

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1463

H.P. 1094

House of Representatives, March 8, 2001

**An Act to Revise the Maine Science and Technology Foundation's
Charter and Revise the Charter of the Centers for Innovation.**

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative TESSIER of Fairfield.
Cosponsored by Senator GAGNON of Kennebec and
Representatives: BELANGER of Caribou, HALL of Bristol, MICHAUD of Fort Kent, NASS
of Acton, ROSEN of Bucksport, Senator: GOLDTHWAIT of Hancock.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13121, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 816,
Pt. DD, §3, is repealed.

6 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §13123-A, sub-§§16-A and 16-B** are enacted to
read:

8
9 **16-A. Maine Technology Institute.** Cooperate and consult
10 with the Maine Technology Institute established in section
11 12004-G, subsection 33-D in the formulation of the Maine
12 Technology Institute's programs and to ensure that a
13 complementary system of support services is in place and
14 available to companies and research laboratories receiving Maine
15 Technology Institute funds;

16
17 **16-B. Maine Technology Capacity Fund.** Administer the Maine
18 Technology Capacity Fund established in section 13131 to
19 strengthen employment levels in the State by increasing science
20 and technology investment, to support best practice studies and
21 to develop or increase industry clusters of targeted technology
22 sectors;

24 **Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §13124**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. E,
§14, is repealed.

26
27 **Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §13126**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. E,
§17, is further amended to read:

30 **§13126. Powers and duties of president**

32 The president shall implement the policies and procedures of
33 the foundation and is responsible for the administration of its
34 programs. The president may enter into contracts with
35 individuals or firms with the approval of the foundation for
36 services necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of this
37 chapter. The president shall--administer--the--centers--for
38 ~~innovation-program-and~~ may develop, administer and evaluate other
39 programs and initiatives as required by the foundation. The
40 president shall appoint and remove the staff of the office and
41 prescribe their duties as may be necessary to implement the
42 purposes of this chapter.

44 **Sec. 5. 5 MRSA c. 387** is enacted to read:

46 **CHAPTER 387**

48 **CENTERS FOR INNOVATION PROGRAM**

50 **§13141. Centers for Innovation Program**

2 The Centers for Innovation Program, referred to in this
4 chapter as the "program," is established. The program shall
6 administer and establish centers throughout the State to carry
 out the purposes of this chapter.

8 1. Centers for innovation. A center for innovation,
10 referred to in this chapter as "center," represents a specific
12 industry sector identified as offering significant potential for
14 economic growth, employment and business development for the
16 State. A center shall consult with state development agencies to
18 carry out the purposes of this chapter. The centers established
20 include:

22 A. The Center for Innovation in Biotechnology, which
24 promotes the development of the biotechnology sector; and

26 B. The Aquaculture Innovations Center, which promotes the
28 development of the aquaculture sector.

30 Other centers may be established with the approval of the
32 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development. A center
34 must be organized under Title 13-B as a nonprofit corporation.

36 2. Purposes. A center has the following purposes:

38 A. To bring together a cluster of related experience,
40 business activity and technology in order to promote
42 economic growth and target assistance from government
44 development agencies and resources;

46 B. To advise the Commissioner of Economic and Community
48 Development, the Maine International Trade Center, the Maine
50 Technology Institute and other state agencies of the needs
 of a targeted industry;

C. To serve as a facilitator of state, local and federal
 efforts directed at developing an industry sector;

D. To assist in the recruitment of businesses and personnel
 within an industry sector seeking to relocate to the State;
 and

E. To educate and inform the emerging technologies that are
 the basis of an industry sector.

SUMMARY

This bill eliminates reference to the Centers for Innovation

2 from the charter of the Maine Science and Technology Foundation,
updates the charter to include duties involving the Maine
4 Technology Institute and the Maine Technology Capacity Fund and
revises the Centers for Innovation Program and establishes the
program in its own chapter in the Maine Revised Statutes.