

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 SECOND REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 2015

6
7 S.P. 802

In Senate, February 12, 1986

8 Reported by Senator Tuttle of York from the Joint Select Committee to
9 Study the Shoe Industry and Printed Under Joint Rule 19.

10 JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SIX
16

17 AN ACT to Provide Assistance to Mature
18 Industries.
19

20 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
21 follows:

22 Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §636, sub-§§5 and 6 are enacted
23 to read:

24 5. Retraining. Unemployed persons shall not be
25 trained for a job in an industry in which they have
26 no previous experience if job openings exist in an
27 industry in which the person was previously employed.
28 An exception may be made when the jobs available are
29 with companies which in the judgment of the commis-
30 sioner have a record of turnover which is excessive
31 relative to the norm for that industry.

32 6. Training priorities. Provided that there are
33 a sufficient number of applicants, the proportion of
34 persons involved in training for any industry shall
35 be at least equal to that industry's share of job

1 openings relative to the total job openings of all
2 industries involved in the program in question.

3 Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §3305, sub-§1, ¶C, as enacted by
4 PL 1967, c. 533, §1, is amended to read:

5 C. Conduct regular and continuing economic re-
6 search, monitoring and analysis of the economy
7 and resources of the State of Maine, including an
8 analysis of individual industries by subsegment,
9 collect and collate all pertinent data and sta-
10 tistics relating thereto; prepare an annual data
11 book and a report on the state economy; partici-
12 pate in establishing a data and statistics center
13 for making such material available in useful
14 form; and assist the Governor, the Legislature
15 and the various state departments in formulating
16 economic goals and programs and policies to
17 achieve such goals. The office shall utilize its
18 economic data to identify industries and segments
19 of industries that will be adversely affected by
20 emerging economic trends. The office shall as-
21 sure that there is no duplication between its ef-
22 forts and those of the Department of Labor.

23 Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §3305, sub-§1, ¶H, as amended by
24 PL 1983, c. 477, Pt. E, sub-pt. 26, §1, is further
25 amended to read:

26 H. Compile, analyze and maintain information
27 useful to the stabilization and development of
28 industry in the State concerning resources,
29 sites, space, equipment, adequate housing, con-
30 tracts, materials, transportation, markets, labor
31 supply, population trends, state legislation,
32 rules and policies that affect businesses and
33 other economic considerations. The State Planning
34 Office shall study problems peculiar to the in-
35 dustry and economy of Maine with a view toward
36 the maintenance of existing industries, the
37 broader utilization of our natural resources and
38 the development of new and improved products and
39 techniques, which studies shall be advanced by
40 coordination of research with existing private
41 and governmental agencies and educational insti-
42 tutions, and may be advanced by contractual rela-
43 tions with persons or organizations equipped to

1 conduct the needed research. Additionally, the
2 office shall prepare evidence and supporting data
3 on types of industries particularly suited to the
4 needs and resources of Maine, and to the
5 lifestyles and desires of its citizens, including
6 the travel industry. The State Planning Office
7 shall, upon request from the Governor or any
8 state department, assist in the preparation of
9 reports regarding the responsibilities and duties
10 provided by this subsection.

11 Sec. 4. 5 MRSA Pt. 16, first 2 lines are re-
12 pealed and the following enacted in their place:

13 PART 16

14 STATE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OFFICE

15 Sec. 5. 5 MRSA c. 361, first 2 lines, are re-
16 pealed and the following are enacted in their place:

17 CHAPTER 361

18 STATE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OFFICE

19 Sec. 6. 5 MRSA §7001, as enacted by PL 1975, c.
20 481, §3, is amended to read:

21 §7001. State Commerce and Industry Office

22 There is established to carry out the purposes of
23 this chapter a State Development Office State Com-
24 merce and Industry Office in the Executive Department
25 which shall be directly responsible to the Governor
26 and which shall be responsible for the creation of
27 job opportunities by encouraging and assisting the
28 stabilization, expansion and improvement of both new
29 and existing economic activities within the State.

30 The office shall seek to improve conditions for
31 business stabilization, growth and investment
32 through:

33 1. Reducing costs. Reducing business costs and
34 taxation;

35 2. Providing incentives. Providing financial
36 and labor training incentives;

1 3. Removing barriers. Removing regulatory bar-
2 riers; and

3 4. Expanding markets and promoting products.
4 Expanding export markets for Maine products and pro-
5 moting the State's physical and human resources to
6 the business public.

7 Wherever the words "Department of Commerce and
8 Industry" or "State Development Office" appear in the
9 Revised Statutes they shall mean the "State
10 Development Commerce and Industry Office."

11 Sec. 7. 5 MRSA §7002, sub-§1, as amended by PL
12 1975, c. 771, §92, is further amended to read:

13 1. Director. The executive head of the State
14 Development Commerce and Industry Office shall be the
15 director and shall be appointed by the Governor, and
16 shall hold office during the pleasure of the Gover-
17 nor. The director shall be paid a salary fixed by the
18 Governor.

19 Wherever the words "Commissioner of Commerce and In-
20 dustry" or "Director of the State Development Office"
21 appear in the Revised Statutes they shall mean the
22 "Director of the State Development Commerce and
23 Industry Office."

24 Sec. 8. 5 MRSA §7002, sub-§2, ¶D, as amended by
25 PL 1983, c. 477, Pt. E, sub-pt. 26, §2, is further
26 amended to read:

27 D. The several offices, boards, commissions, de-
28 partments and divisions of the State, and city
29 and town officials may consult with the office
30 and furnish or make available to it data and in-
31 formation within their knowledge or control.

32 The State Development Commerce and Industry Of-
33 ice shall maintain a close liaison with and make
34 recommendations and reports in cooperation with
35 the Maine Guarantee Authority, the Maine Geologi-
36 cal Survey and the Maine Vacation-travel Commis-
37 sion.

1 Sec. 9. 5 MRSA §7002, sub-§2, ¶G, as amended by
2 PL 1979, c. 731, §19, is further amended to read:

3 G. The director shall aggressively implement a
4 program to identify goods manufactured in the
5 State under a "Product of Maine" designation.
6 This program shall also include agricultural, ma-
7 rine, mineral and forestry products processed in
8 the State, but shall remain separate and distinct
9 from the blue, white and red identification
10 promulgated by the Commissioner of Agriculture,
11 Food and Rural Resources. This program shall
12 take effect on July 1, 1978.

