

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LAWS**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF MAINE**

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE

**SECOND SPECIAL SESSION**

December 12, 1991 to January 7, 1992

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

January 8, 1992 to March 31, 1992

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS  
JUNE 30, 1992

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,  
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

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J.S. McCarthy Company  
Augusta, Maine  
1992

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**PUBLIC LAWS**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF MAINE**

**AS PASSED AT THE**  
**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**of the**  
**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE**

**1991**

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(6) Register of Deeds      19,202    19,202

M. Washington County:

(1) Commissioners

(a) Chair                    \$5,116    \$5,116

(b) Members                4,264    4,264

(2) Treasurer                12,500    12,500

(3) Sheriff                    29,025    29,025

(4) Judge of Probate        15,252    15,252

(5) Register of Probate     16,800    16,800

(6) Register of Deeds        16,800    16,800

N. York County:

(1) Commissioners

(a) Chair                    \$4,860    \$4,860

(b) Members                4,860    4,860

(2) Treasurer                5,612    5,612

(3) Sheriff                    30,500    30,500

(4) Judge of Probate        13,500    13,500

(5) Register of Probate     21,600    21,600

(6) Register of Deeds        21,600    21,600

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act takes effect when approved and applies retroactively to January 1, 1992.

Effective April 9, 1992.

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**CHAPTER 853**

**H.P. 1765 - L.D. 2448**

**An Act Regarding Electronic Banking Terminals**

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

**Sec. 1. 9-B MRSA §243-A, sub-§3** is enacted to read:

**3. Agreement to share electronic terminals.** An agreement to share electronic terminals may not prohibit, limit or restrict the right of a financial institution

authorized to do business in this State to charge a customer any fees allowed by state or federal law, or require a financial institution to limit or waive its rights or obligations under this section. This subsection applies to all agreements to share use of electronic terminals in existence on or entered into after the effective date of this subsection.

See title page for effective date.

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**CHAPTER 854**

**H.P. 1773 - L.D. 2455**

**An Act to Create Jobs, Promote Economic Growth and Provide Business Assistance**

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

**Whereas,** the unemployment rate in the State is high, requiring special efforts to stimulate the economy and create jobs; and

**Whereas,** the current recession has been accentuated by major structural changes in the regional, national and international economies; and

**Whereas,** this recession points to the need to make significant improvements in how State Government develops, implements and coordinates long-term strategies for economic growth in order to achieve and maintain economic prosperity into the 21st century; and

**Whereas,** these facts have necessitated the need for State Government, jointly with the private sector and the educational system, to develop and update specific action plans for stimulating long-term economic growth and for State Government to coordinate the delivery of the economic development and business assistance services outlined in the long-term plans; and

**Whereas,** this Act implements the recommendations of the Maine Jobs Commission, which was established to recommend programs and activities that will create jobs within the State; and

**Whereas,** in order to provide maximum benefit to the State's economy, these programs and activities need to be initiated before the expiration of the 90-day period; and

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

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

**PART A**

**Sec. A-1. 10 MRSA §965, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 511, Pt. A, §1, is further amended to read:

**1. Selected board members.** ~~Six~~ Four members of the authority to consist of:

~~A. Two veterans selected by the Governor from the members of the Maine Veterans Small Business Loan Board;~~

B. Two members selected by the Governor from the public members of the Natural Resource Financing and Marketing Board; and

C. Two members selected by the Governor from the appointed members of the Maine Education Assistance Board.

**Sec. A-2. 10 MRSA §965, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 1987, c. 596, §1, is further amended to read:

**3. At-large members.** ~~Three~~ Five members appointed by the Governor and subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters and subject to confirmation by the Legislature ~~shall~~ must be appointed from at large. Two of the at-large members must be veterans.

