Transfers one Office Specialist I position from the Workforce Research program to the Employment Services Activity program to align the funding with the work being performed.

Ref. #: 567 Committee Vote: 8-0 IN AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
---------------------------	---------	---------	---------

LD 2212 - LAB REPORT BACK

POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$20,531	\$88,323
All Other	\$0	\$1,042	\$4,490
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$21,573	\$92,813

Justification:

This position was historically assigned to the Center for Workforce Research and Information program. The work of the Center evolved and reduced its need for administrative support staff. Once vacated, the position was repurposed to provide support for the Bureau of Employment Services. The position now provides administrative support for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act programs and is being transferred to the Bureau of Employment Services.

Employment Services Activity 0852

Initiative: Provides funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

Ref. #: 568

Committee Vote: 8-0 IN AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000

Justification:

This initiative increases allotment in All Other for the Industry-Driven Skills Training Fund grant that will be utilized to establish the Defense Shipbuilding and Advanced Manufacturing Training account to directly support employer-informed skills training for new hires and incumbent workers.

Employment Services Activity 0852

Initiative: Continues one limited-period CareerCenter Consultant position previously established by financial order in fiscal year 2025-26 through June 19, 2027 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 569

One Time

Committee Vote: 5-3 IN AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$93,510
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$19,214
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$112,724

Justification:

The CareerCenter Consultant serves as a Clean Energy Career Navigator to raise awareness of career opportunities in the clean energy and energy efficiency fields and to connect current and future jobseekers with training opportunities and job placement services. Funding is provided by a Memorandum of Understanding with the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

Maine Apprenticeship Program Z375

LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$0	\$300,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$2,010,544	\$2,439,356
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$0	\$89,082
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$2,010,544	\$2,828,438

Language Parts

Part JJJ (see pg: 7) Committee Vote: 8-0 IN AMD AFA Vote: _____

Part TTT (see pg: 7) Committee Vote: 5-3 IN AFA Vote: _____

PART JJJ

Sec. JJJ-1. 26 MRSA §1418-A, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 560, Pt. F, §13, is amended to read:

The Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired is established within the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services department under the jurisdiction of the Director of the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired. ~~The commissioner shall appoint the director, subject to the Civil Service Law.~~

**PART JJJ
SUMMARY**

This Part amends the statute for the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired to clarify its organizational structure, reflecting what has been in place since its creation within the Department of Labor. The Division has been part of the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services. The Director is not an appointee of the Commissioner.

PART TTT

Sec. TTT-1. Transfer; Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Adult Use Cannabis Public Health and Safety and Municipal Opt-In Fund. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer up to \$89,082 in fiscal year 2026-27, and up to \$93,500 in fiscal year 2027-28, from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Adult Use Cannabis Public Health and Safety Municipal Opt-In Fund, Other Special Revenue Fund to the Department of Labor, Maine Apprenticeship Program, Other Special Revenue Fund, to support the continuation of one limited-period CareerCenter Consultant position, previously established by Public Law 2023, chapter 683 through June 18, 2028.

**PART TTT
SUMMARY**

This Part authorizes the State Controller to transfer funding from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Adult Use Cannabis Public Health and Safety Municipal Opt-In Fund, Other Special Revenue Fund to the Department of Labor, Maine Apprenticeship Program, Other Special Revenue Fund, to support the continuation of one limited-period CareerCenter Consultant position through June 18, 2028.

