

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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TAXATION

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
118TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1585, L.D. 2216, Bill, "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Study the Restructuring of the State's Fiscal Policies to Promote the Development of High-technology Industry in Maine"

Amend the bill in section 1 in the 4th line (page 1, line 6 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "Ph.D. programs" and inserting in its place the following: 'programs, including Ph.D. programs.'

Further amend the bill in section 1 in the 4th line from the end (page 1, line 16 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "plan" and inserting in its place the following: 'report on the need for any additional high-technology degree programs'

Further amend the bill in section 1 in the 3rd line from the end (page 1, line 17 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "the" the following: 'joint select committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over research and development matters, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs and'

Further amend the bill in section 5 in the 3rd, 4th and 5th lines (page 2, lines 41 to 43 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "develop a complete inventory of existing high-technology resources and shall identify strategies" and inserting in its place the following: ', pursuant to the State science and technology plan, identify action steps'

Further amend the bill in section 5 in the 7th line (page 2, line 45 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "a" and inserting in its place the following: 'the'

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

2 Further amend the bill in section 5 in the 2nd line from the
end (page 2, line 47 in L.D.) by striking out the following:
4 "January" and inserting in its place the following: 'September'

6 Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 6
(page 3, lines 1 to 9 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the
8 following:

10 **'Sec. 6. Clearinghouse.** The Maine Science and Technology
Foundation, working with the Maine Development Foundation, the
12 Finance Authority of Maine, the Department of Economic and
Community Development, the State Planning Office, the Department
14 of Labor, the University of Maine System, the Technical College
System and the high-technology industry, shall establish a
16 statewide clearinghouse for information and assistance to persons
seeking to conduct research and development and to develop
18 high-technology businesses in the State. The clearinghouse may
include, but is not limited to, the following information and
20 assistance: a complete inventory of existing high-technology
resources; sources of federal and private financial support for
22 research and development and assistance in grant writing; and
development of technology business plans, accessing capital,
24 obtaining legal and other professional assistance, managing
business growth and marketing, the science and technology report
26 card and information on the availability of a skilled workforce.
The foundation shall submit a progress report by September 1,
28 1999 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
jurisdiction over business and economic development matters on
30 the establishment of the clearinghouse. The report may include
recommendations on legislation required for full implementation
32 of the statewide clearinghouse.'

34 Further amend the bill by inserting after section 7 the
following:

36 **'Sec. 8. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated
38 from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

40 **1998-99**

42 **ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES,**
44 **DEPARTMENT OF**

46 **Bureau of Revenue Services**

48 All Other \$50,000

Provides funds for

contractual services to
conduct an extensive analysis
of tax incentives in Maine.'

Further amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any
nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read
consecutively.

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
summary the following:

FISCAL NOTE

1998-99

APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS

General Fund \$50,000

This bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$50,000
in fiscal year 1998-99 to the Bureau of Revenue Services for
contractual services to analyze tax provisions and provide a
report, jointly with the Department of Economic and Community
Development, to the Legislature.

The additional costs associated with identifying
high-technology disciplines that would be productive for the
establishment of Ph.D. programs and reporting to the Legislature
can be absorbed by the University of Maine System utilizing
existing budgeted resources.

The Finance Authority of Maine is required to review
existing student financial aid programs that support students
pursuing high-technology studies, to analyze whether sufficient
capital is available to start up and develop high-technology
businesses and to report and make recommendations related to its
findings. The costs associated with these activities can be
absorbed within the authority's existing budgeted resources.

The additional costs associated with identifying action
steps for attracting and developing new companies and presenting
a plan and legislation to the Legislature can be absorbed by the
Maine Science and Technology Foundation and the Department of
Economic and Community Development utilizing existing budgeted
resources.

The Maine Science and Technology Foundation, working with
other state departments and agencies, will incur some minor
additional costs to establish a clearinghouse for information and
assistance related to the development of high technology

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businesses and in providing a progress report on its establishment to the Legislature. These costs can be absorbed within those agencies' existing budgeted resources.'

SUMMARY

This amendment clarifies the obligations of agencies in reports to the Legislature required by the original bill. It delays the submission date for the analysis of tax incentives and a marketing plan, provides an appropriation to cover the cost of analysis and adds a fiscal note.