

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 1912

H.P. 1321

House of Representatives, May 30, 1991

Reference to the Committee on Housing and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative COLES of Harpswell.

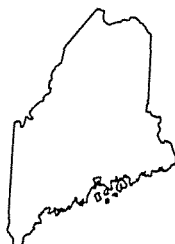
Cosponsored by President PRAY of Penobscot, Speaker MARTIN of Eagle Lake and Representative MELENDY of Rockland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-ONE

An Act to Promote Long-term Economic Development.

(EMERGENCY)



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

Whereas, the basic elements of a sound economy are
high-quality education and training, a high-quality environment
and natural resource base, a sound infrastructure and a high
level of investment in research, innovation and technology
transfer; and

Whereas, substantial economic growth requires investment in
innovation and emerging growth sectors; and

Whereas, improvements in the standard of living require
investments in improving productivity; and

Whereas, this State has traditionally lagged behind other
states in making such investments and was recently ranked 50th
among the states in university research and development
investment and 49th in science and engineering students per
capita; and

Whereas, the research and development that has been done in
this State has focused on the interests of the funding sources
for those activities; and

Whereas, the Maine Science and Technology Commission was
founded to provide a coherent Maine-based approach to investing
in research and development; and

Whereas, the current recession and predictions for reviving
this State's economy make it clear that the State needs to
strengthen its commitment to improving the basic elements of
economic growth prior to the expiration of the 90-day period; and

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

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

Sec. 1. Report required. The Maine Science and Technology
Commission is directed to evaluate mechanisms to fully integrate
research and development, including federally funded experimental
programs, to stimulate competitive research into the State's
economic development strategy. The Maine Science and Technology
Commission is directed to consider and report on the merits of a
state research and development foundation as a mechanism designed
to provide private sector financial support to the State's
research complex. The Maine Science and Technology Commission is

2 further directed to consider the use of bond support to develop
 4 key components of the State's research infrastructure so as to
 6 ensure Maine's ability to fully respond to the transition in the
 8 state economy. The evaluation may be wholly or partially
 accomplished by a task group to be appointed by the Maine Science
 and Technology Commission. The Maine Science and Technology
 Commission shall report its findings to the Governor and the
 Legislature no later than December 31, 1991.

10 **Sec. 2. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated
 12 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

14 1991-92 1992-93

16 **EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

18 **Maine Science and Technology
 Commission - Centers for Innovation**

20	Positions	(1.0)	(1.0)
	Personal Services	\$58,500	\$62,000
22	All Other	856,700	1,290,000
24	TOTAL	\$917,200	\$1,352,000

26 Provides funds for expansion
 28 of the Centers for Innovation
 and the Research and
 30 Productivity Center of the
 Maine Science and Technology
 Commission for enhancing the
 32 competitiveness of key
 industries, including the
 34 reinstatement of a
 Development Director position.

36 **Maine Science and Technology Commission -**
 38 **Experimental Programs to Stimulate**
Competitive Research

40	Positions	(1.5)	(1.5)
42	Personal Services	\$45,500	\$57,000
	All Other	482,440	916,000
44	Capital Expenditures	2,200	
46	TOTAL	\$530,140	\$973,000

48 Provides funds for an
 expansion of the state match
 50 to federal grants from the
 National Science Foundation,

2 the National Aeronautics and
 3 Space Administration and
 4 other federal programs. The
 5 match includes funding for a
 6 new Accountant I position to
 7 assist in grants
 8 administration and 50% of a
 9 full-time Policy Development
 10 Specialist position.

11 **Maine Science and Technology Commission -**
 12 **Laser Interferometer Gravitational -**
 13 **Wave Observatory**

14 All Other 50,000
 15
 16 Provides funds for
 17 preliminary legal work and
 18 administrative costs related
 19 to a site for a national
 20 research facility in this
 21 State.

22
 23
 24 **Maine Science and Technology Commission -**
 25 **Marine Research Board**

26	Positions	(1.0)	(2.0)
27	Personal Services	\$25,650	\$85,391
28	All Other	140,525	680,900
29	Capital Expenditures		4,500
30			
31			
32	TOTAL	\$166,175	\$770,791

33 Provides funds for, among
 34 other items, one policy
 35 development specialist
 36 position, the marine research
 37 grants program, a statewide
 38 data base and bibliography
 39 and marine research and
 40 operating funds for the
 41 research vessel Argo-Maine.

42
 43
 44 **EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**
 45 **TOTAL** \$1,663,515 \$3,045,791

46
 47 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
 48 preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

49
 50

STATEMENT OF FACT

2

4 This bill provides funding for long-term economic
6 development activities. The bill expands the funding level for
8 the Centers for Innovation and the Research and Productivity
Center and reinstates the Maine Science and Technology Commission
staff position that has oversight responsibility for the Centers
for Innovation program.

10

12 The bill further expands the state investment into a
14 research excellence seed fund used to leverage federal
experimental programs to stimulate competitive research
investment into Maine's research and development effort.

14

16 The bill also funds the grants program that would
18 comprehensively integrate science with marine resource management
so as to create a balance between protection of the marine
environment and continued development and provides core support
for the Research Vessel Argo-Maine.

20

22 The bill also directs the Maine Science and Technology
24 Commission to evaluate mechanisms to fully integrate research and
development, including federally funded experimental programs to
stimulate competitive research, into the State's economic
development strategy.