# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## 121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

### FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

**Legislative Document** 

No. 663

H.P. 493

House of Representatives, February 11, 2003

### **An Act To Create Economic Development Zones**

(EMERGENCY)

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

Millicent M. Mac Farland
MILLICENT M. Mac FARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CLARK of Millinocket. Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Aroostook and

Representatives: DUPREY of Medway, GOODWIN of Pembroke, JOY of Crystal, LUNDEEN of Mars Hill, WATSON of Bath, Senators: DAVIS of Piscataquis, STANLEY of Penobscot.

	Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not
2	become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
	as emergencies; and
4	••••
_	Whereas, the State must ensure that at least 45% of its
б	economic development assistance be directed towards those areas
	of the State with high unemployment and used for economic
8	development activities that reduce unemployment in those areas;
10	and
10	Whoreas that are strong must be single immediately and
12	Whereas, that assistance must begin immediately; and
12	Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
14	create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
	Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
16	necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
	safety; now, therefore,
18	
	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
20	·
	Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13058, sub-§6, ¶¶E and F, as amended by PL
22	2001, c. 703, $\S 2$ , are further amended to read:
24	E. A foreign trade zone program; and
26	F. The Business Assistance Referral and Facilitation
28	Program, pursuant to section 13063+; and
20	Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §13058, sub-§6, ¶H is enacted to read:
30	bec. 2. 3 Minda 313030, Sub-30, All 15 enacted to read.
30	H. The Economic Development Zone Program as established in
32	section 13073-B. This paragraph is repealed January 1, 2007.
34	Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §13073-B is enacted to read:
	·
36	§13073-B. Economic Development Zone Program
38	The Economic Development Zone Program, referred to in this
	section as "the program," is established within the Office of
40	Tourism and Community Development. The purpose of the program is
4.2	to identify those areas of the State with high unemployment as
42	economic development zones and to coordinate the department's
44	economic development expenditures to ensure that at least 45% of the department's economic development expenditures are directed
44	to those economic development zones and used for economic
46	development activities that reduce unemployment in those areas.
<b>∓</b> ∪	The Director of the Office of Tourism and Community Development
48	shall administer the program and shall ensure that the
10	department's economic development expenditures are expended in

accordance with the goals of the program.

50

The Director of the Office of Tourism and Community Development shall adopt rules to implement the program. Rules adopted under this section are major substantive rules as defined in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A and must be provisionally adopted and submitted to the Legislature no later than January 1, 2004. The rules must specify the unemployment criteria to be used in identifying economic development zones.

This section is repealed January 1, 2007.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

#### **SUMMARY**

The bill creates the Economic Development Zone Program within the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Tourism and Community Development. The purpose of the program is to identify those areas of the State with high unemployment as economic development zones and to coordinate the department's economic development expenditures to ensure that at least 45% of the department's economic development expenditures are directed to those economic development zones and used for economic development activities that reduce unemployment in those areas.

The bill requires the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to provisionally adopt major substantive rules implementing the program and submit them to the Legislature for review no later than January 1, 2004.

The bill also repeals this program January 1, 2007.