13 A product shall qualify for this designation upon
14 submission by the manufacturer or final processor
15 of a signed affidavit which attests that the
16 product is in fact manufactured in the State or
17 receives final assembly or processing in the
18 State and that the product meets quality stan-
19 dards to be set by the department. This affidavit
20 shall be submitted to the director who shall then
21 grant permission for use of the "Product of
22 Maine" designation, who shall withdraw the per-
23 mission upon finding that the contents of the af-
24 fidavit are false. The director may also withdraw
25 the permission if it comes to his attention that
26 the product is mislabeled in a manner which is
27 deceiving to the purchaser or that the product no
28 longer meets the department's quality standards.

29 The mere packaging of a product within the State
30 shall not be deemed sufficient for inclusion un-
31 der the "Product of Maine" label.

32 The director shall, as the funds become availa-
33 ble, request funds to promote consumer recogni-
34 tion of the "Product of Maine" designation and
35 shall seek out qualified products and encourage
36 the use of this designation by manufacturers. The
37 director shall report once a year to the Legisla-
38 ture on all aspects of this program.

39 Sec. 10. 5 MRSA §7002, sub-§2, ¶L, as enacted by
40 PL 1985, c. 471, §2, is amended to read:

1 L. The director shall implement a program de-
2 signed to create and publish a directory or guide
3 of state licenses and permits required for vari-
4 ous types of new or expanding businesses. This
5 directory, which shall be updated annually, shall
6 delineate the business licenses and permits by
7 the name of the agency that issues the licenses
8 and permits, by the type of business or industry
9 and by the type of activity involved.

10 (1) All state agencies and departments
11 shall cooperate with and expeditiously re-
12 spond to the requests of the State
13 Development Commerce and Industry Office.
14 Each organization required by this subchap-
15 ter to cooperate with the State Development
16 Commerce and Industry Office shall, at a
17 minimum, provide the State Development Com-
18 merce and Industry Office with descriptions
19 of licenses and permits issued by each orga-
20 nization, the criteria necessary to qualify
21 for each license or permit granted by the
22 organization, time schedules established by
23 law or rule for the submission of applica-
24 tions and appeals, the time schedules for
25 agency responses to applications and appeals
26 and any other information requested by the
27 State Development Commerce and Industry Of-
28 ice.

29 Sec. 11. 5 MRSA §7002, sub-§2, ¶¶N to T are en-
30 acted to read:

31 N. The director shall develop a formalized early
32 warning program that will provide for the identi-
33 fication of companies of over 50 employees that
34 are for sale or in danger of closing. This pro-
35 gram shall be functioning within 6 months of the
36 effective date of this paragraph.

37 O. The director shall develop an economic stabi-
38 lization program to assist management of compa-
39 nies that are in danger of closing and to assist
40 in finding new management of companies that are
41 for sale. This program shall only apply to com-
42 panies with more than 50 employees.

1 The office shall make a sufficient study of the
2 company to determine what assistance, if any,
3 will allow the company to meet certain standards
4 for success to be determined by the office. The
5 following options shall be considered for compa-
6 nies for whom assistance is judged to be war-
7 ranted.

8 (1) The office shall provide consulting and
9 training with the charge to the company be-
10 ing what the office judges that the company
11 can afford.

12 (2) If financial aid is determined to be
13 necessary, the office shall assist in find-
14 ing this aid if the company agrees to imple-
15 ment any recommendations made by the office.
16 If financing cannot be found for qualified
17 companies, the office shall make a report of
18 this fact to the Legislature together with
19 recommendations.

20 (3) If new management is sought by the com-
21 pany or judged to be desirable by the of-
22 fice, the office shall take an active role
23 in seeking that management. Priority shall
24 be given to Maine residents, private owner-
25 ship and businesses specializing in the in-
26 dustry that is for sale.

27 The office shall explore the option of management
28 or employee ownership and shall assist in the
29 conduct of feasibility studies if a need for them
30 is indicated.

31 The program shall be in operation within 6 months
32 of the effective date of this paragraph.

33 P. The director shall develop a program to as-
34 sist companies to develop international trade.
35 This program shall include:

36 (1) Market analyses by company, training
37 and advice;

38 (2) Identification of and contact with po-
39 tential foreign customers;

1 (3) Arranging and sponsoring foreign trade
2 missions;

3 (4) Interest free loans to companies to
4 provide for necessary executive travel ex-
5 penditures; and

6 (5) Development of a Maine product guide.

7 This program shall be in operation within 6
8 months after the effective date of this para-
9 graph.

10 Q. The director shall develop and promote a pro-
11 gram to assist companies to take advantage of new
12 manufacturing technologies. The program shall
13 include a technology inventory and a cost-benefit
14 analysis for the company, assistance in finding
15 financing, management training and financial as-
16 sistance for worker training.

17 This program shall be functioning within 9 months
18 of the effective date of this paragraph.

19 R. The director shall see that the office takes
20 advantage of the programs offered by the various
21 industry trade associations and acts as a
22 catalyst to bring the benefits of these programs
23 to Maine companies. The director shall see that
24 the office makes maximum use of statistics avail-
25 able from the Department of Labor and acts as a
26 dissemination agent for the material to the busi-
27 ness community.

28 S. The director shall present to the Legislature
29 within 6 months of the effective date of this
30 paragraph a plan for advertising and public rela-
31 tions programs to address the following objec-
32 tives:

33 (1) To make the people of the State aware
34 of the importance of the State's mature in-
35 dustries and the continuing strength of seg-
36 ments of each;

37 (2) To reinforce with both consumer and in-
38 dustrial markets outside the State the image
39 of Maine quality and workmanship; and

1 (3) To counter with the business community
2 within and without the State the image of
3 State Government as having a poor attitude
4 toward business.

5 T. The director may ask the Maine Development
6 Foundation for assistance with any portions of
7 this subsection that are within the mission of
8 the foundation and the foundation shall provide
9 that assistance or an explanation why it is not
10 provided.

11 The director shall assure that there is good
12 2-way communication between the office and the
13 foundation relative to matters dealt with in this
14 subsection so that activities of the 2 organiza-
15 tions are coordinated and duplication is avoided.

16 Sec. 12. 5 MRSA §7004, sub-§§1 and 2, as enacted
17 by PL 1983, c. 477, Pt. E, sub-pt. 26, §5, are
18 amended to read:

19 1. Division of Tourism. There is established, to
20 carry out the purposes of this section, a Division of
21 Tourism, called the "division," within the State
22 Development Commerce and Industry Office, which shall
23 be directly responsible to the Director of the State
24 Development Commerce and Industry Office.

25 2. Director. The director and staff of the Di-
26 vision of Tourism shall be appointed by the Director
27 of the State Development Commerce and Industry Office
28 and shall serve at his pleasure. The director and
29 staff of the Division of Tourism shall be paid a sal-
30 ary fixed by the Director of the State Development
31 Commerce and Industry Office.