**Sec. A-3. 10 MRSA §1026-A, sub-§1, ¶A**, as amended by PL 1985, c. 714, §16, is further amended to read:

A. ~~No~~ A mortgage payment may not be applied in a manner ~~which~~ that would, for any one project, increase the percentage of mortgage payments insured by the authority, except that this paragraph ~~shall~~ does not apply ~~where~~ when insurance payments for any one project may not in the aggregate exceed the lesser of 25% of the original principal amount of the mortgage loan or:

(1) In the case of insurance provided pursuant to section 1026-B, ~~\$125,000~~ \$250,000;

(2) In the case of insurance provided pursuant to section 1026-C, \$25,000; or

(3) In the case of insurance provided pursuant to section 1026-D, \$1,000,000;

**Sec. A-4. 10 MRSA §1026-A, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 714, §18, is amended to read:

**3. Mortgage insured loan limitation for small businesses.** Whenever an applicant applies for mortgage in-

surance under sections 1026-B and 1026-C, the authority may insure mortgage loans for which the combined principal amounts of mortgage insurance of both sections ~~does~~ do not exceed ~~\$600,000~~ \$1,100,000.

**Sec. A-5. 10 MRSA §1026-B**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 511, Pt. A, §§5 to 7, is further amended to read:

**§1026-B. Mortgage insurance of \$1,000,000 or less**

**1. Scope of section.** This section applies, in addition to other applicable provisions of this subchapter, when the original principal amount of the mortgage insurance is ~~\$500,000~~ \$1,000,000 or less, but not when mortgage insurance is provided pursuant to section 1026-D.

**2. Insurance.** Any mortgage insurance provided pursuant to this section is subject to the following:

A. The original principal amount of mortgage insurance ~~must~~ may not exceed ~~\$500,000~~ \$1,000,000; and

B. The authority may insure no more than ~~85%~~ 90% of the mortgage payments.

**3. Mortgage eligibility.** The authority may insure mortgage payments under this section provided that:

A. Repayment of the loan may be secured by less than full collateral if the borrower or the principals of the borrower are of good character and have good credit records;

B. The mortgage loan has a maturity satisfactory to the authority; and

C. The borrower:

(1) In the case of an existing business, at the time application is made for financing assistance, employs ~~20~~ 50 persons or less or has gross sales not exceeding ~~\$2,500,000~~ \$5,000,000 per year; or

(2) In the case of a new business, at the time application is made for financing assistance, projects that, during the first 12 months of operation, it will employ ~~20~~ 50 persons or less or will have gross sales not exceeding ~~\$2,500,000~~ \$5,000,000.

**4. Retail store projects.** The authority may insure mortgage loans for a retail store project, provided that:

A. The principal amount of mortgage insurance for the project does not exceed \$200,000;

B. The project includes only one retail store that is not attached or does not adjoin another retail

store that has received an insured mortgage loan under this chapter; and

C. The applicant has not received mortgage insurance under this subsection for any other retail store.

**5. Professional office building projects.** The authority may insure mortgage loans for a professional office building project, provided that:

A. The principal amount of mortgage insurance for the project does not exceed \$200,000;

B. Less than 35% of the project is intended or planned for professional office space;

C. Notwithstanding paragraph B, in the event that the project proposes that more than 35% of the project will be professional office space, the project is not attached or adjoined to any other professional office building that has received an insured mortgage loan under this chapter; and

D. The applicant has not received mortgage insurance under this subsection for any other professional office building project.

**Sec. A-6. 10 MRSA §1026-C, sub-§2,** as amended by PL 1989, c. 857, §47, is further amended to read:

**2. Insurance.** The authority may provide mortgage insurance benefiting a veteran in an original principal amount of \$250,000 or less in addition or as an alternative to any amount provided pursuant to section 1026-B. The authority may insure 100% of mortgage payments under this section of for a loan approved pursuant to section 980-B of up to \$75,000.

**Sec. A-7. 10 MRSA §1100-T, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 1987, c. 854, §§2 and 5, is amended to read:

**1. Legislative findings; authorization.** The Legislature finds that the growth of new and existing small businesses in the State results in increased job opportunities for Maine residents, produces more spending in the State and increases municipal tax bases. Businesses which that export their products or services out of the State bring capital into the State and help to develop export markets for Maine products. Small new and existing businesses can provide significant economic benefits to the State provided that if they can obtain sufficient seed equity financing to carry them from start-up through the initial development phases of a business. In order to encourage the increased availability of risk equity capital to these early-growth stage enterprises that bring capital into the State, the authority is authorized to issue certificates of eligibility for the seed capital investment tax credit permitted by Title 36, section 5216-B, subject to the requirements of this section. This pro-

gram ~~shall be~~ is known as the Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit Program.

