

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

Legislative Document

No. 790

S.P. 239

February 15, 2007

An Act To Strengthen Rural Community Investment

Reference to the Committee on Business, Research 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 Senator RAYE of Washington.

Cosponsored by Representative PIOTTI of Unity and Senators: BENOIT of Sagadahoc, BROMLEY of Cumberland, BRYANT of Oxford, COURTNEY of York, DAMON of Hancock, DIAMOND of Cumberland, DOW of Lincoln, President EDMONDS of Cumberland, GOOLEY of Franklin, HASTINGS of Oxford, MARTIN of Aroostook, McCORMICK of Kennebec, MILLS of Somerset, MITCHELL of Kennebec, NUTTING of Androscoggin, ROSEN of Hancock, SCHNEIDER of Penobscot, SHERMAN of Aroostook, SMITH of Piscataquis, SNOWE-MELLO of Androscoggin, STRIMLING of Cumberland, TURNER of Cumberland, WESTON of Waldo, Representatives: AYOTTE of Caswell, BROWNE of Vassalboro, BRYANT of Windham, CAIN of Orono, CARTER of Bethel, CLARK of Millinocket, CLEARY of Houlton, CRAY of Palmyra, CROSTHWAITE of Ellsworth, Speaker CUMMINGS of Portland, CURTIS of Madison, DUCHESNE of Hudson, FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, FINLEY of Skowhegan, FISCHER of Presque Isle, FITTS of Pittsfield, FLOOD of Winthrop, GIFFORD of Lincoln, GILES of Belfast, GOULD of South Berwick, HOLMAN of Fayette, JACKSON of Allagash, JOY of Crystal, KOFFMAN of Bar Harbor, LORING of the Penobscot Nation, MacDONALD of Boothbay, MAZUREK of Rockland, McFADDEN of Dennysville, McLEOD of Lee, MILLER of Somerville, MILLETT of Waterford, MILLS of Farmington, MUSE of Fryeburg, PERCY of Phippsburg, PERRY of Calais, PIEH of Bremen, PINGREE of North Haven, RECTOR of Thomaston, SAVIELLO of Wilton, SCHATZ of Blue Hill, SMITH of Monmouth, TARDY of Newport, TIBBETTS of Columbia, WATSON of Bath.

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

2 **Sec. 1. Strengthen rural development.** Maine Rural Partners, a nonprofit
3 organization that is Maine's federally recognized state rural development council, shall:

4 1. Complete pilot projects underway in the Town of Strong and Washington County
5 to build innovative strategic plans and to create community investment mechanisms;

6 2. Prepare an analysis of the potential for attracting and leveraging investment in
7 rural Maine communities; and

8 3. Make recommendations to the Legislature and Governor regarding methods of
9 encouraging such investment.

10 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
11 allocations are made.

12 **MAINE RURAL PARTNERS (NEW)**

13 **Maine Rural Partners (NEW)**

14 Initiative: Provides ongoing funds to match federal and private resources to be used to
15 support Maine Rural Partners in carrying out its mission of strengthening rural
16 community capacity and exploring innovative community investment mechanisms.

17

18 GENERAL FUND	2007-08	2008-09
19 All Other	\$150,000	\$150,000
20		
21 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$150,000	\$150,000

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill requires Maine Rural Partners to:

24 1. Complete pilot projects underway in the Town of Strong and Washington County
25 to build innovative strategic plans and to create community investment mechanisms;

26 2. Prepare an analysis of the potential for attracting and leveraging investment in
27 rural Maine communities; and

28 3. Make recommendations to the Legislature and Governor regarding methods of
29 encouraging such investment.

30 This bill also makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$150,000 per year
31 beginning in fiscal year 2007-08 to be used to support Maine Rural Partners in carrying
32 out its mission of strengthening rural community capacity and exploring innovative
33 community investment mechanisms.