

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

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Legislative Document

No. 1910

H.P. 1327

House of Representatives, March 16, 1999

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### An Act to Promote Economic Development in Central Maine.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative CAMPBELL of Holden.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: BAKER of Bangor, BROOKS of Winterport, O'NEAL of Limestone, PERKINS of Penobscot, PLOWMAN of Hampden, RICHARDSON of Greenville, STANWOOD of Southwest Harbor, TREADWELL of Carmel.

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

4 **CONCEPT DRAFT**  
6 **SUMMARY**

8 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

10 This bill proposes to implement legislation to improve central Maine in the following ways. It proposes to:

12 1. Issue a \$5,000,000 bond to establish a revolving loan  
14 fund to capitalize the Community Industrial Buildings Fund, a  
16 fund to assist local development corporations in constructing  
community industrial buildings in economically deprived rural and  
urban areas. The fund would be matched with at least \$1,250,000  
in private and public contributions;

18 2. Provide \$1,000,000 in funding to the Business Attraction  
20 Marketing Program in the Department of Economic and Community  
Development;

22 3. Require that 1% of all funds appropriated for research  
24 and development projects in this State be used to attract new  
businesses to locate in Maine to manufacture the items that are  
26 the products of the research and development;

28 4. Require the State Economic Development Strategy to  
include provisions for regional components that are consistent  
30 with economic development district plans;

32 5. Implement the recommendations of the Downtown Initiative  
in the Department of Community and Economic Development focusing  
34 on how to revitalize downtown areas in Maine;

36 6. Require that economic development districts be given a  
copy of results of any research by the Department of Economic and  
38 Community Development into industries and communities that are at  
risk for loss of jobs and businesses. The districts must use the  
40 results to develop a volunteer stakeholder task force to find  
solutions to any of the problems raised by the research and  
42 report back to the Governor and the Legislature with solutions  
and funding suggestions;

44 7. Appoint a volunteer stakeholder group to establish a  
46 Winter Harbor Development Group. The goal of the group is to  
explore and suggest alternative uses for the Winter Harbor base  
48 such as an international hotel, recreation facility, conference  
center or retreat;

50

2           8.   Expand and modify the current local administrative  
3           contracting program for road building to provide for the  
4           construction of local roads quicker and less expensively;

5           9.   Provide appropriate assistance, such as finding and  
6           state regulation application assistance, to expedite the dredging  
7           of the Penobscot River for the purpose of improving the navigable  
8           channel;

9           10.   Establish an intermodal passenger system for Bangor  
10           International Airport by linking a terminal on airport grounds  
11           with rail and road access, including access to the state-owned  
12           Brewer-to-Calais railroad from the airport and Northern Maine  
13           Junction. Airport terminal access by road would be improved  
14           through the appropriation of funds and matching federal funds to  
15           reroute Maine Avenue;

16           11.   Require the Department of Transportation to develop and  
17           implement a strategy to provide, where practical, connections  
18           from each state-owned or state-leased rail line to multiple  
19           railroad common carriers in order that Maine businesses and the  
20           public have affordable and unhampered access to the national rail  
21           transportation system;

22           12.   Provide tax-exempt status to the sale or lease of an  
23           aircraft based in this State and regularly engaged in air  
24           commerce, or the replacement or repair parts for such an aircraft;

25           13.   Eliminate permits for 53-foot truck trailers;

26           14.   Exempt diesel fuel used while on the Maine Turnpike  
27           from the diesel fuel tax;

28           15.   Provide to lessees of trucking equipment, such as a  
29           truck or trailer, used in interstate commerce the same sales tax  
30           exemption that is currently provided to owners of trucking  
31           equipment that is used in interstate commerce. Alternatively, a  
32           \$600 maximum would be placed on the sales tax imposed on any such  
33           equipment;

34           16.   Require the Department of Environmental Protection to  
35           change the regulatory process from an instruction-based approach  
36           to a contractual, performance-based approach, thereby rewarding  
37           companies and businesses that meet or exceed the environmental  
38           objectives established by the department; and

39           17.   Attract high-tech and high-wage jobs. This would be  
40           partially accomplished through the appropriation of \$300,000 each  
41           to Eastern Maine Technical College and Kennebec Valley Technical  
42           College to expand technical education programs in industries  
43           needing technically skilled workers.