

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2002

Legislative Document

No. 2217

S.P. 835

In Senate, April 24, 2002

**Resolve, to Fund the Operations of the Workers' Compensation Board
for Fiscal Year 2002-03.**

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and
ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela L. Cahill".

PAMELA L. CAHILL
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator NUTTING of Androscoggin. (GOVERNOR'S BILL).
Cosponsored by Representative BUNKER of Kossuth Township.

2 **Sec. 1. Authorization to use reserve funds. Resolved:** That, in
3 addition to the assessment provided in the Maine Revised
4 Statutes, Title 39-A, section 154, subsection 6, the Workers'
5 Compensation Board may, on a one-time basis in fiscal year
6 2002-03, spend up to \$1,341,750 from the reserve account created
7 pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 39-A, section 154,
8 subsection 6 for the following purposes:

9 1. No more than \$1,020,765 of the reserve fund may be used
10 to meet the operational needs of the Workers' Compensation Board
11 in fiscal year 2002-03. This is a one-time authorization and
12 does not apply to any ongoing use of the reserve fund for these
13 purposes;

14 2. No more than \$116,736 of the reserve fund may be used on
15 technological improvement projects in accordance with a plan to
16 be developed no later than January 1, 2003 by the Workers'
17 Compensation Board in consultation with the Commissioner of Labor
18 and the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services and
19 interested parties. This is a one-time authorization and does
20 not apply to any ongoing use of the reserve fund for technology;

21 3. No more than \$200,000 of the reserve fund may be used to
22 allow the board to continue to contract for temporary worker
23 advocate and clerical support services for the worker advocate
24 activity in the regional offices. This is a one-time
25 authorization and does not apply to any ongoing use of the
26 reserve fund for these purposes; and

27 4. No more than \$4,249 of the reserve fund may be used to
28 fund the costs of approved collective bargaining.

29 In addition to the amounts in subsections 1 to 4, the Workers'
30 Compensation Board may spend up to an additional \$258,250 of the
31 reserve fund by financial order upon recommendation of the State
32 Budget Officer and approval of the Governor if revenue from other
33 sources falls short of projections; and be it further

34 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the
35 following appropriations and allocations are made.

36 **WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD**

37 **Administration - Workers' Compensation Board**

38 Initiative: Provides one-time funds in fiscal year 2002-03
39 from the reserve in the Workers' Compensation Board
40 Administrative Fund to meet the operational requirements of the
41 Workers' Compensation Board. This one-time authorization does
42 not apply to any ongoing use of the reserve for these purposes.
43

2	Other Special Revenue Funds	2001-02	2002-03
	Personal Services	\$0	\$653,733
4	All Other	0	367,032
6	Total	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,020,765</u>

8 **Administration - Workers' Compensation Board**

10 Initiative: Provides one-time funds in fiscal year 2002-03
 12 from the reserve in the Workers' Compensation Board
 14 Administrative Fund for technology to achieve operational
 efficiencies. This one-time authorization does not apply to
 any ongoing use of the reserve for these purposes.

16	Other Special Revenue Funds	2001-02	2002-03
	All Other	\$0	\$16,736
18	Capital Expenditures	0	100,000
20	Total	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$116,736</u>

22 **Administration - Workers' Compensation Board**

24 Initiative: Provides one-time funds in fiscal year 2002-03
 26 from the reserve in the Workers' Compensation Board
 Administrative Fund to allow the board to continue to contract
 for temporary worker advocate and clerical support services for
 28 the worker advocate activity in the regional offices. This
 one-time authorization does not apply to any ongoing use of the
 30 reserve for these purposes.

32	Other Special Revenue Funds	2001-02	2002-03
	All Other	\$0	\$200,000

34 **WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD**

36	BOARD TOTALS	2001-02	2002-03
38	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$1,337,501
40	BOARD TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,337,501</u>

42 **JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

44 **Courts - Supreme, Superior and District**

46 Initiative: Provides one-time funds in fiscal year 2002-03
 48 from the reserve in the Workers' Compensation Board
 Administrative Fund for the cost of approved collective
 bargaining. This one-time authorization does not apply to any
 50 ongoing use of the reserve for these purposes.

2	Other Special Revenue Funds	2001-02	2002-03
4	Personal Services	\$0	\$4,249
6	JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT		
8	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2001-02	2002-03
10	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$4,249
12	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	\$0	\$4,249
14	SECTION TOTALS	2001-02	2002-03
16	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$1,341,750
18	SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$1,341,750

FISCAL NOTE

2002-03

APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

Other Funds	\$1,341,750
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This bill authorizes the Workers' Compensation Board to utilize up to \$1,341,750 from the reserve account in the Workers' Compensation Board Administrative Fund to support the operations of the board and the Judicial Department in fiscal year 2002-03. This bill also authorizes the board to spend up to an additional \$258,250 of the reserve fund, by financial order, if revenue from other sources falls short of projections.

This bill includes one-time Other Special Revenue funds allocations totaling \$1,337,501 in fiscal year 2002-03 for the Workers' Compensation Board. This includes \$1,020,765 to meet operational requirements of the board; \$116,736 for technological improvement projects to achieve operation efficiencies; and \$200,000 to continue a contract for temporary worker advocate and clerical support services for the worker advocate activity in the regional offices.

This bill also includes an Other Special Revenue funds allocation of \$4,249 in fiscal year 2002-03 to support collective bargaining costs within the Judicial Department.

The additional costs associated with working with the board to develop a technology plan can be absorbed by the Department of Labor and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services utilizing existing budgeted resources.

2

SUMMARY

4 This bill funds the operations of the Workers' Compensation
Board for fiscal year 2002-03. It authorizes the board to use up
6 to \$1,341,750 from the reserve fund for the following purposes:
\$1,020,765 for operational needs, \$116,736 for technological
8 needs, \$200,000 for temporary worker advocate and clerical
support services for the worker advocate activity in the regional
10 offices and \$4,249 for the costs of approved collective
bargaining for a position in the Judicial Department funded by
12 the Workers' Compensation Board. It also authorizes the board to
spend up to an additional \$258,250 of the reserve fund by
14 financial order upon recommendation of the State Budget Officer
and approval of the Governor if revenue from other sources falls
16 short of projections.