

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 367

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H.P. 273

House of Representatives, February 2, 2017

**An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Government  
Oversight Committee To Develop a Long-range Strategic Plan for  
Economic Improvement in the State**

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Reported by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford for the Government Oversight Committee pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 997, subsection 2.

Reference to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

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

2 **Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §929-A, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. MMM, §1,  
3 is amended to read:

4 **1. The Maine Economic Growth Council; establishment.** The Maine Economic  
5 Growth Council, referred to in this ~~section and section 929-B~~ chapter as "the council," is  
6 established to develop, maintain and evaluate a ~~long-term~~ long-range economic plan for  
7 the State.

8 **Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §929-B**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 272, §3, is repealed.

9 **Sec. 3. 10 MRSA §929-C**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 420, §6, is repealed.

10 **Sec. 4. 10 MRSA §929-D** is enacted to read:

11 **§929-D. Powers and duties**

12 **1. Develop and maintain a long-range strategic plan for the State's economy.**  
13 By December 31, 2018, the council shall develop a long-range strategic economic  
14 improvement plan for a sustainable state economy in accordance with this subsection.  
15 The plan must be sufficiently broad in scope to address relevant state, national and  
16 international economic, financial, demographic, natural resources and infrastructure  
17 factors. The council shall update the plan by December 31, 2020 and every 4 years  
18 thereafter. Plan updates may include, but are not limited to, adjustments to objectives,  
19 action items, timelines or benchmarks in response to changing economic conditions and  
20 market trends and taking into account current progress on planned efforts. The council  
21 shall complete a full review and revision of the plan by December 31, 2022 and every 4  
22 years thereafter. Plan revisions may include, but are not limited to, reconsideration and  
23 revision of the State's overall long-range economic improvement strategy and related  
24 goals.

25 A. In developing and revising the plan, the council shall:

26 (1) Employ a continuous process with a 5-year to 10-year planning horizon;

27 (2) Include consideration of:

28 (a) The types of industries and jobs with significant growth potential in the  
29 State;

30 (b) The State's evolving industrial base;

31 (c) The dynamic regional, national and international markets and Maine's  
32 comparative, competitive and absolute advantages;

33 (d) Other relevant studies and evaluations in the private and public sectors  
34 regarding the long-term economic growth of the State;

35 (e) The quantity and quality of the State's workforce;

36 (f) Discrepancies in challenges and opportunities among different regions in  
37 the State;

- 1                   (g) Opportunities and challenges for small businesses; and  
2                   (h) Maximizing the return on investment in the State;  
3                   (3) Use a public and private partnership approach that is objective and  
4                   nonpartisan with appointment of working groups and advisory committees as  
5                   necessary to represent stakeholders; and  
6                   (4) Use a transparent public process that allows for public input as appropriate.

7                   B. The plan must consist of:

- 8                   (1) Goals and objectives for the long-term economic improvement of the State  
9                   that support a high quality of life for all people in the State;  
10                  (2) Specific, quantifiable and measurable benchmarks against which progress  
11                  toward accomplishing the goals and objectives of the plan can be measured;  
12                  (3) Strategies to accomplish the benchmarks based upon the best practices in this  
13                  State, other states and other countries; and  
14                  (4) Recommendations with respect to allocation of resources.

15                  **2. Monitor progress.** The council shall regularly assess progress toward  
16                  achievement of the strategic plan goals, objectives and benchmarks and produce a written  
17                  progress report by December 31, 2020 and every 2 years thereafter.

18                  **3. Submit and present plans and reports.** The council shall:

19                  A. Submit the strategic plan, progress reports, updated plans and revised plans  
20                  developed pursuant to subsections 1 and 2 in writing to the Governor and Legislature  
21                  by the dates set forth in subsections 1 and 2. The council may distribute the plans  
22                  and reports to those additional entities it considers appropriate, including state and  
23                  quasi-state agencies, public institutions of higher education in the State, regional  
24                  economic development agencies and other stakeholders; and

25                  B. By January 31, 2019, present the initial strategic plan developed pursuant to  
26                  subsection 1 in public meetings to the joint standing committee of the Legislature  
27                  having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs, the joint standing  
28                  committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, commerce and economic  
29                  development matters and other joint standing committees whose policy areas are  
30                  captured in key components of the plan. Annually thereafter, the council shall brief  
31                  these committees on the current status of the plan, including presentation of any  
32                  progress reports, updated plans or revised plans required by paragraph A.

