

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

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Legislative Document

No. 973

S.P. 320

In Senate, March 22, 1993

**An Act Related to Periodic Justification of Departments and Agencies of  
State Government under the Maine Sunset Act.**

(EMERGENCY)

---

Reported by Senator CLEVELAND of Androscoggin for the Joint Standing Committee on  
Audit and Program Review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, chapter 33.

Reference to the Committee on Committee on Audit and Program Review suggested and  
ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 20.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

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

4           Whereas, certain obligations and expenses incident to the  
6 operation of departments and agencies will become due and payable  
on or immediately after July 1, 1993; and

8           Whereas, these provisions are intended to improve  
10 management, performance, organization, program delivery and  
fiscal accountability of agencies and independent agencies  
12 reviewed; and

14           Whereas, certain independent agencies will terminate unless  
continued by act of the Legislature prior to June 30, 1993; and

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

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

24           **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §927, sub-§1, ¶A,** as amended by PL 1991, c.  
26 376, §4, is further amended to read:

28           A. Agencies:

30           (1) Department of Finance Administrative and Financial  
32 Services;

34           (2) Office of Treasurer of State;

36           (3) Department of Audit;

38           (4) Department of Public Safety, but limited to the  
Bureau of Capitol Security;

40           (5) Board of Emergency Municipal Finance;

42           (6) Finance Authority of Maine; and

44           (7) Maine Municipal Bond Bank.

46           **Sec. 2. 3 MRSA §927, sub-§4,** as amended by PL 1991, c. 837,  
48 Pt. A, §5, is further amended to read:

50           **4. 2004.**

2 A. Agency:

- 4 (1) Department of Human Services; and  
6 (2) Department of Transportation.

8 B. Independent agencies agency:

- 10 ~~(1) State Board of Funeral Service;~~  
12 ~~(2) Board of Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters;~~  
14 ~~(3) Advisory Commission on Radioactive Waste;~~  
16 ~~(4) Maine Turnpike Authority;~~  
18 ~~(5) Capitol Planning Commission;~~  
20 (6) State Planning Office; and  
22 ~~(7) State Lottery Commission.~~

24 Sec. 3. 3 MRSA §927, sub-§5, ¶B, as corrected by RR 1991, c.  
2, §3, is amended to read:

26 B. Independent agencies:

- 28 (1) Board of Chiropractic Examination and Registration;  
30 (2) Board of Dental Examiners;  
32 (3) Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board;  
34 (4) Board of Registration in Medicine;  
36 (5) State Board of Nursing;  
38 (6) State Board of Optometry;  
40 (7) Board of Osteopathic Examination and Registration;  
42 (8) Board of the Maine Children's Trust Fund;  
44 (9) Examiners of Podiatrists;  
46 (10) Maine Medical Laboratory Commission;  
48 (11) State --- Planning --- and --- Advisory --- Council --- on  
50 Developmental --- Disabilities Maine Developmental  
Disabilities Council;

- 2 (12) Maine Advisory Committee on the-Problems-of-the  
Mentally-Retarded Mental Retardation; and  
4  
6 (13) Governor's Committee on Employment of People with  
Disabilities;  
8 (14) Capitol Planning Commission; and  
10 (15) Maine Turnpike Authority.

12 **Sec. 4. 3 MRSA §927, sub-§6, ¶B**, as amended by PL 1991, c.  
837, Pt. A, §6, is further amended to read:

14 B. Independent agencies:

- 16 ~~(1) Advisory Board for Licensure of Water Treatment~~  
18 ~~Plant Operators;~~  
20 (2) Saco River Corridor Commission;  
22 (3) Acupuncture Licensing Board;  
24 (4) Board of Licensing of Auctioneers;  
26 (5) Board of Licensing of Dietetic Practice;  
28 (6) Board of Commercial Driver Education; and  
30 (7) Advisory Board for the Licensing of Taxidermists.

