

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 2193

H.P. 1602 House of Representatives, February 4, 1988
Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and
Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative PARADIS of Old Town.

Cosponsored by Representatives GARLAND of Bangor, STEVENS
of Bangor and Senator DILLENBACK of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHT

1 AN ACT to Establish the Maine Science and
2 Technology Commission and to Authorize
3 Funding for Centers for Innovation.
4

5 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
6 follows:

7 Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004, sub-§8, ¶A, sub-¶(22-A)
8 is enacted to read:

1 (22-A) Science and Maine Science Expenses 5 MRSA
2 Technology and Technology Only §13122
3 Commission

4 Sec. 2. 5 MRSA c. '383, sub-c. VI is enacted to
5 read:

6 SUBCHAPTER VI

7 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

8 §13121. Definitions

9 As used in this subchapter, unless the context
10 otherwise indicates, the following terms have the
11 following meanings.

12 1. Advanced technologies. "Advanced
13 technologies" means the practical applications of
14 innovative or new processes, research or knowledge.

15 2. Centers. "Centers" means Centers for
16 Innovation.

17 3. Commission. "Commission" means the Maine
18 Science and Technology Commission.

19 4. Executive director. "Executive director"
20 means the Executive Director of the Maine Science and
21 Technology Commission.

22 5. In-kind contribution. "In-kind contribution"
23 means the provision of persons, facilities and capital
24 equipment at no cost to the State.

25 §13122. Maine Science and Technology Commission

26 The Maine Science and Technology Commission, as
27 established in chapter 379, shall be an executive
28 agency with the responsibility for carrying out the
29 purposes of this subchapter.

30 1. Composition. The commission shall be
31 comprised of 17 members. The membership shall include
32 3 state department heads, one of whom shall be the

1 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development;
2 one member from the Maine Development Foundation; and
3 13 members representing the Maine scientific and
4 technological community, including 9 members of the
5 private sector, 3 members from post-secondary
6 education and one member from labor.

7 2. Appointment. The Governor shall appoint all
8 members of the commission. The Governor shall appoint
9 the chairman annually. The vice-chairman shall be the
10 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development.

11 3. Qualifications. Members shall have a
12 demonstrated interest in research, development and the
13 application of technological innovation.

14 4. Executive committee. There shall be a
15 7-member executive committee, including the chairman
16 and vice-chairman. The executive committee shall
17 include the 2 other department heads referred to in
18 subsection 1 and 3 members chosen by the commission
19 from its membership. The executive committee shall
20 make recommendations regarding programs and policies
21 to the full commission, and carry out the powers and
22 duties of the commission between meetings.

23 5. Terms. The members of the commission shall be
24 appointed for 3-year terms. The initial appointment
25 shall be 5 members appointed for one-year terms, 6
26 members appointed for 2-year terms and 6 members
27 appointed for 3-year terms. The cabinet members shall
28 be appointed annually.

29 6. Compensation. Members shall be compensated
30 for their expenses in accordance with chapter 379.

31 7. Meetings. The commission shall meet at least
32 4 times each year at the call of the chairman.

33 8. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of 9 members.
34 A quorum shall be necessary for the commission to
35 conduct its business at any commission meeting.

36 §13123. Powers and duties of commission

1 The commission may promote, stimulate and
2 encourage basic and applied scientific research and
3 development in this State, encourage technology
4 transfer to bring new products and policies to the
5 market and promote effective and efficient application
6 of technologies to advance economic growth and welfare
7 in the State.

8 1. Personnel. The commission shall employ an
9 executive director to serve at the pleasure of the
10 commission. The commission may employ other staff or
11 contract with consultants as required.

12 2. Advisory role. The commission may provide
13 advice to the Governor and state agencies concerning
14 scientific, technological and engineering matters
15 which relate to the economic growth and the health,
16 safety and welfare of the State.

17 3. Programs. The commission shall establish
18 Centers for Innovation which shall serve as consortia
19 among business, universities, other research
20 institutions and government to provide advanced
21 technology research and development, technology
22 transfer and related activities which support the
23 diversification of the State's economy and may
24 establish other programs as needed.

25 4. Research and development. The commission may
26 enter into contracts, agreements or grants with
27 educational institutions, nonprofit institutions and
28 organizations, business enterprises and other persons
29 concerned with scientific and technological research
30 and development in the State, as well as any state or
31 federal agency, to foster and support scientific and
32 technological research, development and promotion of
33 applied advanced technological activities.

34 5. Other activities. The commission may sponsor
35 and conduct conferences and studies, collect and
36 disseminate information and issue periodic reports
37 relating to scientific and technological research and
38 development and technology transfer.

39 6. Cooperation with state agencies. The

1 commission, in developing policy and program
2 priorities, shall coordinate its programs with the
3 policies and programs of the Department of Economic
4 and Community Development. All state agencies shall
5 cooperate and work closely with the commission in
6 carrying out the purposes of this subchapter.

7 7. Annual report. The commission shall prepare
8 and deliver an annual report to the Governor focusing
9 on the major scientific and technological issues
10 facing the State and the present activities and future
11 plans of the commission to address these issues.

