

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 1974

S.P. 706

In Senate, February 10, 2022

**An Act To Establish and Fund the Maine Climate Corps Program
Pursuant to Recommendations in the Report Required by Resolve
2021, Chapter 25**

Reported by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland for the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 353.

Reference to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Handwritten signature of Darek M. Grant in black ink.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §7501**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 625, Pt. A, §13, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **§7501. Commission established**

5 There is established the Maine Commission for Community Service, referred to in this
6 chapter as "the "commission," to foster the State's ethic of community service; encourage
7 community service and volunteerism as a means of meeting critical human, environmental,
8 educational and public safety needs throughout the State; address climate challenges
9 through community service and volunteerism; serve as the State's liaison regarding national
10 and community service and volunteer activities; foster collaboration among service
11 agencies; and receive gifts and grants, implement statewide service programs and make
12 subgrants to state and local entities in accordance with the National and Community
13 Service Trust Act of 1993, 42 United States Code, Sections 12501 to 12682 (1994).

14 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §7503, sub-§11**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 54, §1, is amended to
15 read:

16 **11. Coordination.** ~~Foster~~ Coordinate and foster collaboration among state agencies,
17 colleges, universities, municipalities, federal agencies and volunteer service programs,
18 including, but not limited to, coordination of and collaboration regarding the activities of
19 the Maine Climate Corps Program established pursuant to section 7507 and related national
20 and other climate-related service programs;

21 **Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §7507** is enacted to read:

22 **§7507. Maine Climate Corps Program**

23 The Maine Climate Corps Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is
24 established within the commission to provide grants, technical assistance and training to
25 community service corps programs with the mission of responding to the impacts of climate
26 change. Eligible community service corps programs under the program must be designed
27 to:

28 **1. Direct service projects.** Conduct evidence-based direct service projects developed
29 through community collaboration, including collaboration with indigenous communities,
30 that address principles of equity, justice and accessibility;

31 **2. Climate impacts.** Address through measurable performance one or more of the
32 following areas: transportation, energy, housing, the State's coastal zone as defined under
33 the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric
34 Administration's coastal zone management program, public health, land and fresh water
35 preservation, community resilience and climate-related education;

36 **3. Disproportionately affected communities; representation.** Prioritize assistance
37 to disproportionately affected communities and ensure that individuals in service positions
38 represent the economic and demographic diversity of communities, including persons who
39 are historically marginalized; and

40 **4. Additional standards.** Meet additional program standards, including, but not
41 limited to, requirements to:

42 A. Enroll individuals for set terms in service positions;

- 1 B. Provide individuals in full-time service positions with stipends, health insurance,
- 2 liability insurance and accidental death or dismemberment insurance;
- 3 C. Provide individuals in service positions with training, education and service
- 4 experiences that further employability or career preparation; and
- 5 D. Meet any other standards set by the commission or nationally for similar programs.

6 **Sec. 4. 26 MRSA §1043, sub-§11, ¶F**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 117, §2, is
7 further amended by amending subparagraph (31) to read:

8 (31) Service performed by participants enrolled in programs or projects under the
9 Maine Climate Corps Program established pursuant to Title 5, section 7507 or
10 under national service laws including the federal National and Community Service
11 Act of 1990, as amended, 42 United States Code, Section 12501 et seq. and the
12 federal Domestic Volunteer Service Act, as amended, 42 United States Code,
13 Section 4950 et seq.;

14 **Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
15 allocations are made.

16 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

17 **Maine Climate Corps Program - Maine Commission for Community Service N413**

18 Initiative: Provides ongoing funds to support 5 Maine Climate Corps Program leadership
19 positions.

20 GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
21 All Other	\$0	\$406,550
22		
23 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$406,550

24 **Maine Climate Corps Program - Maine Commission for Community Service N413**

25 Initiative: Provides one-time funds to support 20 eligible participants of the Maine Climate
26 Corps Program.

27 GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
28 All Other	\$0	\$600,000
29		
30 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$600,000

31 **Maine Service Fellows Program Z311**

32 Initiative: Provides one-time funds to increase the opportunities for individuals to devote a
33 year of service to communities in the State.

34 GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
35 All Other	\$0	\$250,000
36		
37 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$250,000

38

39 **EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**
40 **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

	2021-22	2022-23
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1	GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$1,256,550
2			
3	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$1,256,550

4 **SUMMARY**

5 This bill, which is reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and
6 Natural Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 353, implements recommendations regarding the
7 establishment and funding of the Maine Climate Corps Program made pursuant to the
8 report required by Resolve 2021, chapter 25.

9 The bill establishes the Maine Climate Corps Program under the Maine Commission
10 for Community Service. It also provides one-time and ongoing General Fund
11 appropriations to fund the Maine Climate Corps Program and one-time General Fund
12 appropriations to fund the Maine Service Fellows Program established under the Maine
13 Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 7506.

14 The committee has not taken a position on the substance of the bill and by reporting
15 this bill out the committee is not suggesting and does not intend to suggest that it agrees or
16 disagrees with any aspect of this bill. The committee is reporting the bill out for the sole
17 purpose of obtaining a printed bill that can be referred to the committee for a public hearing
18 and subsequent committee action in the normal course.