32 **Sec. 5. 3 MRSA §927, sub-§8, ¶B**, as enacted by PL 1989, c.  
483, Pt. A, §§4 and 62, is amended to read:

34 B. Independent agencies:

- 36 (1) Real Estate Commission;  
38 (2) Maine Athletic Commission;  
40 (3) State Claims Commission;  
42 (4) Board of Examiners on Speech Pathology and  
44 Audiology;  
46 (5) Maine State Board for Licensure of Architects and  
Landscape Architects;  
48 (6) State Board of Barbers;

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- 2 (7) State Board of Cosmetology;
- 4 (8) Manufactured Housing Board;
- 6 (9) State Board of Substance Abuse Counselors;
- 8 (10) State Board of Licensure for Professional Foresters;
- 10 (11) State Board of Certification for Geologists and Soil Scientists;
- 12 (12) Board of Examiners in Physical Therapy;
- 14 (13) Oil and Solid Fuel Board; and
- 16 (14) Plumbers' Examining Board;
- 18 (15) State Board of Funeral Service; and
- 20 (16) Board of Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters.

22 **Sec. 6. 3 MRSA §927, sub-§10, ¶B,** as amended by PL 1991, c.  
 24 376, §12, is further amended to read:

26 B. Independent agencies:

- 28 (1) Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System;
- 30 (2) Board of Trustees of the Maine Maritime Academy;
- 32 ~~(3) State Government Internship Program Advisory Committee;~~
- 34 (4) Arborist Examining Board;
- 36 (5) State Board of Examiners of Psychologists;
- 38 (6) Board of Commissioners of the Profession of Pharmacy;
- 40 (7) Alcohol and Drug Abuse Planning Committee; and
- 42 (8) Maine Science and Technology Commission; and
- 44 (9) Advisory Commission on Radioactive Waste.

48 **Sec. 7. 3 MRSA §927, sub-§11, ¶A,** as amended by PL 1991, c.  
 50 376, §13, is further amended to read:

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A. Agencies:

- (1) Maine State Retirement System; and
- (2) Department of Labor; ~~and.~~
- ~~(3) --Department of Administration.~~

Sec. 8. 5 MRSA §1588 is enacted to read:

**§1588. Department of Administrative and Financial Services  
coordination of Master Lease-purchase program**

**1. Authority of Department of Administrative and Financial Services; central records.** The Department of Administrative and Financial Services may develop, negotiate and administer master lease-purchase financing programs to facilitate advantageous lease-purchase terms and economies of scale. Upon final legislative approval of agency lease-purchase proposals, state agencies, except for programs supported by the Highway Fund or the Federal Expenditure Fund in the Department of Transportation, shall participate in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services master lease-purchase program. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services has the sole authority to negotiate and execute lease-purchase or financial contracts on behalf of the State. These master lease-purchase financing agreements may include the refinancing or consolidation of any state agency lease-purchase agreements. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services shall maintain central records on each lease-purchase financing agreement and each master lease-purchase program the department administers on behalf of a benefiting department of agency.

**2. State agency participation.** Except for the Department of Transportation when implementing a program supported by the Highway Fund or the Federal Expenditure Fund, all state agencies that seek to construct, improve or repair long-term capital assets or to acquire real property or equipment by a lease-purchase or other financing agreement shall notify the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and shall cooperate with the commissioner or a designee in developing the agency's proposal for submission to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs. Each requesting agency shall submit a justification for each proposal to the commissioner or to the commissioner's designee. The justification must include a benefit-cost analysis or cost-effective analysis in a form and content prescribed by the commissioner or the commissioner's designee. Programs supported

2 by the Highway Fund or the Federal Expenditure Fund in the  
3 Department of Transportation may participate on the same terms as  
4 other agencies in any master lease-purchase financing agreement  
5 developed, negotiated and administered by the Department of  
6 Administrative and Financial Services.

7 3. Fund accounting protocol. Funds for master  
8 lease-purchase programs or specific lease-purchase arrangements  
9 approved by the Legislature in accordance with Title 5, section  
10 1587 must be appropriated or allocated to an account or accounts  
11 established by the State Budget Officer with authorization for  
12 the transfer of other than General Fund resources from the  
13 account or accounts of the benefiting departments or agencies.  
14 Funds appropriated or allocated for this purpose may not lapse  
15 but must be carried forward from year to year to meet the  
16 principal and interest obligations of the master lease-purchase  
17 program or specific lease-purchase arrangement. Any appropriated  
18 or allocated balances remaining after the conclusion of a  
19 specific lease-purchase arrangement must lapse to the fund or  
20 account from which the lease-purchase obligations were  
21 appropriated or allocated.