32 Sec. 13. 5 MRSA §7004, sub-§3, ¶¶I, J and K as
33 enacted by PL 1983, c. 477, Pt. E, sub-pt. 26, §5,
34 are amended to read:

35 I. Accept such fees as the Director of the State
36 Development Commerce and Industry Office may des-
37 ignate for the preparation and distribution of
38 books, booklets, brochures, pamphlets, films,
39 photos, maps, exhibits, mailing lists, all like
40 materials and media advertising. There is estab-

1 lished within the division a revolving fund for
2 the use of the division to help offset the prepara-
3 tion and distribution costs of these materials.
4 The division shall retain, without charge, an ap-
5 propriate number of each publication for compli-
6 mentary distribution. Income from the sale of
7 publications and other materials that were
8 charged to the revolving fund shall be credited
9 to the revolving fund to be used as a continuing
10 carrying account to carry out the purposes of the
11 revolving fund;

12 J. Subject to the approval of the Director of
13 the State Development Commerce and Industry Of-
14 fice, adopt, amend and repeal rules to carry out
15 the purposes of this subsection and section 7006;
16 and

17 K. Undertake such other activities as the Direc-
18 tor of the State Development Commerce and
19 Industry Office considers appropriate and neces-
20 sary to insure the successful implementation of
21 this section.

22 **Sec. 14.** 5 MRSA §7005, sub-§1, as amended by PL
23 1983, c. 812, §35, is further amended to read:

24 1. Maine Vacation-travel Commission. The Maine
25 Vacation-travel Commission, established by section
26 12004, subsection 10, shall assist, advise, recommend
27 and guide the Division of Tourism's operation. It
28 shall consist of 9 members of major tourism trade as-
29 sociations and 8 public members who shall represent
30 their respective regions and who are experienced in
31 the field or who have demonstrated a concern for the
32 travel industry. The terms of the members shall be 4
33 years each, except for the members first appointed, 4
34 shall be appointed for a term of 4 years, 4 for 3
35 years, 4 for 2 years and 5 for one year. The members
36 shall be appointed by the Governor, who shall fill
37 any vacancies in the appointed membership for the un-
38 expired term. The commissioner or director, or his
39 designee, of the following state departments or of-
40 fices shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of
41 the commission: State Development Commerce and
42 Industry Office; State Planning Office; Department of
43 Conservation; Department of Transportation; Depart-

1 ment of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; Department of
2 Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources; Department of
3 Educational and Cultural Services; Bureau of Public
4 Improvements and Canadian Affairs Coordinator. A
5 chairman and vice-chairman shall be elected annually
6 from the appointed membership.

7 Sec. 15. 5 MRSA §7005, sub-§2, ¶¶A and F, as en-
8 acted by PL 1983, c. 477, Pt. E, sub-pt. 26, §5, are
9 amended to read:

10 A. Recommend rules for the implementation of
11 section 7006 and make recommendations on the
12 award of matching funds to the Director of the
13 State Development Commerce and Industry Office;

14 F. Assist the Division of Tourism in such other
15 areas as the Director of the State Development
16 Commerce and Industry Office considers appropri-
17 ate and necessary to insure the successful imple-
18 mentation of this section.

19 Sec. 16. 5 MRSA §7006, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by
20 PL 1983, c. 477, Pt. E, sub-pt. 26, §5, is amended
21 to read:

22 B. To strengthen the state image by coordinating
23 the promotional efforts of the private sector and
24 the Division of Tourism of the State Development
25 Commerce and Industry Office.

26 Sec. 17. 5 MRSA §7006, sub-§4, as enacted by PL
27 1983, c. 477, Pt. E, sub-pt. 26, §5, is amended to
28 read:

29 4. Administration. The State Development Com-
30 merce and Industry Office, through the Division of
31 Tourism shall administer the Travel Promotion Match-
32 ing Fund Program with such flexibility as to bring
33 about the most effective and economical travel promo-
34 tion program possible. Applications from all regions
35 of the State shall be equally considered. The Maine
36 Vacation-travel Commission shall recommend rules and
37 procedures necessary and appropriate to the proper
38 operation of the Travel Promotion Matching Fund Pro-
39 gram. These rules shall establish eligibility re-
40 quirements, allocation formulas, application proce-

1 dures and criteria subject to the final approval of
2 the Director of the State Development Commerce and
3 Industry Office. The Maine Vacation-travel Commission
4 shall establish a schedule for review of grant appli-
5 cations and make timely recommendations of grant
6 awards to the Division of Tourism. Grants recom-
7 mended by the commission to the division must be ap-
8 proved by the Director of the State Development Com-
9 merce and Industry Office prior to any disbursement
10 of funds.

11 **Sec. 18.** 5 MRSA §7006, sub-§5, as enacted by PL
12 1983, c. 477, Pt. E, sub-pt. 26, §5, is amended to
13 read:

14 5. Bookkeeping systems. The State Development
15 Commerce and Industry Office and all tourist promo-
16 tion organizations qualifying for matching funds un-
17 der this section shall keep accurate records of any
18 applications, transactions, payment receipts and cor-
19 respondence relating to the implementation of the
20 Travel Promotion Matching Fund Program.

21 A. The State Development Commerce and Industry
22 Office, with the advice of the Department of Fi-
23 nance and Administration, shall establish a stan-
24 dard accounting procedure to be used by any orga-
25 nization receiving moneys under this section.

26 B. The records of any organization pertaining to
27 accounts and contracts funded with moneys under
28 this section shall be open to audit by the State
29 or by any firm employed by the State to audit
30 these records.

31 **Sec. 19.** 5 MRSA §§7007 and 7008, as enacted by
32 PL 1983, c. 477, Pt. E, sub-pt. 26, §5, are amended
33 to read:

34 §7007. Appropriation

35 The Legislature shall annually appropriate from
36 the General Fund to the State Development Commerce
37 and Industry Office the sums necessary to implement
38 the programs established by the Division of Tourism
39 and to operate the Travel Promotion Matching Fund
40 Program. Unexpended funds shall not lapse, but shall
41 be carried forward.

1 §7008. Report to Legislature

2 The State ~~Development~~ Commerce and Industry Of-
3 office, by January 15th, shall provide a progress and
4 accounting report on the tourist industry of Maine
5 and the effect of this industry on the State to the
6 joint standing committee of the Legislature having
7 jurisdiction over State Government.

8 Sec. 20. 5 MRSA §7011, as enacted by PL 1983, c.
9 519, §2, is amended to read:

10 §7011. Community Industrial Buildings Fund

11 1. Creation. The Community Industrial Buildings
12 Fund is created as a nonlapsing revolving fund to be
13 used by the State ~~Development~~ Commerce and Industry
14 Office only for the purposes of this subchapter.
15 There is created within the fund separate accounts
16 for rural and urban areas, respectively called the
17 "rural" and "urban" accounts, which shall be sepa-
18 rately charged and credited as provided under this
19 section according to the location in a rural or urban
20 area of each community industrial building.

