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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Cathy Breen, Senate Chair
Representative Teresa Pierce, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM: Senator Mark Lawrence, Senate Chair
Representative Seth Berry, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

DATE: March 17, 2022

RE: Recommendations on LD 1995, an Act To Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and To Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023

We are pleased to provide our committee's recommendations on the Supplemental Budget, LD 1995. Attached please find the report-back worksheet indicating the committee's votes on all items.

In addition, the committee considered 2 bills that are currently on the Appropriations Table; the committee voted to recommend inclusion of the substance of these bills within the Supplemental Budget.

LD 245, An Act Regarding Rural Water Districts

- This bill, as amended by our committee last year, was voted unanimously out of the committee and was carried over on the AFA Table.
- Our committee voted unanimously of those present (absent: Sen Lawrence, and Representatives Kessler, Sachs and Grignon) to request that the provisions of the amended bill be moved (updated as needed for 2022) into the supplemental budget.
- For reference, here is the text of the fiscal note on the amended bill:

The bill includes a one-time transfer from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services of \$200,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 to the Small Consumer-Owned Water Utility Infrastructure Fund established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 2610-A on or

before November 15, 2021. It also includes a matching allocation to allow expenditure of the transferred money.

Any additional costs to the Public Utilities Commission to implement the provisions of this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.

LD 506, An Act To Reduce the Tax Burden on Low-income Electricity Customers

- This bill, as amended by the TAX committee last year, was voted unanimously out of that committee and was carried over on the AFA Table.
- Our committee voted unanimously of those present (absent: Sen Lawrence, and Representatives Kessler, Sachs and Grignon) to support including the provisions of the amended bill (updated as needed for 2022) within the supplemental budget.
- For reference, here is the text of the fiscal note on the amended bill:

The bill provides a sales tax exemption for residential electricity consumed by eligible customers and would result in a reduction of General Fund revenue of \$68,400 in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$137,750 in fiscal year 2022-23. It would also result in a reduction in Local Government Fund revenue of \$3,600 in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$7,250 in fiscal year 2022-23.

Thank you for considering our recommendations.

cc: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Sec. A-14. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Governor's Energy Office Z122

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one limited-period Public Service Coordinator II position previously continued by Financial Order 001666 F2.

Ref. #: 451

Committee Vote: 6 IN / 2 OUT AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT

Personal Services

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL

Opposed:

Rep. Foster

Rep. Wadsworth

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
	0.000	0.000	1.000
	\$0	\$0	\$139,116
	\$0	\$0	\$139,116

Justification:

This initiative continues and makes permanent one limited period position to provide a Director of the Governor's Energy Office (GEO). The Director is a key member of the GEO and will provide support and administration of a federal grant awarded by the Department of Commerce. This position will continue to develop an offshore wind economic roadmap for the State of Maine.

Governor's Energy Office Z122

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one limited-period Public Service Coordinator II position previously continued by Financial Order 001665 F2.

Ref. #: 452

Committee Vote: 6 IN / 2 OUT AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT

Personal Services

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

Opposed:

Rep. Foster

Rep. Wadsworth

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
	0.000	0.000	1.000
	\$0	\$0	\$139,116
	\$0	\$0	\$139,116

Justification:

This initiative continues and makes permanent one limited period position to provide a Solar and Storage Analyst in the Governor's Energy Office (GEO). This position provides solar and storage policy as a component of Maine's clean energy economic future and manages resources to the benefit of Maine ratepayers. Funding for this position is provided by a grant from the United Nations Foundation Inc.

Public Advocate 0410

Initiative: Establishes one Office Specialist I position to bring the staffing level to 10 employees as authorized in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 116, subsection 8 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 449

Committee Vote: 8 IN / 0 OUT AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

2020-21 2021-22 2022-23

POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$20,509	\$85,971
All Other	\$0	\$361	\$1,464
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$20,870	\$87,435

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$0	\$139,116
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$20,870	\$226,551
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$20,870	\$365,667

Sec. A-11. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EFFICIENCY MAINE TRUST

Efficiency Maine Trust Z100

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to support electric vehicle rebate programs including incentive programs.

(inc. PART Z)

Ref. #: 401

One Time

Committee Vote:

6 IN / 2 OUT

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

All Other

*Opposed:
Rep. Foster*

2020-21

2021-22

2022-23

\$0

\$0

\$7,000,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

Rep. Wadsworth

\$0

\$0

\$7,000,000

Justification:

This initiative supports electric vehicle rebate programs including incentive programs. The funding is from a one-time transfer of General Fund unappropriated surplus. Efficiency Maine Trust calculates that currently available funds in this program will be fully expended by the summer of 2022.

EFFICIENCY MAINE TRUST

DEPARTMENT TOTALS

2020-21

2021-22

2022-23

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

\$0

\$0

\$7,000,000

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS

\$0

\$0

\$7,000,000

PART Z

Sec. Z-1. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; Efficiency Maine Trust. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2022, the State Controller shall transfer \$7,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Efficiency Maine Trust, Efficiency Maine Trust, Other Special Revenue Funds account to support electric vehicle rebate programs including incentive programs.

PART Z SUMMARY

This Part requires the transfer of \$7,000,000 on or before June 30, 2022 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Efficiency Maine Trust, Other Special Revenue Funds account to support electric vehicle rebate programs including incentive programs. Efficiency Maine Trust calculates that currently available funds will be fully expended by the summer of 2022.