22 **Sec. 9. 5 MRSA c. 312, as amended, is repealed.**

24 **Sec. 10. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§6-C is enacted to read:**

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<u>6-C.</u>	<u>Natural</u>	<u>Not</u>	<u>5 MRSA</u>
<u>Economic</u>	<u>Areas Advisory</u>	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>§13077</u>
<u>Development</u>	<u>Board</u>		

30  
31 **Sec. 11. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§78, as enacted by PL 1987, c.**  
32 **786, §5, is repealed.**

34 **Sec. 12. 5 MRSA §13072, sub-§7, ¶D, as enacted by PL 1991, c.**  
35 **622, Pt. F, §10, is amended to read:**

36 D. The Coastal Zone Management Local Grants Program; and

38 **Sec. 13. 5 MRSA §13072, sub-§7, ¶E, as enacted by PL 1991, c.**  
39 **622, Pt. F, §10, is repealed.**

42 **Sec. 14. 5 MRSA §13074-A, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 622, Pt.**  
43 **F, §13, is repealed.**

44 **Sec. 15. 5 MRSA c. 383, sub-c. III, Art. 1-A is enacted to read:**

46 Article 1-A  
47 NATURAL AREAS



2  
3 **§13076. Natural Areas Program**

4 **1. Establishment.** The Natural Areas Program is established  
5 within the Department of Economic and Community Development and  
6 is administered by the commissioner.

7 **2. Definitions.** As used in this article, unless the  
8 context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the  
9 following meanings.

10 **A. "Commissioner"** means the Commissioner of Economic and  
11 Community Development.

12 **B. "Critical area"** means any natural area documented by the  
13 Natural Areas Program that is conserved or protected in its  
14 natural condition through voluntary action.

15 **C. "Endangered plant"** means any native plant species that  
16 is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant  
17 portion of its range within the State or any species  
18 determined to be an endangered species pursuant to the  
19 United States Endangered Species Act of 1973, Public Law  
20 93-205, as amended.

21 **D. "Natural area"** means any area of land or water, or both  
22 land and water, whether publicly or privately owned, that  
23 retains or has reestablished its natural character, though  
24 it need not be completely natural and undisturbed, and that  
25 supports, harbors or otherwise contains endangered,  
26 threatened or rare plants, animals and native ecological  
27 systems, or rare or unique geological, hydrological, natural  
28 historical, scenic or other similar features of scientific  
29 and educational value benefiting the citizens of the State.

30 **E. "Register of Critical Areas"** means the official listing  
31 of critical areas.

32 **F. "Species"** means any recognized taxonomic category of the  
33 biota including species, subspecies or variety.

34 **G. "Threatened plant"** means any species of native plant  
35 likely to become an endangered species within the  
36 foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion  
37 of its range in the State or any species of plant determined  
38 to be a threatened species pursuant to the federal  
39 Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended.

40 **3. Functions of the Natural Areas Program.** The Natural  
41 Areas Program shall perform the following functions.

2 A. The Natural Areas Program shall conduct an ongoing,  
4 statewide inventory of the State's natural areas, including,  
6 but not limited to, rare plants, animals, natural  
8 communities and ecosystems or other geological,  
10 hydrological, natural historical, scenic or other similar  
12 features, and may conduct investigations related to the  
14 population, habitat needs, limiting factors and other  
16 biological and ecological data to support the mandates of  
18 the Natural Areas Program or other cooperating agencies.

20 B. The Natural Areas Program shall maintain a biological  
22 and conservation data base that must contain data from  
24 inventories and other data sources and other relevant  
26 biological, ecological or other information about natural  
28 features described in paragraph A, and about ecologically  
30 significant sites that harbor these features. Information  
32 contained in the biological and conservation data base may  
34 be made available as necessary or appropriate for  
36 conservation and land use planning, environmental review,  
38 scientific research and inquiry, education or other  
40 appropriate use. For the purpose of this paragraph, an  
42 appropriate use is one that will not jeopardize sensitive  
44 species or habitats.

46 C. The Natural Areas Program may coordinate inventory and  
48 data management and planning activities with other  
50 appropriate state agencies or entities to maximize  
efficiency and increase communication among agencies and to  
provide appropriate data interpretation and technical  
services to support the mandates and programs of those  
agencies.