**Sec. A-8. 10 MRSA §1100-T, sub-§2, ¶¶B to D,** as enacted by PL 1987, c. 854, §§2 and 5, are amended to read:

B. The Maine business must be a manufacturer; must provide a product or service which that is sold or rendered, or is projected to be sold or rendered, predominantly outside of the State; or must bring capital into the State, as determined by the authority. ~~Businesses which bring products into the State and then sell the same products outside the State are not eligible. Construction, transportation, financial services, insurance and real estate businesses are not eligible. Other service businesses are eligible provided that the customers are predominantly out of the State and the employment functions are carried out predominantly in the State.~~

C. Aggregate investment eligible for tax credits ~~shall may not be less than \$25,000 nor more than \$250,000~~ \$600,000 for any one business as of the date of issuance of a tax credit certificate.

D. The investment with respect to which any individual is applying for a tax credit certificate ~~shall be may not less than \$10,000 nor be more than an aggregate of \$50,000~~ \$100,000 in any one business, provided except that this paragraph shall does not be interpreted to limit other investment by any applicant for which that applicant is not applying for a tax credit certificate.

**Sec. A-9. 10 MRSA §1100-T, sub-§2, ¶E,** as amended by PL 1989, c. 765, §4, is further amended to read:

E. The business receiving the investment must have annual revenues gross sales of \$200,000 ~~\$2,000,000~~ or less and the operation of the business must be the full-time professional activity of the principal owner, as determined by the authority. ~~Businesses with annual revenues of \$500,000 or less may receive the investment, provided that credits for investments in businesses with annual revenues between \$200,001 and \$500,000 are claimed only during tax years beginning on or after January 1, 1991.~~ The principal owner and the principal owner's spouse, parents, brothers, sisters and children are not eligible for a credit for investment in that business. ~~Businesses in which the principal owners are not one or more individuals are not eligible.~~

**Sec. A-10. 10 MRSA §1100-T, sub-§2, ¶G,** as enacted by PL 1987, c. 854, §§2 and 5, is amended to read:

G. The authority shall establish limits on repayment of the investment, ~~requiring at a minimum that the investment remain in the business for at least 5 years with no current income to the investor during the 5-year period.~~ The investment must be at risk in the business.

**Sec. A-11. 10 MRSA §1100-T, sub-§§3 and 4,** as enacted by PL 1987, c. 854, §§2 and 5, are amended to read:

**3. Priority.** The authority ~~shall~~ may reserve \$500,000 in tax credit authorization for "natural resource enterprises," as defined in section 963-A, subsection 41, and ~~shall~~ may reserve an additional \$500,000 in tax credit authorization for eligible investments in businesses located in job opportunity zones designated pursuant to Title 5, chapter 403; or in contiguous communities designated by the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development; as being entitled to zone benefits due to special circumstances.

**4. Total of credits authorized.** The authority may issue tax credit certificates in ~~the an~~ aggregate credit amount of \$700,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1989, \$650,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1990, and \$650,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1991, for a total aggregate of ~~not to exceed \$2,000,000 in tax credit certificates, provided that any authorized credit for which certificates have not been issued in the year authorized may be carried forward to subsequent years until an aggregate of \$2,000,000 in certificates has been issued.~~

## PART B

**Sec. B-1. 5 MRSA §3307-E** is enacted to read:

### §3307-E. Task Force on Defense Realignment and the Economy

The Task Force on Defense Realignment and the Economy, referred to in this section as the "task force," is established in the State Planning Office to monitor federal reductions in defense spending and defense realignment affecting the State and to ensure a timely, comprehensive, statewide response to those cuts.

**1. Membership.** The task force consists of the following members:

A. The Director of the State Planning Office, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, the Commissioner of Labor, the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation, the Commissioner of Defense and Veterans' Services and the President of the Maine Technical College System who serve ex officio;

B. One Senator appointed by the President of the Senate and 2 members of the House of Represent-

atives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

C. Eighteen public members representing the interests of the public, business, commerce, labor and local, regional and federal government, 9 of whom are appointed by the Governor and 9 of whom are appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The appointing authorities shall coordinate appointments so that, to the maximum extent possible, appointments result in geographic diversity and balanced representation among the constituencies on the task force.