21 2. Items charged or credited. Operating ex-
22 penses of the State ~~Development~~ Commerce and Industry
23 Office incurred under this subchapter shall be
24 charged to the fund and all payments required by this
25 subchapter shall be credited to it. All State
26 ~~Development~~ Commerce and Industry Office expenses
27 that arise out of assistance to local development
28 corporations under this subchapter shall be charged
29 solely against the proceeds of the sale or rental of
30 a community industrial building or all or part of an
31 industrial park assisted under this subchapter.

32 3. Deposited funds. Money in the fund not cur-
33 rently needed to meet the obligations of the State
34 ~~Development~~ Commerce and Industry Office under this
35 subchapter shall be deposited with the Treasurer of
36 State to the credit of the fund with all interest
37 earned by the deposit credited to the fund.

38 4. Successor to fund. The State ~~Development~~
39 Commerce and Industry Office shall be the successor
40 to the Maine Guarantee Authority for the purposes of

1 this subchapter. All properties, rights in land,
2 buildings and equipment and any funds, moneys, reve-
3 nues and receipts or assets of the Maine Guarantee
4 Authority as they apply to the Community Industrial
5 Buildings Program, including funds previously appro-
6 priated by the State for the Community Industrial
7 Buildings Program, shall belong to the State
8 ~~Development~~ Commerce and Industry Office as successor
9 to the Maine Guarantee Authority. All liabilities of
10 the Maine Guarantee Authority with respect to the
11 Community Industrial Buildings Program shall become
12 liabilities of the State ~~Development~~ Commerce and
13 Industry Office. Any action taken by the Maine Guar-
14 antee Authority with respect to assisting a local de-
15 velopment corporation to create community industrial
16 buildings shall be an action taken by the State
17 ~~Development~~ Commerce and Industry Office.

18 Sec. 21. 5 MRSA §7012, first ¶, as enacted by PL
19 1983, c. 519, §2, is amended to read:

20 The State ~~Development~~ Commerce and Industry Of-
21 fice may assist a local development corporation to
22 construct a community industrial building by loaning
23 it money, for construction or carrying costs, or
24 both, for the project, subject to subsection 1.

25 Sec. 22. 5 MRSA §7012, sub-§2, ¶¶B, D and E, as
26 enacted by PL 1983, c. 519, §2, are amended to read:

27 B. The local development corporation, in the
28 opinion of the State ~~Development~~ Commerce and
29 Industry Office, shall be responsible and shall
30 present evidence of its ability to carry out the
31 project as planned.

32 D. The local development corporation shall pro-
33 vide and maintain, with funds other than those
34 provided by the State ~~Development~~ Commerce and
35 Industry Office, an adequate access road from a
36 public highway to the proposed site and water,
37 sewer and power facilities. The development cor-
38 poration will also be responsible for plowing out
39 the plant site at all times and for landscaping
40 the building in an attractive fashion until the
41 building is occupied by an industrial tenant.

1 E. The local development corporation's project
2 plans shall comply with applicable zoning, plan-
3 ning and sanitary regulations in the municipality
4 where it is to be located. No loan may be ap-
5 proved and no certificate of approval for the
6 project or for any subsequent enlargement or ad-
7 dition to the project may be issued until the De-
8 partment of Environmental Protection has certifi-
9 fied to the State Development Commerce and
10 Industry Office that all licenses required from
11 the department have been issued or that none are
12 required.

13 Sec. 23. 5 MRSA §7012, sub-§§3, 4, and 5 as en-
14 acted by PL 1983, c. 519, §2, are amended to read:

15 3. Loan terms. Terms for a loan are as follows.

16 A. The State Development Commerce and Industry
17 Office may prescribe the terms and conditions of
18 the loan.

19 B. Loans shall be repaid in full, including in-
20 terest and other charges within 90 days after the
21 building is occupied.

22 C. The building financed by a State Development
23 Commerce and Industry Office loan may not be sold
24 or leased without the express approval of the
25 State Development Commerce and Industry Office of
26 the purchaser or lessee. If the local development
27 corporation and the State Development Commerce
28 and Industry Office agree that a community indus-
29 trial building is unlikely to be sold in the near
30 future despite a marketing effort, the State
31 Development Commerce and Industry Office may per-
32 mit an interim lease upon terms it deems appro-
33 priate for the protection of the fund. Occupation
34 of the premises under an interim lease shall not
35 require payment in full of the entire loan within
36 90 days, as provided in paragraph B.

37 4. Promotion and development. The State
38 Development Commerce and Industry Office shall under-
39 take promotional and publicity activities on behalf
40 of community industrial buildings to properly market
41 them to prospective purchasers or tenants. The office

1 shall maintain a constant and continual effort to se-
2 cure suitable tenants or purchasers for these build-
3 ings and shall prepare necessary advertising and pro-
4 motional materials.

5 5. Taxes. While the community industrial build-
6 ing remains unoccupied and a first mortgage is held
7 by the State Development Commerce and Industry Of-
8 ice, it is declared to be property held for a legit-
9 imate public use and benefit and shall be exempt from
10 all taxes and special assessments of the State or any
11 of its political subdivisions. This section shall not
12 apply to any community industrial building whose con-
13 struction is not financed under this chapter.

14 Sec. 24. 5 MRSA §§7016, 7017 and 7018, as en-
15 acted by PL 1985, c. 464, §§2 and 4, are amended to
16 read:

17 §7016. Program to be promoted

18 The Director of the State Development Commerce
19 and Industry Office shall advertise and promote the
20 program throughout the State. At a minimum, the pro-
21 gram shall be advertised in the major circulating
22 state newspapers as often as necessary to establish a
23 public awareness of the program.

24 §7017. Agencies to cooperate

25 State agencies and departments and economic de-
26 velopment agencies of political subdivisions of the
27 State shall cooperate with and expeditiously respond
28 to the requests of the State Development Commerce and
29 Industry Office. Each organization required by this
30 subchapter to cooperate with the State Development
31 Commerce and Industry Office shall, at a minimum,
32 provide the State Development Commerce and Industry
33 Office with descriptions of its business assistance
34 programs and services, marketing programs, geographi-
35 cal areas served, client qualifications, funding lev-
36 els and other information requested by the State
37 Development Commerce and Industry Office to implement
38 this program.

39 §7018. State Planning Office to provide notice of
40 federal grant approval

1 The State Planning Office shall notify the State
2 Development Commerce and Industry Office of approvals
3 of federal grants as these apply to economic develop-
4 ment.