D. The Natural Areas Program may levy appropriate charges  
to those using, for commercial gain, the inventory and  
information services provided by the Natural Areas Program  
to recover the costs of providing the service and a  
reasonable portion of the costs associated with building and  
maintaining the biological and conservation data base.  
Charges must be fixed in a schedule prepared and revised as  
necessary by the Natural Areas Program, reviewed by the  
Natural Areas Advisory Board and supported and explained by  
accompanying information.

E. The Natural Areas Program may enter into cooperative  
agreements with federal or state agencies, political  
subdivisions of this State or private persons or  
organizations to receive or disburse funds for the purposes  
of this article.

50 **§13077. Natural Areas Advisory Board**

2           1. Establishment. The Natural Areas Advisory Board is  
4 established in section 12004-I, subsection 6-C and is referred to  
in this article as the "board." The Natural Areas Advisory Board  
6 shall advise the commissioner in administering the functions of  
the Natural Areas Program.

8           2. Membership. The Natural Areas Advisory Board consists  
of the commissioner or a designee and 8 additional members,  
10 appointed by the commissioner and including private citizens,  
landowners or land managers. Areas of expertise to be  
12 represented on the board, either through vocation or avocation,  
must include, but are not limited to, rare plant or animal  
14 biology; ecology or taxonomy; landscape or natural community  
ecology; conservation biology or natural areas conservation;  
16 natural resources policy; earth sciences; or other similar  
natural or physical sciences, except that at no time may the  
18 board contain fewer than 3 members with expertise in rare plant  
biology or taxonomy or landscape ecology.

20           3. Terms of membership. The commissioner shall serve for  
the duration of the commissioner's term in office. All other  
22 members serve for a term of 2 years, except that initially 2  
members serve for 3 years, 3 serve for 2 years and 3 for one year. All  
24 members, except the commissioner, are eligible for 2  
reappointments to board membership for a maximum of 6 years.

26           4. Officers. The board shall select annually from among  
its members a chair and a secretary.

30           5. Quorum required; recordkeeping. A quorum of the board  
for the transaction of business is 4 members. The secretary of  
32 the board shall keep a record of all proceedings. That record is  
a public record.

34           6. Rules. The board may adopt informal rules governing the  
conduct of its business.

36           7. Compensation prohibited. Members of the board are not  
entitled to per diem or compensation for expenses.

38           §13078. Responsibilities of commissioner

40           The commissioner has the following responsibilities  
42 pertaining to natural areas.

44           1. Conservation of natural areas. The commissioner shall  
46 promote conservation of natural areas by:

48           A. Making available current and accurate information to all  
50 appropriate entities to interpret, educate or otherwise

2 inform so as to support planning and conservation activities  
3 in this State.

4 B. Promoting voluntary action to conserve and protect  
5 natural areas in this State.

6  
7 C. Entering into agreements with landowners of natural  
8 areas and registered critical areas to promote appropriate  
9 and effective management of these areas in order to maintain  
10 and enhance the natural value of these areas.

11  
12 D. Developing and disseminating educational or technical  
13 materials for the purpose of informing the general public  
14 and other interested persons or institutions about natural  
15 areas and the value of those areas. The commissioner may  
16 charge a reasonable fee for these materials. All income  
17 received by the commissioner from the sale of these  
18 publications and materials must be credited to a nonlapsing,  
19 dedicated revenue account and used for the purposes of this  
20 paragraph.

21  
22 2. Register of critical areas. The commissioner, with the  
23 advice of the board, shall maintain a register of critical areas  
24 that must contain natural areas classified as critical areas as  
25 follows.

26  
27 A. In determining the classification of an area or site as  
28 a registered critical area, the commissioner shall consider:

29  
30 (1) The unique or exemplary natural qualities of the  
31 area or site;

32  
33 (2) The intrinsic fragility of the area or site and  
34 sensitivity to alteration or destruction;

35  
36 (3) The voluntary commitment to conserve or protect  
37 the area or site;

38  
39 (4) The present or future threat of alteration or  
40 destruction; and

41  
42 (5) The economic implications of inclusion of an area  
43 or site on the register.

