

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 08 FY 08/09
DATE November 19, 2007

**AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON
COMPETITIVENESS AND THE ECONOMY**

WHEREAS, the economy of Maine evolves and responds to competitive challenges; and

WHEREAS, many Maine policy options, from cutting spending and reducing taxes to investment in research and development and higher education present themselves on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Jobs, Innovation and the Economy was created by Executive Order 23 FY 06/07 to develop a recommended action plan for moving the state forward on the innovation-focused and cluster development activities that will define the state's investment strategies and to propose structures, entities and activities that support the realization of these investments; and

WHEREAS, it has been helpful to have an additional non-partisan business oriented voice actively engaged in this discussion;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Elias Baldacci, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby establish the Governor's Council on Competitiveness and the Economy (hereinafter "Council").

Purpose

The Governor's Council on Competitiveness and the Economy is being formed as a council of business leaders in Maine to continue and to support the work of the Governor and the Legislature in implementing the recommendations of the Brookings report and other important initiatives regarding the state's economic future. This Council is the successor group to the Council on Jobs, Innovation and the Economy which was created by Executive Order 23 FY06/07 in December, 2006.

The Council will be the foundation stone of a public/private partnership that provides non-partisan perspectives on issues related to business and economic growth within the state, particularly with regard to investments and cost reductions necessary for the state and its key economic sectors to compete in the global economy.

Duties

The Council will bring a business perspective to a number of potential issues including:

1. Efforts of the Governor and the Legislature to reduce the cost of state government and at the same time make it more effective.
2. Investment opportunities in research and development and higher education including potential future bond issues.
3. Opportunities to attract federal investment in key sectors such as energy, technology and bio-science, and to access existing funds designated for rural and other regional development.
4. Strategies to improve trade and export opportunities, particularly with our Canadian neighbors.
5. Coordination of workforce development, access to capital and investment in innovation for traditional and emerging industry clusters which have the potential to create new private sector jobs.
6. Explore strategies to make Maine's regulatory process more user friendly (particularly with regard to real estate development).

Membership

The Governor shall appoint up to 20 members to the Council and each member will serve a two year term. From among this membership, the Governor shall appoint the Chair who will preside at, set the agenda for, and schedule meetings of the Council.

Council members shall serve without compensation.

Effective Date

The effective date of this Executive Order is November 19, 2007.



John E. Baldacci, Governor