



# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 312

S.P. 100

In Senate, January 31, 2017

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### **An Act To Support Workforce Development by Increasing Engineering Capacity**

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Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator VOLK of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative FECTION of Biddeford and  
Senators: HILL of York, KATZ of Kennebec, MILLETT of Cumberland, Representatives:  
AUSTIN of Gray, ESPLING of New Gloucester, GATTINE of Westbrook, JORGENSEN of  
Portland, McLEAN of Gorham.

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

2 **Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
3 allocations are made.

4 **UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE**  
5 **Maine Economic Improvement Fund 0986**

6 Initiative: Provides funding in fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19 only to increase the  
7 capacity of the University of Southern Maine's engineering program.

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9	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
10	All Other	\$400,000	\$400,000
11			
12	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>

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**SUMMARY**

14 This bill provides \$400,000 in fiscal year 2017-18 and \$400,000 in fiscal year 2018-  
15 19 to the Maine Economic Improvement Fund to strengthen the University of Maine  
16 System's engineering programs by seeding the development of competencies in areas  
17 such as industrial engineering, environmental engineering and biomedical engineering to  
18 meet the applied research and workforce needs of existing, growing and emerging  
19 industrial activity in southern Maine. The funds will support the acquisition of critical  
20 infrastructure at the University of Southern Maine such as laboratory equipment and  
21 personnel that are necessary to strengthen the University of Southern Maine's engineering  
22 program while promoting synergy with the University of Maine's engineering program.  
23 Ongoing equipment maintenance and personnel costs will be absorbed within the  
24 University of Southern Maine's budgeted resources.