44  
45 The commissioner, with the advice of the board, may remove a  
46 registered critical area from the register if the  
47 commissioner determines that the area or site no longer  
48 qualifies as a critical area.

2 B. Each registered critical area must be documented with at  
3 least the following information:

4 (1) A general description of the area or site;

6 (2) A list of the endangered or threatened species or  
7 other unique or exemplary natural features occurring at  
8 the area or site, and reasons for inclusion in the  
9 register;

10 (3) The size and location of the area or site; and

12 (4) The name or names of the property owner or owners,  
14 contingent upon the consent of the owner or owners.

16 C. The commissioner shall notify owners of natural areas of  
17 the natural value of their land and the implications of  
18 voluntary conservation. Subsequently a natural area may be  
19 placed upon the Register of Critical Areas with at least 60  
20 days' notice before registration and the consent of the  
21 landowner.

22 3. Endangered plants. The commissioner has the following  
24 responsibilities related to endangered plants.

26 A. The commissioner shall establish and maintain the  
27 official list of native endangered and threatened plants of  
28 the State. The purpose of the list is informational and may  
29 be provided on an informational basis to public agencies,  
30 private institutions or individuals for environmental  
31 assessment, land management or educational purposes.

32 B. The commissioner may establish procedures to  
33 substantiate the identification of endangered and threatened  
34 native plant species. In determining and revising the list,  
35 the commissioner shall use the rare plant data base of the  
36 Natural Areas Program, the advice of the Natural Areas  
37 Advisory Board and the knowledge of botanists in the State.  
38 In addition, the commissioner shall consult with federal  
39 agencies, interested state agencies, other states or  
40 provinces having a common interest and other interested  
41 persons and organizations. The commissioner shall determine  
42 criteria for each category. When establishing the list, the  
43 commissioner shall consider aspects of plant biology that  
44 contribute to a species rarity such as:

46 (1) Endemism. The plant species or subspecies may be  
47 geographically restricted to the State or areas  
48 immediately adjacent to the State;

2           (2) Scarcity. A plant species or subspecies may be  
4           numerically scarce throughout its distribution in North  
6           America and occur in only a few locations in the State;

8           (3) Special habitat. A plant species or subspecies  
10           may require habitat that is scarce in the State;

12           (4) Limit of range. A plant species or subspecies in  
14           the State may be at the edge of its distribution or  
16           disjunct from its main distribution;

18           (5) Population decline or vulnerability. A plant  
20           species or subspecies may be threatened or seriously  
22           declining due to habitat modification or destruction or  
24           from overcollection for commercial, recreational or  
26           educational purposes.

28           C. The commissioner shall conduct at least one public  
30           hearing to allow for public comment before establishing or  
32           revising the list.

34           D. The commissioner shall review the list biennially and  
36           add or delete species based on new botanical inventory data,  
38           taxonomic or other scientific studies or other documentation.

40           4. Sensitive information. The commissioner may withhold  
42           specific information on the location of a species or natural area  
44           and its component features if, in the judgment of the  
46           commissioner, disclosure of this information would threaten the  
48           existence of that species or natural area. The commissioner may  
50           not deny a landowner or landowner's designee information about  
              species or natural areas occurring on the landowner's property or  
              withhold this information from usual environmental review  
              procedures of local, state or federal regulatory agencies.

36           **§13079. Natural Areas Conservation Fund**

38           The Natural Areas Conservation Fund is established as a  
40           nonlapsing separate account to be administered by the  
42           commissioner. Income from gifts, bequests, devises, grants, fees  
44           and other sources may be deposited in this fund. All money in  
46           the fund and earnings on that money must be used for the  
48           investigation, conservation and management of native plants,  
50           natural communities, ecosystems or other significant features as  
              described in this chapter and for administrative and personnel  
              costs for the purposes of this section. The commissioner may  
              make grants from the fund to any person, organization, state  
              agency or other entity to undertake inventory and research about  
              rare plants, natural communities, ecosystems or other features of  
              natural areas.

2           Funds in the Natural Areas Conservation Fund may not be  
4           deposited in the General Fund or any other fund except as  
6           provided by law. All funds of the Natural Areas Conservation  
8           Fund are subject to allocation by the Legislature.

10           **Sec. 16. 5 MRSA §13111, sub-§10,** as corrected by RR 1991, c.  
12           2, §17, is repealed.

