

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1877

S.P. 655

In Senate, March 16, 1999

**An Act to Encourage Lending and Technical Assistance to Natural
Resource-based and Micro Businesses.**

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

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TREAT of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative GREEN of Monmouth and
Senators: KILKELLY of Lincoln, LONGLEY of Waldo, MacKINNON of York, NUTTING
of Androscoggin, Representatives: COWGER of Hallowell, KNEELAND of Easton, PIEH of
Bremen.

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

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4 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13035, first ¶**, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 875,
Pt. L, §§2 and 4, is amended to read:

6 The commission is responsible for overseeing the Small
8 Business Development Center Program, enforcing the contract
10 between the Finance Authority of Maine and the administrative
12 unit, and providing funds to the program and coordinating
outreach and technical assistance to natural resource-based
businesses and businesses with 3 or fewer employees. The
commission has the following duties.

14 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §13035, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

16 **4. Coordinate assistance to certain businesses.** The
18 commission shall coordinate outreach and technical assistance to
natural resource-based businesses and businesses with 3 or fewer
20 employees. The development project officer shall work closely
with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, the
22 Department of Marine Resources, the Bureau of Forestry, the
Finance Authority of Maine, community action agencies and private
24 lenders to develop and implement an overall plan for technical
assistance and outreach to natural resource-based businesses and
businesses with 3 or fewer employees.

26 **Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §13059-A** is enacted to read:

28 **§13059-A. State agencies to develop strategy**

30 **1. State agencies to develop strategy.** A state agency or
32 any other organization that receives funding from the State to
34 carry out the purposes of this Part shall develop a strategy to
ensure that natural resource-based businesses and micro
36 businesses receive technical assistance and have access to
lending programs administered by the agency or organization. The
38 strategy must make a priority of the dissemination of information
and assistance to rural areas. For purposes of this section,
"micro business" means a business with 3 or fewer employees.

40 **2. Report.** By January 15th of each year, a state agency or
42 organization that is required to develop a strategy in relation
44 to the purposes of section 1 shall report to the joint standing
committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business
and economic development matters.

SUMMARY

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4 This bill requires a state agency or other organization that
6 receives state funding for the purposes of economic and community
8 development to develop a strategy to ensure that natural
10 resource-based businesses and businesses with 3 or fewer
12 employees have access to lending programs with priority placed
14 upon disseminating information and assistance to rural areas.
16 This bill also requires that an agency or organization required
18 to develop such a strategy report by January 15th of each year to
20 the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
jurisdiction over business and economic development matters
concerning the effect and impact of the strategy in relation to
the purposes of the bill. The bill requires the Maine Small
Business Commission to coordinate outreach and technical
assistance to natural resource-based businesses and businesses
with 3 or fewer employees and to work closely with various state
agencies and other programs to develop an overall plan for this
outreach and technical assistance.

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