

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 1131

S.P. 400

In Senate, March 31, 2015

**An Act To Create a Domestic Division within the Maine
International Trade Center**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Senator: VOLK of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §945, first ¶**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 648, §5, is amended to
3 read:

4 The Maine International Trade Center, referred to in this chapter as the "center," is
5 established to enhance the competitive advantage of state businesses desiring to compete
6 in the national or international market. The center provides a source of leadership,
7 coordination and a shared vision for national and international trade development in the
8 State. The purpose of the center, through its cooperative public and private board, is to
9 refine, revise and implement the State's national and international strategic plan by
10 providing and enhancing services in coordination with the economic development
11 activities of the private sector, community and regional agencies and State Government.

12 **Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §945-A**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 648, §5, is amended to read:

13 **§945-A. Duties**

14 The center shall provide a base level of services without regard to membership in the
15 center and enhanced services as the center's board of directors may direct, to private
16 entities, individuals, the State and to quasi-public and public entities. The center shall
17 encourage and assist the growth of the State's national and international economic
18 activities in the following ways.

19 **1. Forum.** The center shall provide a continuing forum for the exchange of
20 expertise, ideas and innovations between the public and private sectors.

21 **2. Education.** The center shall offer quality education and technical services to
22 businesses in the State that compete or seek to compete in national or worldwide markets.

23 **3. Development of programs.** The center shall act as a catalyst in the development
24 and coordination of national and international programs.

25 **4. Public policy.** The center shall underscore the importance of national and
26 international trade as a priority of public policy and to enhance public appreciation of the
27 relevance of the national and international economy.

28 **5. Information.** The center shall provide information necessary to transact national
29 and international business and to make effective decisions concerning national and
30 international trade and policy.

31 **6. Infrastructure.** The center shall support the development and availability of an
32 overall infrastructure conducive to national and international business.

33 **7. Dissemination of programs.** The center shall promote the development and
34 dissemination of education, training and technical assistance programs appropriate for
35 other states and foreign countries.

1 **8. Market opportunities.** The center shall identify market opportunities and
2 potential contracts in other states and foreign countries that match the technologies and
3 expertise available in the State and coordinate and submit appropriate proposal responses.

4 **9. Data base.** The center shall maintain ~~an~~ a national and international commerce
5 data base to assist in making program decisions.

6 **10. Domestic division.** The center shall establish and maintain a domestic division
7 that focuses on supporting, promoting and expanding trade opportunities with other
8 states.

9 **Sec. 3. 10 MRSA §945-C, sub-§5, ¶¶C and F,** as enacted by PL 1995, c. 648,
10 §5, are amended to read:

11 C. Ensure that the center's programs reflect the policy and management decisions as
12 described in the strategic plan for the State concerning national and international
13 trade;

14 F. Serve as the State's diplomat, providing leadership in the area of national and
15 international trade and advocating within the State and abroad on behalf of the State's
16 national and international trade community; and

17 **Sec. 4. 10 MRSA §945-D, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 1995, c. 648, §5, is amended
18 to read:

19 **3. Economic development services; fees.** Employ a staff and provide services to
20 public or private entities to assist their efforts in the development of national and
21 international trade in the State and to charge such fees for these services as it determines
22 appropriate;

23 **Sec. 5. 10 MRSA §945-D, sub-§10,** as enacted by PL 1995, c. 648, §5, is
24 amended to read:

25 **10. Cooperation with agencies and organizations.** Cooperate with governmental
26 agencies and the University of Maine System; and cooperate, assist and encourage
27 organizations, local or regional, private or public, in the communities of the State in the
28 promotion, assistance and development of national and international trade in those
29 communities and the State.

30 **Sec. 6. 10 MRSA §945-H,** as enacted by PL 1995, c. 648, §5, is amended to read:

31 **§945-H. Prohibited interests of officers, directors and employees**

32 Officers, directors or employees of the center or their spouses or dependent children
33 may not receive any direct personal benefit from the activities of the center in assisting
34 any private entity. This section does not prohibit corporations or other entities with
35 which officers or directors are associated by reason of ownership or employment from
36 participating in national or international trade activities of the center or receiving services
37 offered by the center as long as the ownership or employment is made known to the board
38 of directors and, if applicable, the officers or directors abstain from voting on matters

1 relating to that participation. This section does not apply to members who are not officers
2 or directors of the center.

3 **Sec. 7. 10 MRSA §945-M**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 648, §5, is amended to read:

4 **§945-M. Liberal construction**

5 This chapter may be construed liberally to effect the intent and purposes of the center
6 for an improved and enhanced national and international trade development effort in the
7 State and may not be construed as a limitation of powers.

8 **Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
9 allocations are made.

10 **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**

11 **International Commerce 0674**

12 Initiative: Provides funding for 2 Public Service Coordinator I positions at the Maine
13 International Trade Center to staff the center's domestic division.

14

15	GENERAL FUND	2015-16	2016-17
16	POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000
17	Personal Services	\$103,318	\$144,278
18	All Other	\$20,291	\$22,054
19			
20	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$123,609</u>	<u>\$166,332</u>

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill requires the Maine International Trade Center to establish and maintain a
23 domestic division to support, promote and expand trade opportunities with other states
24 and provides funding for 2 positions at the Maine International Trade Center to staff the
25 domestic division.