5 Sec. 25. 5 MRSA §12004, sub-§10, ¶A, sub-¶(44-A)
6 is enacted to read:

7 (44-A) Industry Maine Industrial Expenses 10 MRSA §10C
8 Advisory Board Only

9 Sec. 26. 10 MRSA c. 110, sub-c. I-C is enacted
10 to read:

11 SUBCHAPTER I-C

12 MATURE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY FINANCE PROGRAM

13 §1011. Legislative findings

14 The Legislature finds that Maine's mature manu-
15 facturing industries are major industries in the
16 State, providing the largest and most constant source
17 of employment in the State. In addition the Legisla-
18 ture specifically finds:

19 1. Lack of capital. Compared with the national
20 average, Maine is a capital-short State, with partic-
21 ular lack of long-term debt capital;

22 2. Financing difficulties of manufacturing in-
23 dustries. Mature manufacturing industries face par-
24 ticular difficulties obtaining adequate financing be-
25 cause of their nongrowth nature, considerable
26 turnover and the instability of some segments. Also
27 the efforts of some industries to obtain federal re-
28 lief have painted an unrealistically bleak picture of
29 these industries.

30 3. Advantage of manufacturing industries. Enter-
31 prises adding the greatest value by conversion of raw
32 products are of particular benefit to the State.
33 They are also in the position to produce brand dif-
34 ferentiated products which do not have the extreme
35 price sensitivity of commodity type natural resource
36 products. Also, as opposed to service businesses,
37 mature manufacturing businesses offer higher wages
38 and are more apt to offer year-round employment.

1 Considering these things, producers and processors of
2 these products are not receiving sufficient assist-
3 ance in marketing and training in management. There
4 is an overall lack of a statewide economic strategy
5 and this generally has resulted in low priority being
6 given to the mature manufacturing industries. There
7 is a need for technical assistance and training in
8 business management for these industries.

9 4. Jeopardy to industries. The lack of
10 affordable financing options and marketing and other
11 technical assistance jeopardizes the maintenance of
12 many of the State's mature manufacturing industries
13 at present levels and makes expansion and
14 diversification of these enterprises more difficult.
15 The constraints on the operation and expansion of
16 these enterprises decrease the available employment,
17 particularly in rural areas, and result in the prob-
18 lems attendant on unemployment.

19 5. Provision for marketing and technical assist-
20 ance and for financing opportunities. The existing
21 situation for the industries is no different from
22 those facing the State's natural resource industries
23 and these mature manufacturing industries are of ma-
24 ajor importance to the State. Therefore, it is neces-
25 sary, desirable and in the best interest of the citi-
26 zens of the State that provisions be made for these
27 industries to receive adequate marketing and techni-
28 cal assistance, as well as adequate financing oppor-
29 tunities, in the same manner as the natural resource
30 industries.

31 §1012. Purpose

32 The purposes of this subchapter shall be:

33 1. Programs to encourage investment. To relieve
34 those conditions which now exist which represent dif-
35 iculties in industry financing and development and
36 to assist in planning, coordinating and implementing
37 programs that will encourage further public and pri-
38 ivate participation and investment to achieve this
39 end; and

40 2. Information and training. To provide a cen-
41 tral source for credit information and other finan-

1 cial management training and services to the manage-
2 ment of mature manufacturing industry to better en-
3 able them to obtain adequate financial assistance
4 from existing sources.

5 §1013. Mature manufacturing industries financing
6 program

7 1. Implementation of programs. The authority
8 shall be responsible for the implementation of the
9 mature manufacturing industries financing program.

10 2. Powers and duties. The authority shall have
11 all the powers and duties necessary to carry out the
12 purposes and provisions of this subchapter, includ-
13 ing, but not limited to, the power to:

14 A. In cooperation with other state, local and
15 federal agencies or instrumentalities, conduct
16 financial management studies to analyze the situ-
17 ation and needs of those persons in the State en-
18 gaged in or wishing to enter an enterprise in a
19 mature industry;

20 B. Provide to public and private entities tech-
21 nical assistance and advice related to purposes
22 of this subchapter, including:

23 (1) Establishment of an expert advisory
24 group which shall be available, upon re-
25 quest, to consult with financing institu-
26 tions as to the merits of loan applications
27 for mature manufacturing enterprises; and

28 (2) Provision of advice to persons engaged
29 or seeking to be engaged in mature manufac-
30 turing industries as to the nature and
31 source of relevant governmental assistance
32 programs;

33 C. Contract with financing institutions to make
34 mature manufacturing industry loans. In estab-
35 lishing a financing program pursuant to this par-
36 agraph, the authority shall establish guidelines
37 for the operation of and participation in loan
38 programs and shall assure compliance with those
39 guidelines. Individual loans made under this

1 paragraph shall not exceed \$400,000. The author-
2 ity shall promulgate rules governing eligibility
3 which take into consideration the established
4 guidelines and the ability of applicants to com-
5 pete successfully in the private lending market
6 and to pay amounts at which private enterprise is
7 providing financing. In promulgating the rules,
8 the authority may establish income or asset limi-
9 tations for eligibility. The following specific
10 guidelines apply:

11 (1) Loans shall generally be at the going
12 market rate and shall be for companies that
13 are unable to obtain loans from conventional
14 sources;

15 (2) Emphasis shall be given to loans which
16 involve fixed rate, long-term senior or sub-
17 ordinated debt;

18 (3) Loans shall be limited to companies in
19 Maine's nongrowth manufacturing industries;

20 (4) The retention or creation of jobs shall
21 be a requirement for these loans;

22 (5) The authority may form private corpora-
23 tions owned by participating lending insti-
24 tutions, with income tax abatements if
25 needed; and

26 (6) If tax abatements of this type are of-
27 fered to members of a private corporation,
28 the credit against the income tax shall not
29 exceed 2.3% of the value of the outstanding
30 loans and shall be returned if there is a
31 violation of subparagraphs (3) and (4) or
32 such other guidelines as the authority may
33 designate as being a condition of the abate-
34 ment. Total outstanding loans against which
35 abatements have been given shall not exceed
36 \$3,000,000 at any one time.

