

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2000

Legislative Document

No. 2502

S.P. 962

In Senate, January 24, 2000

**An Act to Support the Maine Rural Development Council and its
Community Capacity Building Work in Distressed Rural Areas in the
State.**

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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 President LAWRENCE of York.
Cosponsored by Speaker ROWE of Portland and
Senators: GOLDTHWAIT of Hancock, KILKELLY of Lincoln, KONTOS of Cumberland,
MICHAUD of Penobscot, NUTTING of Androscoggin, Representatives: KNEELAND of
Easton, MURPHY of Kennebunk, O'NEAL of Limestone.

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

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Sec. 1. Stimulate rural development. The Maine Rural Development Council, a quasi-independent agency of the State that is an intergovernmental and interagency association, is encouraged by the Legislature to:

1. Provide advocacy for the social and economic needs and issues of rural Maine communities, particularly in the most distressed counties of the State;

2. Coordinate the development of "community capacity building" projects and show innovative approaches to achieving growth in these distressed counties through locally developed strategies, which are driven by civic vision, grounded in communal assets and commanded by local leadership;

3. Stimulate rural development innovation and foster the flow of information on "best practices" to these communities; and

4. Report annually to the Governor and the Legislature on the effectiveness of these community capacity building projects and recommendations for future action regarding conditions in the rural areas of the State.

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

2000-01

MAINE RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Maine Rural Development Council

All Other	\$125,000
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Appropriates funds for the Maine Rural Development Council for development of community capacity building projects and for provision of advocacy for social and economic needs in rural Maine.

SUMMARY

This bill directs the Maine Rural Development Council to provide advocacy for the social and economic needs of rural Maine communities and to develop community capacity building projects, and it appropriates \$125,000 to the council. The Maine Rural

2 Development Council is a quasi-independent state agency whose members are representatives from intergovernmental and interagency associations concerning rural development issues.