

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 1295

H.P. 892

House of Representatives, March 15, 2005

An Act To Establish the Maine Enterprise Commerce Center of Augusta

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative MOODY of Manchester.
Cosponsored by Representatives: LERMAN of Augusta, SAVIELLO of Wilton, SMITH of
Monmouth, Senator: MITCHELL of Kennebec.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 436 is enacted to read:**

6 **CHAPTER 436**

8 **MAINE ENTERPRISE COMMERCE CENTER OF AUGUSTA**

10 **§12901. Maine Enterprise Commerce Center of Augusta established**

12 The Maine Enterprise Commerce Center of Augusta, referred to
14 in this chapter as "the center," is established within the
16 University of Maine System. The center must be located on the
18 campus of the University of Maine at Augusta. The mission of the
20 center is to provide a statewide vehicle for interactive
22 electronic instruction through an interactive television network,
the Internet and other technology to:

24 1. Access programs. Enable persons who lack access to
26 educational programs and workforce training because of limited
28 mobility or other reasons to have access to those programs and
30 that training;

32 2. Provide clearinghouse. Provide a clearinghouse for small
34 business promotion and services; and

36 3. Improve educational and economic opportunity. Promote a
38 strategy for improving educational and economic opportunity for
40 all people in the State.

42 **§12902. Duties**

44 The center shall provide:

46 1. Entrepreneurship assistance. Entrepreneurship assistance;

48 2. Small business education and training. Small business
50 education and training;

3. Links between private and public sectors. Links between
the private and public sectors;

4. Resource center. A resource center for economic issues
of specific interest to central and northern Maine; and

5. Educational programs. Educational programs, including
continuing occupational and professional education.

§12903. Administration; rules

2 The center is administered by the Board of Trustees of the
3 University of Maine System, referred to in this chapter as "the
4 board." The board may appoint a director of the center and any
5 other staff the board considers necessary for the implementation
6 of the center's duties and purposes. The board may adopt rules
7 to implement this chapter. Rules adopted pursuant to this
8 section are routine technical rules, as defined in Title 5,
9 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

10 **§12904. Funding**

11 The center is authorized to accept any public or private
12 funds that may be available for carrying out the purposes of this
13 chapter. The center shall repay any funds appropriated from the
14 General Fund to the center within 2 years from the date those
15 funds are disbursed. The center is authorized to collaborate
16 with any private nonprofit or for-profit organizations for the
17 purpose of seeking or soliciting funds to carry out the purposes
18 of this chapter.

19
20 **Sec. 2. Transfer of equipment and assets.** By July 1, 2006, all
21 equipment and other assets that are part of the interactive
22 television network currently housed at the University of Maine at
23 Augusta are transferred to the Maine Enterprise Commerce Center
24 of Augusta.
25

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27
28 **SUMMARY**

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30 This bill establishes the Maine Enterprise Commerce Center
31 of Augusta within the University of Maine System to provide
32 educational services, small business promotion and services and
33 economic development resources, through an interactive television
34 network, the Internet and other technology, to people throughout
35 the State and to provide specific resources and information
36 concerning economic issues of interest to central and northern
37 Maine. The bill transfers the equipment and assets that are part
38 of the interactive television network currently housed at the
39 University of Maine at Augusta to the new center.