

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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27
A of S

L.D. 2279

DATE: 3/7/2000

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BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Reported by:

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
119TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 869, L.D. 2279, Bill, "An Act to Amend the Charter of the Maine Science and Technology Foundation"

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 1 and 2 (page 1, lines 3 to 7 in L.D.) and inserting in their place the following:

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13121, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Clearinghouse. "Clearinghouse" means an interactive web-based clearinghouse of science and technology information to assist persons seeking to conduct research and development and to develop high-technology businesses in the State. "Clearinghouse" may include, but is not limited to, the following: a complete inventory of existing high-technology resources, including a roster of high-technology businesses in the State; sources of federal and private financial support for research and development and assistance in grant writing; information on developing technology business plans, accessing capital, obtaining legal and other professional assistance and managing business growth and marketing; the science and technology report card; and information on the availability of a skilled workforce.'

Further amend the bill in section 5 in that part designated "~~§13122-D.~~" by striking out all of the 2nd sentence (page 1, lines 35 to 37 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following: ~~'The initial appointments must be staggered as follows: one-third of the directors must be appointed for 2-year terms, one-third for 4-year terms, and 1/3 for 6-year terms.'~~

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 869, L.D. 2279

Further amend the bill by inserting after section 5 the following:

'Sec. 6. 5 MRSA §13123-A, sub-§7, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. E, §13, is repealed.

Sec. 7. 5 MRSA §13123-A, sub-§7-A is enacted to read:

7-A. Clearinghouse. Manage, maintain and update the clearinghouse and protect the clearinghouse and its contents from infringement by utilizing copyright, trademark and other legal means available to protect products of intellectual property.'

Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 7 (page 1, lines 45 and 46 in L.D.)

Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 11 (page 2, lines 21 to 36 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 11. 5 MRSA §15301, sub-§§3 and 4 are enacted to read:

3. SBIR program. "SBIR program" means the small business innovation research program enacted pursuant to the federal Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982, Public Law 97-219, which provides funds to small businesses to conduct innovation research having commercial application.

4. Small business. "Small business" as related to eligibility to participate in the SBIR program is defined pursuant to 13 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 121.

Sec. 12. 5 MRSA §15303, sub-§6-A is enacted to read:

6-A. SBIR technical assistance program. The institute shall establish a program to provide technical assistance to small businesses based in the State, pursuant to the federal Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982, Public Law 97-219, to develop competitive small business innovation research, or SBIR, proposals for submission to any of the federal agencies participating in the SBIR program.

A. The technical assistance program may include, but is not limited to, small grants to hire grant writers, networking with scientists and other successful SBIR awardees, seminars on agency-specific solicitations and grant writing.

B. The institute shall conduct a program to inform small businesses of the federal SBIR program and the state program

2 in order to ensure that all firms have the opportunity to
3 participate in these programs.

4 C. The institute shall establish eligibility requirements
5 and award selection criteria to serve as the basis for
6 technical assistance funding under this program.

8 This subsection is in effect if, and as long as, federal
9 financial participation is available pursuant to the federal
10 Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982.

12 **Sec. 13. Staggered terms.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised
13 Statutes, Title 5, section 13122-D, the first appointments to the
14 Board of Directors of the Maine Science and Technology Foundation
15 following the effective date of this Act must be staggered as
16 follows: 1/3 of the directors must be appointed for 1-year
17 terms; 1/3 for 2-year terms; and 1/3 for 3-year terms.'

18 Further amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any
19 nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read
20 consecutively.

22 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
23 summary the following:

26
27 **FISCAL NOTE**

28 The Maine Science and Technology Foundation will realize
29 some minor savings from sharing the administration of the Maine
30 Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)
31 with the University of Maine System and the EPSCoR Steering
32 Committee and from the transfer of the Small Business Innovation
33 Research (SBIR) technical assistance program to the Maine
34 Technology Institute.

35 The additional costs associated with sharing the
36 administration of EPSCoR can be absorbed by the University of
37 Maine System utilizing existing budgeted resources.

38 The Maine Technology Institute within the Department of
39 Economic and Community Development will incur some minor
40 additional costs to administer the SBIR program. These costs can
41 be absorbed within the institute's existing budgeted resources.'

SUMMARY

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4 This amendment deletes sections of the bill that repealed
the Centers for Innovation. The amendment also moves
6 administration for the small business innovation research program
to the Maine Technology Institute. It provides for staggered
8 terms for the Board of Directors of the Maine Science and
Technology Foundation. It also adds a fiscal note to the bill.