14           **Sec. 17. 38 MRSA §1453, sub-§7,** as enacted by PL 1985, c. 309,  
16           §6, is repealed.

18           **Sec. 18. Transition provisions.**

20           1. The Register of Critical Areas and the official list of  
22           native endangered and threatened plants of the State, as well as  
24           all existing rules and procedures in effect, in operation or  
26           adopted by the Critical Areas Program of the State Planning  
28           Office and the Maine Natural Heritage Program of the Department  
30           of Economic and Community Development or any of its  
32           administrative units or officers, are continued in effect until  
34           rescinded, revised or amended by the proper authority.

36           2. All existing contracts, leases, agreements, compacts and  
38           grants issued by the Critical Areas Program of the State Planning  
40           Office and the Maine Natural Heritage Program of the Department  
42           of Economic and Community Development before the effective date  
44           of this Act, continue to be valid under the terms of issuance  
46           either until expiration or rescision, amendment or revocation and  
48           are transferred to the Natural Areas Program within the  
            Department of Economic and Community Development on the effective  
            date of this Act.

            3. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development  
            on behalf of the Natural Areas Program has the authority to enter  
            into contracts or agreements or to apply for grants, modification  
            to grants or money as may be necessary to conduct the work of the  
            Natural Areas Program within the Department of Economic and  
            Community Development. This Act may not be construed to violate  
            any requirements of a granting agency.

            4. All balances of funds, transfers, revenues or other  
            available funds in an account or subdivision of an account of the  
            Critical Areas Program of the State Planning Office or the  
            Natural Heritage Program of the Department of Economic and  
            Community Development must be reallocated or reappropriated to  
            the Natural Areas Program within the Department of Economic and  
            Community Development by the State Controller.

2 5. Subject to the Civil Service Law, any positions  
3 authorized and allocated to the Maine Natural Heritage Program of  
4 the Department of Economic and Community Development are  
5 transferred to the Natural Areas Program within that same  
6 department and may continue to be authorized.

7 6. All records, property, and equipment previously  
8 belonging to or allocated for the use of the Critical Areas  
9 Program of the State Planning Office or the Maine Natural  
10 Heritage Program of the Department of Economic and Community  
11 Development become the property of the Natural Areas Program on  
12 the effective date of this Act.

13 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the  
14 preamble, this Act takes effect when approved, except sections 9  
15 to 14 and 16 take effect on July 1, 1993.

### 18 FISCAL NOTE

19 Consolidation of 2 natural resource programs and associated  
20 funding will result in the transfer of federal funds and some  
21 dedicated revenue from the State Planning Office to the  
22 Department of Economic and Community Development; the precise  
23 amount of these funds can not be determined at this time but  
24 there will be no net impact on the General Fund. The  
25 establishment of the new Natural Areas Advisory Board will result  
26 in no additional costs since the board is composed strictly of  
27 volunteers who are not authorized to receive either per diem or  
28 compensation for expenses. The workload of the State Planning  
29 Office will be minimally affected by the loss of the Critical  
30 Areas Program.  
31

32 Any additional costs imposed on the Department of  
33 Administrative and Financial Services by authorizing the  
34 department to coordinate a master lease-purchase program can be  
35 absorbed by the department. Future savings from the  
36 establishment of a master lease-purchase financing program should  
37 result in more favorable terms and interest rates for  
38 lease-purchase contracts; the amount of savings can not be  
39 precisely determined at this time.  
40  
41

### 42 STATEMENT OF FACT

43 This bill updates the audit and program review schedule.

44 This bill authorizes the Department of Administrative and  
45 Financial Services to coordinate a master lease-purchase program  
46



2 for all state agencies, with the exception of certain programs  
3 within the Department of Transportation. It also endows the  
4 Department of Transportation with its own authority to enter into  
5 lease-purchase financing agreements supported by the Highway Fund  
6 or the Federal Expenditure Fund, separate from the master  
7 lease-purchase financing program of the Department of  
8 Administrative and Financial Services.

9  
10 This bill also consolidates the Critical Areas Program  
11 within the State Planning Office with the Maine Natural Heritage  
12 Program within the Department of Economic and Community  
Development, creating a new Natural Areas Program within the  
Department of Economic and Community Development.