37 In the event that no financing institution, after
38 both initial and successive reasonable opportuni-
39 ties by the authority, has contracted with the
40 authority to participate in a loan program, the

1 authority shall report this fact together with an
2 appropriate recommendation to the Legislature;

3 D. Develop mechanisms for guaranteeing repayment
4 of loans or other obligations of indebtedness in-
5 curring in connection with mature manufacturing
6 industries. This subchapter shall not result in
7 an increase in the amount of the loans under
8 guarantee by the authority, but shall represent a
9 realigning of commitment in order to give the
10 priority to the mature industries specified in
11 this subchapter;

12 E. Serve as a clearinghouse for information re-
13 lating to financing of mature manufacturing in-
14 dustries and gather and disseminate information
15 regarding these activities. The authority shall
16 encourage and coordinate effective use of exist-
17 ing and new services to assist mature manufactur-
18 ing industries stabilization and development;

19 F. Aggressively promote to industry the availa-
20 bility of these programs and services; and

21 G. Make a report to the Legislature by January
22 1, 1988, in which it shall report the degree to
23 which the various programs and services outlined
24 in this subchapter have been implemented.

25 Sec. 27. 10 MRSA Pt. 13 is enacted to read:

26 PART 13

27 INDUSTRIAL STABILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

28 CHAPTER 1101

29 §10001. Legislative findings and intent

30 As is true in many states, the State Government
31 has long tended to ignore its existing industries and
32 has, in fact, evidenced on occasion a negative atti-
33 tude toward many so-called mature industries. In
34 addition, because of the relatively poor economic
35 conditions in which many of its citizens live, the
36 State has tended to enact legislation and rules that
37 favor the worker at the expense of the interests of

1 business. As a result of these actions, the State
2 has failed to aid business, has created an adverse
3 impact on business and has created the impression
4 that it has a negative business climate. Additional-
5 ly, in doing these things, it has further contributed
6 to the plight of its work force.

7 There is need to see that the policies of the
8 State Government toward business reflect the informed
9 desires of the citizens of the State, are coordinated
10 toward a common goal and reflect a positive and sup-
11 portive business climate.

12 CHAPTER 1103

13 MAINE INDUSTRIAL ADVISORY BOARD

14 §10005. Establishment and purpose

15 The Maine Industrial Advisory Board as estab-
16 lished in Title 5, section 12004, subsection 10,
17 shall initiate and oversee the development of a state
18 strategy for industrial stabilization and development
19 and recommend the resulting strategy to the Governor
20 for his approval; coordinate the activities of the
21 various state funded agencies involved in industrial
22 stabilization and development; oversee and evaluate
23 the performance of these agencies; and make a report
24 to the Governor concerning its findings.

25 The board shall also advise on the need for
26 industry-wide assistance programs and act as a vehi-
27 cle for intervention in the case of a crisis in an
28 industry or a major individual company and shall rec-
29 ommend and supervise major development projects.

30 §10006. Membership and organization

31 The membership of the board shall consist of in-
32 dividuals representing the following 15 organizations
33 and chosen as indicated:

34 1. Private sector. Members representing the
35 private sector shall be selected as follows.

36 A. Six executives shall be selected by the Gov-
37 ernor in consultation with the state chamber of

1 commerce, one from each of the following indus-
2 tries: Paper, wood products, textile or apparel,
3 defense, leather goods, electric or electronic
4 equipment. The industry composition may be var-
5 ied after 2 years in order to reflect the priori-
6 ties of the time.

7 B. One banking executive shall be selected by
8 the Governor in consultation with the Maine Bank-
9 ers Association;

10 2. Public sector. The Director of the State
11 Commerce and Industry Office, the Director of the
12 State Planning Office and a representative of the De-
13 partment of Labor and a representative from the De-
14 partment of Transportation of at least the deputy
15 level selected by the commissioners of the respective
16 departments;

17 3. Education sector. One senior representative
18 from the state university system and one senior rep-
19 resentative from the state vocational education sys-
20 tem appointed by the Governor;

21 4. Labor. A labor spokesman appointed by the
22 Governor; and

23 5. Business Advocate. The Business Advocate
24 from the Governor's staff.

25 All appointments in the private and labor sectors
26 shall be for 2-year terms. An individual may be ap-
27 pointed for no more than 2 additional consecutive
28 2-year terms. One half of the appointments in these
29 sectors at the initiation of the board shall be for 4
30 years. These individuals shall then be eligible for
31 only one additional consecutive 2-year term. Members
32 shall be compensated in accordance with Title 5,
33 chapter 379.

34 Subcommittees to deal with specific industries
35 shall be set up as the need requires and may include
36 nonboard members.

37 The Business Advocate shall act as executive sec-
38 retary of this board. The board shall choose its
39 chairman from the private sector.

1 The Governor shall be responsible for setting up
2 this board. This board shall have its initial meet-
3 ing no later than 4 months from the effective date of
4 this chapter.

5 CHAPTER 1104

6 BUSINESS ADVOCATE

7 §10011. Establishment and purpose

8 There is established the position of Business Ad-
9 vocate in the Office of the Governor. The functions
10 of this position include:

11 1. Review of legislation. Reviewing current and
12 proposed state legislation, rules and policies from
13 the viewpoint of their impact on business and dissem-
14 inating and advocating his findings in this regard;

15 2. Liason. Acting as proactive liaison between
16 the State and the private sector;

17 3. Business assistance. Assisting businesses in
18 dealings with the State; and

19 4. Attitude improvement. Attempting by his ac-
20 tions to impart to the business community that the
21 State is supportive of business.

22 The Business Advocate shall be designated within
23 3 months from the effective date of this chapter.

24 §10012. Qualifications and performance

25 The Business Advocate shall be chosen by the Gov-
26 ernor. He must have substantial business knowledge
27 and a positive attitude toward business. He must be
28 capable of convincing the business community that he
29 wholeheartedly represents their interests and his
30 performance shall be judged largely on his ability to
31 do this.

32 §10013. Review of current legislation, rules and po-
33 licies

1 The Business Advocate shall conduct a review of
2 those Maine laws, rules and policies that impact
3 business. The purpose shall be to ascertain their
4 negative effect on business versus their other posi-
5 tive effects and to make recommendations when appro-
6 priate. The Business Advocate may call on any state
7 agencies for any type of assistance in this review
8 and the state agencies requested shall provide any
9 requested work or assistance. In the event that
10 there is no Business Advocate, this review shall be
11 the responsibility of the Director of the State Plan-
12 ning Office and he shall report his findings to the
13 Industrial Advisory Board, if that body is in
14 existence. This review shall specifically include
15 the State's plant closing legislation, Title 26, sec-
16 tion 625-B.

17 This review shall be completed within one year
18 after the approval of this chapter.

19 CHAPTER 1105

20 CENTER FOR MATURE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

21 §10021. Establishment

22 There is established a Center for Mature Manufac-
23 turing Industries to link private and educational re-
24 sources to make Maine manufacturing industries more
25 competitive nationwide and internationally and to at-
26 tract companies in these industries from other
27 states.

