

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1023

Date: 6/5/25

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MAJORITY

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 441, L.D. 1023, "Resolve, to Reestablish and Continue the Work of the Blue Economy Task Force"

Amend the resolve by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, to Reestablish the Blue Economy Task Force to Support Maine's Emergence as a Center for Blue Economy Innovation and Opportunity in the 21st Century'

Amend the resolve by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the sustainable use of the ocean's resources for economic health, improved livelihoods and jobs and ecosystem health, referred to as "the blue economy," is one of the fastest growing global economic sectors; and

Whereas, the State is attracting the interest of blue economy entrepreneurs and investors due to its clean and cold waters, its seafood industry that produces high-quality and sustainably harvested products, its marine research institutions and its extensive maritime expertise; and

Whereas, Resolve 2023, chapter 119 established the Blue Economy Task Force to support Maine's emergence as a center for blue economy innovation and opportunity in the 21st century; and

Whereas, the work begun by that task force to identify barriers to and propose policies to attract and support the responsible and efficient growth of the blue economy in the State and to engage stakeholders for those purposes must be continued by a new task force established in this legislation; and

Whereas, the new task force must initiate its work prior to the expiration of the 90-day period so that its work may be completed and its report submitted to the next legislative session; and

1 **Whereas**, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
2 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
3 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
4 therefore, be it

5 **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Department of Economic and
6 Community Development shall convene the Blue Economy Task Force, referred to in this
7 resolve as "the task force," to support the State's emergence as a center for blue economy
8 innovation and opportunity in the 21st century.

9 As used in this resolve, "blue economy" means business sectors that rely on the
10 sustainable use of ocean resources for economic health, improved livelihoods, jobs or
11 ecosystem health, and "sustainable" means practices that support the economic growth of
12 a community while maintaining or improving the health of marine ecosystems and without
13 negatively impacting social, environmental and cultural aspects of the community.

14 **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That the task force consists of 23
15 members as follows.

16 1. The President of the Senate shall appoint one member of the Senate and the Speaker
17 of the House shall appoint 2 members of the House of Representatives, including a member
18 from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature. Members
19 appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House serve at the pleasure
20 of their respective appointing authority.

21 2. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall appoint 19
22 members.

23 A. Members appointed by the commissioner serve at the pleasure of the commissioner
24 and must include representatives of public and private research institutions, businesses
25 that are innovating in various blue economy sectors, fisheries businesses, aquaculture
26 businesses and equity investors in blue economy businesses. The commissioner shall
27 ensure that a majority of the members of the task force membership appointed pursuant
28 to this subsection represent a blue economy business or an entity directly involved in
29 the commercialization of blue economy-related research and innovation.

30 B. The commissioner shall to the greatest extent practicable ensure that members who
31 served on the Blue Economy Task Force, as established by Resolve 2023, chapter 119
32 and referred to in this resolve as "the prior task force," are provided an opportunity to
33 serve on the task force established by this resolve. If a member of the prior task force
34 is unable or unwilling to serve on the task force established in section 1, the
35 commissioner shall ensure that the member appointed to serve on the task force in that
36 prior member's place represents the same interests or background as the prior member.

37 3. The President of the Maine Technology Institute or the president's designee shall
38 serve as a member of the task force.

39 The appointing authorities identified in this section shall ensure that all appointments
40 are made no later than June 30, 2025.

41 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Economic and Community
42 Development shall appoint 2 cochairs from among the task force's members, one who is

1 employed by a state agency and one who is not employed by a state agency. The cochairs
2 shall set the schedule and agenda for task force meetings and preside at the meetings.

3 **Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force has, but is not limited to, the following
4 duties.

