

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

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Legislative Document

No. 1144

S.P. 337

In Senate, February 22, 2001

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### An Act to Enhance Economic Development Capacity.

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Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs 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 MICHAUD of Penobscot.  
Cosponsored by Speaker SAXL of Portland and  
Senators: GOLDTHWAIT of Hancock, KILKELLY of Lincoln, MARTIN of Aroostook,  
SHOREY of Washington, YOUNGBLOOD of Penobscot, Representatives: BERRY of  
Livermore, JONES of Greenville, TESSIER of Fairfield.

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

Sec. 1. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	2001-02	2002-03
<b>ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF</b>		
<b>Business Development</b>		
All Other	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000
Provides funds for business attraction and expansion marketing efforts. Funds must be dispersed in accordance with a competitive quality-based selection procedure as established and administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development.		
<b>Business Development</b>		
All Other	800,000	800,000
Provides regional capacity building block grant funds to Maine's 6 designated economic development districts. Funds must be dispersed by the Department of Economic and Community Development to the economic development districts by formula with a base amount of \$40,000 per annum to each district and the balance divided on a pro rata basis in accordance with the number of communities served, number of unemployed, number of persons living below poverty level and slow or declining population growth rates. Use of regional capacity building		

2 block grant funds is  
determined locally based on  
4 area comprehensive economic  
development strategies.

6 **DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND**  
7 **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
8 **TOTAL**

	<u>\$2,000,000</u>	<u>\$2,000,000</u>
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**SUMMARY**

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14 This bill includes annual General Fund appropriations  
totalling \$2,000,000 for the Department of Economic and Community  
16 Development. It provides \$1,200,000 annually to continue the  
momentum of the department's proactive business attraction  
18 marketing program. It also provides \$800,000 annually for a  
capacity building block grant program to regional economic  
20 development districts, giving them a flexible and discretionary  
funding source to address a variety of locally determined  
22 priority issues and needs such as responding to defense  
conversion issues, coping with the loss of a major employer,  
24 responding to long-term patterns of downsizing in a mature or  
dominant business sector or helping to develop grass roots  
economic development capacity in underserved communities and  
26 areas through organizational development, coalition building and  
staffing assistance.

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