33                  **4. Fiscal agent.** The Department of Economic and Community Development shall  
34                  serve as the council's fiscal agent providing regular financial reports to the council on  
35                  funds received and expended and an annual audit. The council shall seek funds and  
36                  accept gifts, if necessary, to support the council's objectives.

37                  **5. Staff support.** The council shall contract with the Maine Development  
38                  Foundation for project management, contracted services and staff support for carrying out  
39                  the purposes of this section.

1           **Sec. 5. 10 MRSA §929-E** is enacted to read:

2           **§929-E. Strategic plan implementation**

3           **1. Consideration of strategic plan.** The Governor, the Legislature and agencies  
4 receiving the initial strategic plan, progress reports and updated and revised plans  
5 pursuant to section 929-D, subsection 3, paragraph A shall consider the goals, objectives,  
6 benchmarks and recommendations contained in the plans and reports when planning,  
7 administering and budgeting resources for programs and activities intended to, or with the  
8 potential to, affect the State's economy.

9           **2. Progress reports.** To assist the council in preparing the progress reports pursuant  
10 to section 929-D, subsection 2, state agencies with responsibilities, programs or activities  
11 relevant to the plan's goals, objectives and benchmarks shall provide information  
12 requested by the council.

13           **Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §8876, last ¶**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 720, §9 and PL 2011,  
14 c. 657, Pt. W, §7 and PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23, is further amended to read:

15           The director shall coordinate the efforts of this program fully with ongoing bureau  
16 and federal forestry program planning efforts and with the efforts of the Maine Economic  
17 Growth Council to develop a ~~long-term~~ long-range plan for the State's economy pursuant  
18 to Title 10, section ~~929-B~~ 929-D.

19           **Sec. 7. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
20 allocations are made.

21           **ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**  
22 **Maine Economic Growth Council 0727**

23 Initiative: Provides one-time funds for the initial development of a strategic long-range  
24 economic plan for the State. Funds appropriated for this purpose may not lapse but must  
25 be carried forward to be used to complete the development of the strategic economic plan  
26 authorized by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 929-D.

27			
28	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
29	All Other	\$150,000	\$0
30			
31	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$150,000	\$0

32           **Maine Economic Growth Council 0727**

33 Initiative: Provides funds for the ongoing costs of monitoring, assessing and revising the  
34 strategic long-range economic plan for the State. Funds appropriated for this purpose  
35 may not lapse but must be carried forward to be used to complete the development of the  
36 strategic economic plan authorized by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section  
37 929-D.

38

1	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
2	All Other	\$120,000	\$120,000
3			
4	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$120,000	\$120,000
5			
6	<b>ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY</b>		
7	<b>DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF</b>		
8	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
9			
10	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$270,000</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>
11			
12	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$270,000</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>

13 **SUMMARY**

14       This bill provides additional clarity, requirements and resources for the Maine  
15 Economic Growth Council's efforts to fulfill its current statutory mandate to develop,  
16 monitor and maintain a long-range strategic economic improvement plan for the State. It  
17 also includes provisions to support the State's achievement of the goals and objectives in  
18 that plan by establishing requirements for the Governor, Legislature and agencies with  
19 relevant programs and activities to consider the long-range strategic economic  
20 improvement plan and provide information to the Maine Economic Growth Council at the  
21 request of the council. This bill would increase the annual General Fund appropriation to  
22 the Maine Economic Growth Council from its current \$55,000 to \$175,000 and would  
23 provide a one-time additional appropriation of \$150,000 for development of the initial  
24 plan in order to meet the timelines required in this bill.