28 §10022. Objectives

29 The center has the following objectives:

30 1. Competition in national markets. To develop
31 an action plan to improve the competitive position of
32 Maine products in national markets;

33 2. Commercialization of knowledge. To act as a
34 catalyst and coordinator to advance consumer and
35 technical knowledge into commercial products;

36 3. Attract companies. To develop a critical
37 mass of fashion, consumer and technical knowledge

1 needed to attract to Maine companies in industries
2 similar to the State's current industries;

3 4. Successful management practices. To identify
4 the most successful companies in the State and assist
5 other companies in benefiting from these proven man-
6 agement practices; and

7 5. Lessons from other states. To implement les-
8 sons learned from cooperative problem solving ar-
9 rangements existing in other states and Canada.

10 §10023. Specific activities

11 The mission of the center shall be:

12 1. Fashion design. Research, education and
13 training in fashion design;

14 2. Management; marketing and education. Contin-
15 uing education programs in management and marketing;
16 and

17 3. Research. Manufacturing and technology re-
18 search to channel new technology and techniques into
19 Maine industries and to explore alternative uses for
20 existing Maine technologies, machinery and skills.

21 §10024. Organization and start-up

22 The center shall be jointly funded by industry,
23 the higher education community and the State Govern-
24 ment. There shall be a board of directors composed
25 of representatives of industry, education, labor and
26 the Legislature. Matching grants from State Govern-
27 ment may be used in the financing of specific re-
28 search activities.

29 Within 3 months after the effective date of this
30 chapter, the State Planning Office and the state uni-
31 versity system shall jointly submit a proposal to the
32 Maine Science and Technology Board for a study
33 project whose objective is to arrange for the cre-
34 ation of this center. This study project is to com-
35 mence no later than January 1, 1987 or the beginning
36 of that organization's fiscal year, whichever is la-
37 ter.

1 If this proposal is not accepted, the State Plan-
2 ning Office and the university system shall submit to
3 the Legislature within 5 months after the effective
4 date of this chapter a plan for developing this center
5 including financing needs and a timetable.

6 Sec. 28. 26 MRSA §2005 is enacted to read:

7 §2005. Specific training provisions

8 This fund shall not be used to train unemployed
9 workers for jobs in a different industry when jobs
10 for which they are qualified exist within an industry
11 where they have previously been employed unless such
12 a prohibition on the use of the fund would result in
13 a loss of federal money. An exception may be made
14 when the available jobs are with companies whose
15 turnover the commissioner judges to be excessive rel-
16 ative to the norm for that industry.

17 Provided that there are sufficient applicants,
18 each industry shall have a proportion of total per-
19 sons in training under this program that is equal to
20 its proportion of job openings to the total job open-
21 ings of all industries involved in this program un-
22 less such a requirement would result in a loss of
23 federal money.

24 Sec. 29. 26 MRSA §2054 is enacted to read:

25 §2054. Specific training provisions

26 This fund shall not be used to train unemployed
27 workers for jobs in a different industry when jobs
28 for which they are qualified exist within an industry
29 where they have previously been employed unless such
30 a prohibition on the use of the fund would result in
31 a loss of federal money. An exception may be made
32 when the available jobs are with companies whose
33 turnover the commissioner judges to be excessive rel-
34 ative to the norm for that industry.

35 Provided that there are sufficient applicants,
36 each industry shall have a proportion of total per-
37 sons in training under this program that is equal to
38 its proportion of job openings to the total job open-
39 ings of all industries involved in this program un-

1 less such a requirement would result in a loss of
2 federal money.

3 Sec. 30. 36 MRSA §305, sub-§2, as enacted by PL
4 1973, c. 620, §10, is amended to read:

5 2. Services. Assist the primary assessing areas
6 by providing appropriate technical services which ~~may~~
7 shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

8 A. Preparation of information or manuals, or
9 both, concerning construction values, prices, ap-
10 praised guides, statistical tables and other ap-
11 propriate materials;

12 B. Specialized assessing assistance in industri-
13 al, commercial and other difficult property as-
14 sessments as determined by the State Tax Asses-
15 sor;

16 C. Establishment of a coordinate grid system in
17 connection with the State Planning Office for the
18 purpose of uniform identification of property
19 parcels;

20 D. Assistance in the preparation of tax maps and
21 methods of updating such maps;

22 E. Devising necessary forms and procedures; and

23 F. Advice concerning data processing application
24 to assessing.

25 Sec. 31. 36 MRSA §318, first ¶ is amended to
26 read:

27 §318. Training of assessors

28 The State Tax Assessor ~~may~~ shall establish, ei-
29 ther on his own initiative or in conjunction with
30 professional or educational agencies, or both, a pro-
31 gram of training to meet the needs of the State of
32 Maine for a sufficient supply of competently trained
33 assessors. Where possible, such training shall be
34 conducted by the Bureau of Public Administration of
35 the University of Maine or an institution of higher
36 education. For such purposes, the State Tax Assessor

1 may designate what programs either within or outside
2 the State are acceptable for these training purposes.

3 Sec. 32. 36 MRSA §327, sub-§2, as enacted by PL
4 1975, c. 545, §13, is repealed and the following en-
5 acted in its place:

6 2. Maximum rating assessment. A maximum rating
7 of assessment quality of 15.

8 Sec. 33. 36 MRSA §5217 is enacted to read:

9 §5217. Credit for purchase of machinery and equip-
10 ment

11 A manufacturer shall be allowed a credit of 7% of
12 the cost of machinery and equipment purchased during
13 the taxable year against his income tax. This credit
14 will be spread evenly over a period of 5 years and
15 shall cease if the manufacturer discontinues opera-
16 tion in the State at any time during that period. If
17 prior to the application of this program to his tax,
18 a manufacturer has no reported income tax in a given
19 year, this credit may be carried back for a period
20 not to exceed 3 years. If the manufacturer utilizing
21 the carry back provision has insufficient profit to
22 utilize his earned credits, he shall be allowed to
23 convert expired net operating losses into a credit of
24 20% of the cost of machinery and equipment against
25 his income tax. If he elects this conversion, he
26 shall lose his eligibility for that year for the
27 original program.

28 To qualify for this program a manufacturer must
29 be continuously engaged in a business classified as
30 manufacturing in the Federal Standard Industrial
31 Classification Codes 20-39 in Maine for at least 5
32 years. The purchase of the machinery and equipment
33 must be approved by the State Commerce and Industry
34 Office as assisting in the maintenance or creation of
35 jobs within the State.

36 Sec. 34. Committee studies. The joint standing
37 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
38 economic development and nontax financing shall con-
39 duct the following studies or reviews.

1 1. A review once each 5 years of the economic
2 analysis and data collection activities of the State
3 Planning Office to ascertain the degree of their com-
4 pliance with the provisions of the Maine Revised
5 Statutes, Title 5, section 3305, subsection 1, para-
6 graph C and H.

