

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 782

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S.P. 341

In Senate, February 21, 2023

**An Act to Support Statewide Economic Opportunities Through  
Strategic Investments of Property and Funds, Including Emergency  
Relief Funds**

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Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative HALL of Wilton and  
Senator: LAWRENCE of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §5012, 4th ¶**, as amended by PL 1987, c. 308, §7 and PL 2011,  
3 c. 657, Pt. W, §6, is further amended to read:

4 The commissioner may, subject to the approval of the Governor, apply for and accept  
5 on behalf of the State any funds, other personal or real property, including emergency  
6 relief funds, grants, bequests, gifts or contributions from any person, corporation or  
7 government, including the Government of the United States for the purpose of economic  
8 opportunity, business growth and other strategic investments. Such funds ~~shall~~ must be  
9 received by the Treasurer of State on behalf of the State and deposited in an appropriate  
10 new or existing account in the department. ~~All such funds may, subject to the rules~~  
11 ~~promulgated by the Governor, be expended by the Commissioner of Agriculture,~~  
12 ~~Conservation and Forestry.~~ Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the  
13 commissioner may hold hearings and adopt rules, in accordance with the Maine  
14 Administrative Procedure Act, with respect to the implementation and administration of  
15 authorized grant or fund disbursement programs of the department. Rules adopted pursuant  
16 to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter  
17 2-A.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill allows the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, subject  
20 to the approval of the Governor, to apply for and accept on behalf of the State emergency  
21 relief funds. It specifies that funds and other personal or real property accepted by the  
22 commissioner on behalf of the State be for the purpose of economic opportunity, business  
23 growth and other strategic investments. It allows the commissioner to hold hearings and  
24 adopt routine technical rules with respect to the implementation and administration of  
25 authorized grant or fund disbursement programs of the Department of Agriculture,  
26 Conservation and Forestry.