12 8. Budget. The commission shall prepare and
13 adopt a biennial operating and grant budget for
14 presentation to the Governor and the Legislature.

15 9. Expenditure of funds. The commission may
16 receive, expend, allocate and grant funds as necessary
17 to fulfill the purposes of this subchapter.

18 10. Acceptance of funds. The commission may
19 receive and accept gifts, grants, bequests, loans,
20 devises or other contributions of funds, including
21 funds from the Federal Government.

22 11. Private funds and in-kind contributions. The
23 commission shall seek funding and in-kind
24 contributions from private sources to be matched by
25 state money for the implementation of Centers for
26 Innovation or other programs.

27 12. Rulemaking. The commission shall hold
28 hearings and adopt rules in accordance with the Maine
29 Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 375.

30 §13124. Centers for Innovation

31 The commission may enter into a matching grant
32 program, involving consortia of college, university or
33 other research institutions, business and government
34 for the purpose of establishing, operating and
35 promoting Centers for Innovation in the State.

36 1. Purpose. The board may make grants under the

1 matching grant program for the following purposes:

2 A. Development and strengthening of joint
3 research and development efforts, including
4 advanced technological activities, equipment,
5 personnel and similar activities, which will lead
6 to new technologies and create and preserve jobs;

7 B. Technical assistance and technology transfer
8 activities on an areawide or statewide basis to
9 transfer research and development activities into
10 the marketplace; and

11 C. Technical assistance in identifying and
12 applying new technology to Maine firms.

13 2. Funding. Centers shall receive not more than
14 50% of their financial support from the commission's
15 grant program. Applicants for funds provided under
16 this section shall secure financial commitments from
17 profit and nonprofit groups and organizations,
18 including the Federal Government or local and
19 political subdivisions, and shall be required to
20 submit applications in accordance with policies issued
21 by the commission.

22 3. Award of grants. The commission shall
23 establish standards for implementation of the program
24 and award of grants. The standards, at a minimum,
25 shall include the estimated economic impact, the match
26 received from the private sector, other funding
27 leverage, new products, processes or services to be
28 developed, the number of expected new firms or firm
29 expansions, the number and quality of jobs created or
30 retained and the volume of sales and value of
31 productivity generated or expected to be generated.

32 4. Advisory board. Each center shall have an
33 advisory board composed of representatives of the
34 target industry, public and private post-secondary
35 education or other public or private research
36 institutions, representatives of local development
37 agencies, regional municipalities and small business
38 development centers, with industry representatives
39 comprising a majority of the membership on the

1 advisory board. At least one member of the advisory
2 board shall be a member of the Maine Science and
3 Technology Commission.

4 5. Applicants. Applicants for funding must be a
5 public or private nonprofit institution with
6 demonstrated proficiency in:

7 A. Science and technology research, technology
8 transfer or application of technology; and

9 B. Grant administration.

10 §13125. Executive director

11 The Maine Science and Technology Commission and
12 its programs shall be administered by an executive
13 director.

14 1. Appointment. The executive director shall be
15 appointed by the commission and shall serve at its
16 pleasure.

17 2. Qualifications. The executive director shall
18 be a person with competent skills, education and
19 experience as determined by the commission.

20 §13126. Powers and duties of executive director

21 The executive director shall implement the
22 policies and procedures of the commission and be
23 responsible for the administration of its programs.
24 The executive director may enter into contracts with
25 individuals or firms with the approval of the
26 commission for services necessary to fulfill the
27 responsibilities of this subchapter. The executive
28 director shall administer the Centers for Innovation
29 program and may develop, administer and evaluate other
30 programs and initiatives as required by the commission.

31 **Sec. 3. Transition.** All appropriations,
32 personnel and other resources of the Maine Science and
33 Technology Board shall be transferred to the Maine
34 Science and Technology Commission. Any procedures,
35 rules or other commitments of the Maine Science and

1 Technology Board shall remain in effect and applicable
2 to the Maine Science and Technology Commission, unless
3 expressly repealed or modified.

4 **Sec. 4. Appropriation.** The following funds are
5 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
6 purposes of this Act.

7 1988-89

8 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
9 DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

10 Maine Science and
11 Technology Commission

12	All Other	\$1,200,000
13	Funds to be used for	
14	the Centers for	
15	Innovation and other	
16	initiatives to support	
17	research and technology	
18	transfer and for the	
19	general administration	
20	and support of the	
21	commission.	

22 STATEMENT OF FACT

23 This bill establishes the Maine Science and
24 Technology Commission as previously created by
25 Executive Order and provides for Centers for
26 Innovation. The intent of the bill is to stimulate
27 the development and application of technology to
28 improve the competitive position of Maine firms.

29 The bill is based on the premise that the State's
30 economy, like the national and international
31 economies, is undergoing significant changes which
32 will continue into the future. In order for Maine to
33 benefit during this period of dramatic change, it is
34 necessary for Maine to encourage the development and
35 use of products and processes among state firms and to
36 make maximum benefit of the scientific and technical

1 expertise in its public and private educational and
2 research institutions.

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