**2. Terms; compensation.** Public and legislative members serve 2-year terms and may be reappointed. Legislative members are entitled to receive per diem compensation; all members are entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred in carrying out their duties. The compensation and reimbursement costs of the task force must be paid by the State Planning Office.

**3. Administration.** The director is the chair of the task force. The office shall provide staff support to the task force. State agencies shall provide technical assistance to the task force as needed.

**4. Duties.** The task force shall perform the following duties:

A. Prepare a statewide strategy and implementation plan to assist the State and its defense-dependent industries, workers and communities to reduce defense dependency by shifting from military to civilian enterprises while retaining a stable industrial and commercial base, high employment and wages and diverse state, regional and local economies. A strategic plan and recommendations for implementation must be submitted to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters by July 1, 1992. The report must be updated annually and as otherwise requested by the joint standing committee. The strategic plan must include:

(1) Determination of how firms in the State will be affected by the reduction of output by prime contractors and bases, how defense realignment will affect local and state government services and the adequacy and effectiveness of existing federal, state and local dislocation response capacity;

(2) Assessment of the current capacity of at-risk businesses and workers to reduce their defense dependency;

(3) Identification of sources of assistance for local and regional planning efforts, in-

cluding coordination of local and regional efforts;

(4) Development of a comprehensive strategy for reducing the State's defense capacity, including identification of steps required to: encourage, assist and strengthen local development capacity in at-risk regions; help diversify the reemployment base; enhance reemployability of workers; broaden the markets of defense-dependent firms; and anticipate and mitigate impacts on communities associated with defense-spending reductions; and

(5) Identification of barriers to the effective implementation of the plan and recommendation of actions to remove these barriers;

B. Prepare and submit legislation by October 1, 1992 and as necessary thereafter that:

(1) Identifies how state agencies will assist the regions in achieving their objectives;

(2) Provides for adequate incentives and resources to implement state, regional and industry strategic plans; and

(3) Provides for adjustment assistance for communities and workers while the economy adjusts to reductions in defense spending;

C. Coordinate funding, technical assistance and other support to defense-dependent regional and industry planning committees to help various regions of the State develop and implement economic conversion and diversification goals, objectives and strategies; and

D. Coordinate state efforts toward the adoption of federal legislation and policies that support economic conversion and diversification planning, commercial industries, market opportunities and global competitiveness.

**Sec. B-2. Transition.** Current public and legislative members of the Task Force on Defense Realignment and the Maine Economy established by Executive Order may continue to serve as members of the Task Force on Defense Realignment and the Economy established in this Part until July 1, 1992. At that time, they may be reappointed or new members appointed in their places.

## PART C

**Sec. C-1. Study innovative approaches to assist dislocated workers.** The Department of Labor shall study alternative uses of unemployment insurance

compensation funds to encourage the reemployment of unemployed workers and the retention of currently employed workers who would otherwise be terminated from employment. In conducting the study, the department shall review efforts in other states to achieve similar results. As part of the study, the department shall investigate the need for and availability of waivers from federal requirements and the possibility of the State qualifying for demonstration status to implement possible alternatives. The department shall consider at least the following alternatives:

1. Using unemployment insurance compensation funds to encourage dislocated workers to take action necessary to return to productive employment, including permitting unemployed workers to continue to receive full unemployment benefits for a limited period of time if they participate in an authorized retraining program or start their own businesses;

2. Using unemployment insurance compensation funds to maximize job creation efforts of business by providing incentives to employers to hire new employees, including permitting employers to hire unemployed workers during a probationary period at less than the minimum wage while supplementing wages with unemployment benefits;

3. Using unemployment insurance compensation funds to encourage employers to retain current jobs, including permitting an employer to retain workers who would otherwise be terminated by reducing the wages paid to those workers and using unemployment benefits to offset part of the wage reduction; and

4. Other possible uses of unemployment insurance compensation funds to promote job creation and retention by employers and retraining and entrepreneurial efforts by dislocated workers.

**Sec. C-2. Report.** The Department of Labor shall submit a written report to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters and labor matters during any special session of the 115th Legislature or, if a special session is not convened, to the First Regular Session of the 116th Legislature by December 1, 1992. The report must include the department's findings and recommendations and a draft of any necessary implementing legislation.

