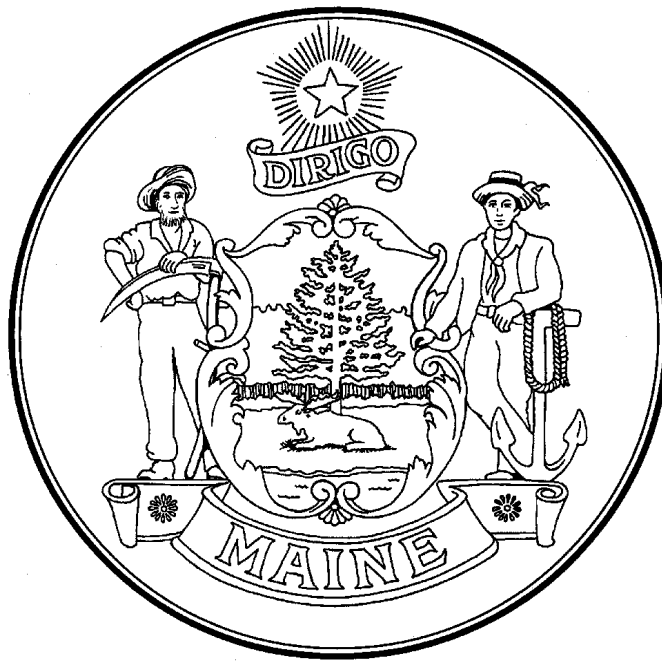


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1643

Date: 3/17/26

(Filing No. S-558)

**MAJORITY
HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to S.P. 651, L.D. 1643, "An Act to Establish the Maine Life Science Innovation Center"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Establish the Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center'

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, Maine's growing life sciences sector represents a vital component of Maine's economy, with emerging opportunities across biomedical research, marine biology, agriculture, forestry and data science; and

Whereas, the life sciences sector is one of the fastest-growing sectors of Maine's economy, employing nearly 10,000 people, contributing \$2.3 billion annually to Maine's gross domestic product and providing wages that are 1.7 times higher than the state average; and

Whereas, innovation in life sciences contributes directly to the well-being of Maine people through advancements in human and animal health, environmental resilience, workforce development and economic growth; and

Whereas, the Legislature recognizes the need for a dedicated, coordinated and strategic approach to support research, development, commercialization and investment in the life sciences sector; and

Whereas, the Maine Technology Institute was established to support Maine's innovation economy through sponsorships, investments and partnerships that promote innovation and entrepreneurship, generate high-quality jobs, expand research and development, accelerate revenues, attract additional investment and foster the commercialization of new products and services in Maine's technology-intensive sectors; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to S.P. 651, L.D. 1643 (3-558)

1 **Whereas**, the Maine Technology Institute's mission includes advancing innovation
2 across 7 core technology sectors, all of which are relevant to life sciences applications,
3 making the Maine Technology Institute a natural institutional home for this initiative; and

4 **Whereas**, the Legislature has demonstrated broad bipartisan support for growing
5 Maine's life sciences economy; and

6 **Whereas**, on September 18, 2025, the Governor issued Executive Order 2 FY 25/26:
7 An Order Establishing the Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center, which established the
8 Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center within the Maine Technology Institute; and

9 **Whereas**, this legislation permanently establishes in law the Maine Life Sciences
10 Innovation Center that was previously established by the Governor by executive order and
11 is not intended to establish a separate, duplicative entity; and

12 **Whereas**, this legislation must take effect immediately in order to ensure timely
13 continuation of the Maine Technology Institute and ongoing support of Maine's life
14 sciences sector; and

15 **Whereas**, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
16 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
17 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
18 therefore,'

19 Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the
20 following:

21 '**Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §15303, sub-§6, ¶D**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 401, Pt. AAA,
22 §3, is amended to read:

23 D. Shall coordinate its priorities with the applied research and development efforts of
24 the University of Maine System insofar as those efforts are in the targeted technologies
25 and encourage, when possible and appropriate, companies and research laboratories
26 receiving funds from the institute to establish joint ventures with the university system;
27 and

28 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §15303, sub-§6, ¶E**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 109, §3, is further
29 amended to read:

30 E. Shall cooperate with the Department of Economic and Community Development,
31 the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the University of Maine System and
32 others in their efforts to ensure that a complementary system of support services,
33 including, as needed and appropriate, incubators, business assistance, technology
34 transfer, market research, patent research and similar services, is in place and available
35 to companies and research laboratories receiving funds from the institute.; and

