MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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September 5, 2003

DATE

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE MAINE-AOMORI SISTER-STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the State of Maine and the Prefecture of Aomori, Japan, established a sister-state relationship in May 1994 to facilitate educational, cultural, and business exchanges between the two states: and

WHEREAS, public and private exchanges and partnerships between the sister-states has fostered goodwill and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, enhanced coordination within State government and increased citizen involvement in information-sharing, planning, and effecting joint ventures strengthen the sister-state relationship; and

WHEREAS, a coordinated effort is necessary to maintain and nurture the Maine-Aomori affiliation:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John E. Baldacci, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby establish the MAINE-AOMORI SISTER-STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL (hereinafter "Council").

Mission

The mission of the Council is to promote and cultivate a cooperative relationship between Maine and Aomori in order to benefit the citizens of the sister-states.

Duties of the Council

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The Council shall serve in an advisory capacity and have the following duties:

- 1. The Council shall advise and report to the Governor on the status of the Maine-Aomori sister-state relationship.
- 2. The Council shall identify and assess existing activities and exchanges with Aomori, and devise strategies to develop cultural, educational, and commercial opportunities between the sister-states.

3. The Council shall identify sources of support for sister-state exchanges, programs, projects, and administrative assistance for the Council. Participating State departments and agencies, municipalities, school districts, and private non-profit and for-profit organizations shall be responsible for implementing such exchanges, programs, and projects.

Membership

The Council shall consist of seventeen (17) members, who will be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Governor. Membership composition shall be the following:

- One (1) representative of the Maine State Museum Commission
- One (1) representative of the Maine Arts Commission
- One (1) representative of the Maine Humanities Council
- One (1) representative from the University of Maine System
- One (1) representative from a private Maine college or university
- One (1) representative from a Maine municipality having a sister municipality relationship with Aomori
- Two (2) representatives of the Japan America Society of Maine
- Two (2) representatives from school districts having student exchange programs with Aomori
- Two (2) representatives of other Maine/sister-state relationships
- Two (2) representatives from the Maine International Trade Center
- Three (3) at-large representatives

The Chair of the Council shall be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Governor. The Chair shall preside at, set the agenda for, and schedule Council meetings.

Members of the Council shall serve without compensation.

The Council shall meet at least three times per year. Meetings shall be opened to the public.

Official contact

The Director of the Maine International Trade Center shall serve as the official Maine contact for the Maine-Aomori sister-state relationship.

Effective date

The effective date of this Executive Order is September 5, 2003.

This Executive Order revokes any prior Executive Order establishing a council with duties and functions similar to, or the same as, those described herein, including, without limitation, Executive Order 01 FY 01/02 (dated 22 August 2001)

John E. Baldacci, Governor