## PART D

**Sec. D-1. 5 MRSA c. 380** is enacted to read:

### CHAPTER 380

#### LONG-TERM ECONOMIC GROWTH PLANNING AND COORDINATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS ASSISTANCE SERVICES



**§13001. Economic Development and Business Assistance  
Coordinating Council established**

The Economic Development and Business Assistance Coordinating Council, referred to in this chapter as the "council," is established to develop a long-term economic development plan for the State as provided in this chapter and to coordinate and oversee economic development and business assistance services throughout the State.

**1. Membership.** The council consists of 13 members as follows:

A. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development;

B. The Commissioner of Labor;

C. The Chief Executive Officer of the Maine Development Foundation;

D. The Chief Executive Officer of the Finance Authority of Maine;

E. The Executive Director of the Maine Science and Technology Commission;

F. The President of the Maine World Trade Association;

G. A member representing the University of Maine, appointed by the Chancellor of the University of Maine System;

H. A member representing the University of Southern Maine, appointed by the Chancellor of the University of Maine System;

I. The President of the Maine Technical College System;

J. The Director of the United States Small Business Administration Small Business Development Subcenter Program at the University of Southern Maine;

K. The Executive Director of the Maine State Housing Authority;

L. The Director of the State Planning Office; and

M. The Executive Director of the Maine State Retirement System.

**2. Quorum; voting.** Seven members of the council constitute a quorum, which is necessary for voting on issues before the council. A majority vote of those voting is necessary for official action of the council.

**3. Compensation.** Members of the council are not entitled to compensation for their services on the council. Personnel and operating costs of the council and council member expenses must be funded by the agencies and organizations comprising the council.

**4. Staff.** The council shall provide for its staffing. The council may raise and expend funds from the private sector to support council staffing and other expenses.

**5. Chair.** The council shall biennially elect a chair, except that the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall chair the council for the first term ending January 1, 1994.

**§13002. Powers and duties**

**1. Identify regions; regional services.** The council shall identify regions throughout the State for the purpose of developing regional economic development strategies and creating a regionally based delivery system of economic development and business assistance services.

A. Economic development regions are subject to the following.

(1) No later than February 1, 1993, the council shall provide to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters a preliminary report that inventories existing economic development regions and resources, analyzes the effectiveness of those regions in carrying out their mission and proposes a system of economic development regions to provide comprehensive economic development and business assistance services throughout the State.

(2) Following presentation of the report required by subparagraph (1), the council shall adopt by rule a system of economic development regions for the State that identifies each region and a proposed system of delivering economic development and business assistance services within each region.

(3) As part of the regional system adopted under subparagraph (2), the council shall provide a procedure by which a person, firm, organization or municipality adversely affected by the establishment of a delivery system of economic development and business assistance services may appeal to the council for a change in the delivery system to meet the needs of the affected entity or person.

(4) In adopting a system of economic development regions for the State, the council shall establish regions that best meet the needs of

municipalities and the private sector with respect to developing a regional strategy and a regional delivery system of economic development and business assistance services. In identifying the regions, the council shall consider existing regional designations used by other state and federal agencies.

(5) In establishing regions, the council shall provide for the efficient and convenient delivery of economic development and business assistance services to all users within each region. Services provided within a region and economic development and business assistance services provided by state and federal agencies must be coordinated to provide users with the most efficient services possible. Services may be provided across regional lines as the council determines appropriate.

B. The council, through its member agencies, shall help each region identify the industries and economic activities with significant growth potential, the types of jobs and the job training required for these activities and the infrastructural improvements and projects that may be necessary within each region.

**2. Encourage regional strategies.** Following adoption of regions as provided in this section, the council shall encourage and assist regions in developing economic development strategies.

A. In assisting regions to develop economic development strategies, the council, among other services, shall help identify and organize the public and private economic development and business assistance agencies, the private sector and interested groups within each region to work cooperatively on developing a strategy.

**3. Develop long-term plan.** Following adoption of regions and development of regional strategies, the council shall develop a long-term economic development and business assistance plan for the State in accordance with section 13004. The long-term plan must guide state agencies and other agencies receiving state funds with respect to economic development throughout the State.