7 2. A joint review with the Joint Standing Com-
8 mittee on Labor of the personnel policies and working
9 conditions of Maine's mature manufacturing indus-
10 tries. The purpose shall be to determine the feasi-
11 bility of the Office of Commerce and Industry and the
12 Department of Labor jointly assisting these companies
13 in ungrading themselves as places of employment and
14 thereby improving the image of the industry in this
15 regard. This review shall be for the benefit of the
16 company and shall not result in coercive legislation
17 or the creation of an adversarial climate.

18 3. A joint study with the Joint Standing Commit-
19 tee on Transportation of the transportation needs and
20 costs of Maine's mature industries to determine if
21 efficiencies can be realized through assistance by
22 the State in pooling and coordinating these needs.

23 4. A joint study with the Joint Standing Commit-
24 tee on Audit and Program Review of the staffing of
25 the State Commerce and Industry Office with the ob-
26 jective of ascertaining the following:

27 A. Is the staff of sufficient size?

28 B. Does the staff, including the director, have
29 the proper qualifications to perform the mission
30 of the office?

31 C. Are salaries adequate to attract and hold
32 persons with the qualifications required by the
33 mission of the office?

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2 This bill seeks to provide state assistance to
3 the State's mature manufacturing industries through
4 the following means.

5 I. New State Government agencies.

6 A. Maine Industrial Advisory Board - section 26
7 - Composed of 15 persons representing industry,
8 banking, labor, education and state economic de-
9 velopment, planning, labor and transportation
10 agencies. Recommends a state economic develop-
11 ment strategy to the Governor and overseeing re-
12 ports to the Governor concerning the performance
13 of the various state-funded development agencies
14 against this strategy.

15 B. Business Advocate - section 26 - Individual
16 in the Governor's office to review state legisla-
17 tion and regulation in the light of its impact on
18 business, to provide liaison between the State
19 and business and to assist business in dealing
20 with government.

21 C. Center for Mature Management Industries -
22 section 26 - A university based consortium of
23 government, education and business funded by each
24 with the mission of providing education, training
25 and research in areas important to mature indus-
26 tries. The specifics of the consortium are to be
27 the result of a study project by the Maine Sci-
28 ence and Technology Board. While it is the ex-
29 pectation that the state university system will
30 be the university representative, it is the in-
31 tent that any appropriate institution of higher
32 education in the State be considered for this
33 consortium.

34 II. Realignment of priorities for existing agen-
35 cies.

36 It is the general intent of these sections not to
37 add functions that will result in increase to the
38 budget or staffing of these agencies but to realign
39 the priorities of the agencies and to direct atten-

1 tion to emphasize certain aspects of their current
2 missions.

3 A. State Planning Office, sections 2 and 3 of
4 the bill, add to the data collecting mission of
5 this office material of use to the State's mature
6 industries.

7 B. State Development Office, sections 4 to 24 of
8 the bill.

9 1. Changes the name to State Commerce and
10 Industry Office to reflect change in empha-
11 sis from attracting new business to assist-
12 ing existing businesses and representing
13 business as the Department of Labor repre-
14 sents labor. Sections 4 to 8, 10, 13 to 24.
15 Section 4 provides objectives. The other
16 sections deal only with the mechanics of the
17 name change.

18 2. Requires that the office put greater em-
19 phasis on the "Product of Maine" program as-
20 suming that current staffing is adequate for
21 the agency's current mission. Section 9.

22 3. Requires that the office develop an ear-
23 ly warning system to identify companies that
24 are for sale or are in danger of leaving the
25 State or closing and requires that the of-
26 fice develop a program to assist such compa-
27 nies through advice, training and help in
28 obtaining financing. Section 11.

29 4. Requires that the office develop a pro-
30 gram to assist companies to develop interna-
31 tional trade. Section 11.

32 5. Requires that the office utilize the
33 programs of the various trade associations
34 and the data of the Department of Labor and
35 act as a catalyst to involve businesses in
36 the use of this material. Section 11.

37 6. Requires that the office present to the
38 Legislature proposed advertising programs to
39 make the State aware of the importance of

1 its mature industries, reinforce the image
2 of Maine products and counter the image of
3 Maine as having a negative business climate.
4 Section 11.

5 7. Allows the office to call on the Maine
6 Development Foundation for assistance in ar-
7 eas compatible with the foundation's mis-
8 sion. Section 11.

9 C. Finance Authority of Maine. Section 25.

10 Requires that the authority develop programs to
11 provide financing to mature industries with em-
12 phasis on fixed rate, long-term loans through
13 private sources. It is the intent of this pro-
14 gram to see that mature industries receive the
15 same priority accrued to natural resource indus-
16 tries and most of the language of this section is
17 similar to current statutory language on natural
18 resources. It is the intent that this result in
19 the realigning of the agency's loan portfolio,
20 not result in an addition to this portfolio.

21 III. Other Financing Programs. Section 32.

22 A. Manufacturers are allowed tax credits for
23 purchase of machinery and equipment that is cer-
24 tified by the State Development Office as assist-
25 ing in job maintenance. Companies must have been
26 in Maine 5 years to qualify for this program and
27 must remain in Maine 5 additional years to obtain
28 full benefits of the program.

29 IV. Specific Activities to Improve the Business
30 Climate.

31 A. The Business Advocate in the Governor's of-
32 fice is to be responsible for the conduct of a
33 review of all legislation, regulation and policy
34 that impacts business and is to be an advocate
35 for business in attempting to eliminate these
36 items whose negative impact on business exceeds
37 their positive impact in other areas. Section
38 26.

39 V. Other actions.

1 A. Retraining - Prohibits retraining of unem-
2 ployed workers when jobs exist in industries in
3 which they have previously been employed. Re-
4 quires that government financed job training op-
5 portunities for an industry be at least in pro-
6 portion to its number of available job openings.
7 Sections 1, 27 and 28.

8 B. Property Tax - Requires that the State Tax
9 Assessor take a more proactive role in training
10 local tax assessors and requires a higher stan-
11 dard of performance of these local assessors.
12 Sections 29 to 31.

13 VI. Committee Studies - section 33.

14 Requires the following studies by the committee
15 responsible for economic development and financing.

16 A. A study of mature industry personnel policies
17 and working conditions. It is the intent of this
18 bill to aid the industry in improving its image
19 as a place to work. It is not the intent to de-
20 velop restrictive or coercive legislation.

21 B. A study of the data collection activities of
22 the State Planning Office.

23 C. A study of transportation needs and costs of
24 mature industries.

25 D. A study of the staffing of the State Develop-
26 ment Office.

27 5689020486