36 **Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §15303, sub-§6, ¶F** is enacted to read:

37 F. Shall support the Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center pursuant to section 15331.

38 **Sec. 4. 5 MRSA c. 407, sub-c. 4** is enacted to read:

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SUBCHAPTER 4

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MAINE LIFE SCIENCES INNOVATION CENTER

§15331. Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center

1. Establishment; purpose. The Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center, referred to in this subchapter as "the center," is established within the institute to support life sciences innovation, research, entrepreneurship and workforce development in the State. The center is established to serve the following purposes:

A. To leverage and expand the State's life sciences sector by supporting collaborative research, workforce training and entrepreneurial ventures and seeking capital investment;

B. To advance life sciences innovation and sector research across disciplines, including human and animal health, marine sciences, agriculture, forestry and data science;

C. To coordinate with public and private partners, educational and research institutions, nonprofit organizations and business stakeholders to strengthen the State's innovation efforts;

D. To investigate opportunities for grants, loans and other resources to support life sciences entities;

E. To develop strategies to attract federal, philanthropic and private investment;

F. To advise the Maine Technology Institute Director under section 15310 on matters related to life sciences innovation; and

G. To report regularly to the Legislature regarding the center's operations, activities and recommendations.

2. Membership. The center is composed of 10 members. The members include:

A. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the commissioner's designee, who serves as an ex officio, nonvoting member; and

B. Nine voting members appointed by the Governor, upon the recommendation of the Finance Authority of Maine and the institute, with expertise spanning the life sciences sector and its allied disciplines, including representatives of industry, life sciences entrepreneurs, research institutions, academia, hospitals, nonprofit organizations, investors and counties, including rural counties. Each member under this paragraph is entitled to one vote.

The Governor shall designate a chair from among the center's members to preside at, set the agenda for and schedule center meetings.

Center members shall disclose any direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any matter before the center and recuse themselves from any participation in the consideration of such a matter.

3. Operations. The following provisions govern the operations of the center.

A. The center shall meet as often as it considers necessary for the center to perform its work.

B. To the extent practicable, the center shall conduct its work in a manner that is open and accessible to the public.

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C. The center may conduct its work through subcommittees.

4. Staff and administrative support. The institute shall provide staff as may be necessary to fulfill the center's mission and may seek assistance from other state agencies and private entities to accomplish the goals and work of the center.

5. Annual report. The center shall submit annually to the Governor, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters, no later than 120 days after the close of the center's fiscal year, a complete report on the activities of the center. The report must be made available to the public and must include the following for that fiscal year:

A. A description of the center's operations;

B. An accounting of the center's receipts and expenditures, assets and liabilities at the end of its fiscal year;

C. A listing of all investments, grants, loans and incentives provided by the center during the fiscal year;

D. A statement of the center's proposed and projected activities for the ensuing fiscal year; and

E. Recommendations regarding further actions that may be suitable for achieving the purposes of this subchapter.

After reviewing the report under this subsection, the joint standing committee may report out legislation relating to the report.

Sec. 5. Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center; interim report. The Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 15331 shall submit an interim report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters no later than 180 days after all members of the center have been appointed pursuant to Title 5, section 15331, subsection 2. The interim report must include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. A description of the center's operations;

2. Proposed and projected activities for the ensuing fiscal year; and

3. Recommendations for future actions necessary to achieve the center's goals, including a recommendation regarding whether the center should be changed to a quasi-independent state entity.

After reviewing the report under this section, the joint standing committee may report out legislation relating to the report.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.'

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill and changes the title. It adds an emergency preamble and clause and establishes the Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center within the Maine

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" to S.P. 651, L.D. 1643 (S.558)

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Technology Institute to support life sciences innovation, research, entrepreneurship and workforce development in the State. The amendment directs the center to submit an interim report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters no later than 180 days after all members of the center have been appointed.

The amendment permanently establishes in law the Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center that was previously established by the Governor by executive order and is not intended to establish a separate, duplicative entity.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



Approved: 03/10/26 **LRL**

132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1643

LR 2061(08)

An Act to Establish the Maine Life Science Innovation Center

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment

Committee: Housing and Economic Development

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

"B" (S-558)

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Additional costs to the Department of Economic and Community Development for the Commissioner or a designee to serve as an ex officio member of the Maine Life Science Innovation Center are assumed to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.