5 1. The task force shall develop recommendations for the establishment of the Center
6 for the Blue Economy, referred to in this section as "the center," which must include, but
7 is not limited to:

8 A. An organizational structure and budget for the ongoing funding of the center;

9 B. A requirement that the center be either housed within an existing institution, such
10 as the University of Maine System, or as a stand-alone, independent entity; and

11 C. The scope of the authorities and responsibilities of the center, which may include,
12 but are not limited to:

13 (1) Supporting businesses and other institutions in the State to build on the blue
14 economy advantages of and reduce the obstacles to further development of the blue
15 economy in the State identified by the prior task force in its report submitted
16 pursuant to Resolve 2023, chapter 119, section 6;

17 (2) Advancing research and development and supporting innovation in the blue
18 economy, including the financing of innovations and growth in blue economy
19 output and employment;

20 (3) Promoting communication and collaboration among blue economy institutions
21 and businesses;

22 (4) Providing common services to blue economy businesses and institutions,
23 including research support and access to journals and technologies such as
24 laboratories, 3-D printing and data management; and

25 (5) Supporting the development of blue economy sectors as outlined in current or
26 future sector-specific development plans and roadmaps.

27 2. The task force shall recommend improvements and expansions of blue economy
28 workforce education and training to encompass the elementary and secondary school
29 system and public and private institutions of higher education.

30 **Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Department of Economic and
31 Community Development shall provide necessary staffing assistance to the task force. At
32 the request of the task force, other state agencies and state entities shall provide information
33 and analysis to assist the task force in its deliberations and reporting.

34 **Sec. 6. Funding. Resolved:** That the task force may accept grants, private
35 contributions and any other outside funding to support the task force in carrying out its
36 duties.

37 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That the task force shall prepare and submit a written
38 report containing its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on
39 Housing and Economic Development no later than December 3, 2025. After reviewing the
40 report, the committee may report out legislation relating to the report to the Second Regular
41 Session of the 132nd Legislature.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 441, L.D. 1023 (S297)

1 **Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following
2 appropriations and allocations are made.

3 **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**4 **Blue Economy Task Force N546**

5 Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize expenditures of money received from
6 public or private sources.

7 OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
8 All Other	\$500	\$500
9		
10 OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$500</u>	<u>\$500</u>

11 **Maine Technology Capacity Fund N545**

12 Initiative: Provides one-time funds to match funds in support of blue economy-related
13 research, economic development and education and training.

14 GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
15 All Other	\$100,000	\$0
16		
17 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$100,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>

18

19 **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY**
20 **DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**
21 **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

22	2025-26	2026-27
23 GENERAL FUND	\$100,000	\$0
24 OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$500	\$500
25		
26 DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$100,500</u>	<u>\$500</u>

27 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
28 takes effect when approved.'

29 Amend the resolve by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
30 section number to read consecutively.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, changes the title of
33 and replaces the resolve and adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause. It also
34 adds an appropriations and allocations section. The amendment directs the Department of
35 Economic and Community Development to convene the Blue Economy Task Force to
36 develop recommendations for the establishment of the Center for the Blue Economy and
37 to make other recommendations. The task force is directed to submit a report to the Joint
38 Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development no later than December 3,
39 2025, and the committee may report out legislation relating to the report. The amendment
40 also provides an appropriation of \$100,000 in fiscal year 2025-26 to support the Maine

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 441, L.D. 1023 (S.297)

1 Technology Capacity Fund to provide matching funds in support of blue economy-related
2 research, economic development and education and training.

3 FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

4 (See attached)

**132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE****LD 1023****LR 2011(02)****Resolve, to Reestablish and Continue the Work of the Blue Economy Task Force**

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (5297)
Committee: Housing and Economic Development
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note**Legislative Cost/Study**

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Legislative Cost/Study

The general operating expenses of this study are projected to be \$2,100 in fiscal year 2025-26. The Legislature's proposed budget for the 2026-2027 biennium includes \$22,196 in each of fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27 for the costs of legislative studies, as well as \$8,265 in projected balances from fiscal year 2024-25 and \$33,073 of balances carried over from prior years for this purpose. Whether these amounts are sufficient to fund all studies will depend on the number of studies authorized by the Legislative Council and the Legislature.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes a one-time General Fund appropriation to the Maine Technology Capacity Fund within the Department of Economic and Community Development to provide matching funds in support of blue economy-related research, economic development and education and training. This bill also includes ongoing Other Special Revenue Funds base allocations of \$500 per year beginning in fiscal year 2025-26 to the Blue Economy Task Force to authorize the expenditure of any monies received from public and private sources.

Any additional costs to the other various agencies affected by the provisions of this bill are anticipated to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.