The council shall submit to the Governor and the Legislature the long-term plan and any necessary implementing legislation no later than December 1, 1993. Following submission of the plan, the council shall adopt by rule a long-term economic development and business assistance plan for the State.

**4. Investigate issues.** The council may investigate any issues involving economic development and business assistance and report its findings and recommendations,

including any necessary implementing legislation, to the Governor and the Legislature.

**5. Advisory committee.** The council shall establish an advisory committee composed of municipal officials, interested citizens and representatives of business, labor and banking to advise the board with respect to the long-term plan, regional strategies and the delivery of economic development and business assistance services. The council may establish other advisory committees as it finds necessary.

**6. Evaluate long-term plan.** The council shall provide, at least every 2 years, for the objective evaluation of the long-term plan required under subsection 3, including the extent to which the goals and strategies of the plan have been met, the effectiveness of the coordinating effort of the council, the effectiveness of the regional delivery system and the effectiveness of the long-term plan in generating jobs, new and expanded businesses and increased personal income. The evaluation may not be conducted by any member of the council.

**7. Update long-term plan and regional strategies.** At least every 2 years, the council shall update the long-term plan required under subsection 3 and coordinate with the regions an update of the regional strategies. The council shall include in the report required in subsection 8 the results of the updates.

**8. Report.** At a minimum, the council shall provide the Governor and the Legislature with a biennial report by December 1st beginning in 1995 that describes the economic activity in each region, the extent to which the goals and objectives of each regional strategy are being met, the successes and the failures of policies and programs and any other information determined important by the council.

**§13003. Regional economic development plans and strategies**

The council shall encourage and assist regions in developing long-term economic development plans and strategies. The council shall strive to create a process by which public and private agencies, the business community and interested persons within each region cooperate and coordinate their efforts to develop a regional economic development plan.

The Department of Economic and Community Development, the State Planning Office and the Department of Labor shall cooperate in providing the council with information that will help to identify:

**1. Economic growth potential.** The industries and economic sectors with significant growth potential;

**2. Job training needs.** The types of jobs involved in the industries and economic sectors with significant

growth potential and the job training requirements for these jobs;

**3. Development needs.** The means necessary for the development of the sectors and industries pursuant to subsection 1; and

**4. Infrastructure needs.** The infrastructural needs to support the economies of each region.

#### **§13004. Long-term plan**

**1. Contents.** The long-term plan developed by the council pursuant to section 13002, subsection 3 must consist of: a vision statement for the State's economy to guide the economic planning process; the regional strategies developed in accordance with this chapter; state-wide and regional economic goals and strategies, including evaluation criteria; and specific biennial action plans, including coordination of the delivery of economic development and business assistance services, organizational and funding recommendations, expected outcomes and measurable performance indices.

In developing the long-term plan, the council shall consider:

A. The types of industries and jobs with significant growth potential in the State and job training requirements to meet the needs of business;

B. Long-term economic growth recommendations of the public and private sectors and any other relevant studies and evaluations;

C. The long-term infrastructural needs that support the State's economy, including, but not limited to:

- (1) The educational system;
- (2) The State's science, technology and research infrastructure;
- (3) The State's transportation infrastructure and energy policies; and
- (4) The State's regulatory policies;

D. The State's evolving industrial base;

E. The diverse economies of the regions of the State;

F. International commerce opportunities;

G. Existing efforts to convert military economies to civilian economies;

H. Federal funding opportunities; and

I. The extent to which economic development and business assistance services can be delivered regionally.

The council shall give specific attention to the means by which activities in the science, technology and research arenas can be adapted to invigorate the State's economy.

**2. Science and technology infrastructure.** The Maine Science and Technology Commission, in cooperation with the University of Maine System, the Maine Technical College System and the private sector, is responsible for developing strategies and an action plan for strengthening the State's science and technology infrastructure and enterprise that must include research and development. These strategies and action plan must be considered in the development of the long-term economic development plan for the State. The council shall also consider the research and development strategy undertaken by the Maine Science and Technology Commission pursuant to Private and Special Law 1991, chapter 68.

**3. International commerce and business development.** The Maine World Trade Association, in cooperation with the University of Maine System and the Department of Economic and Community Development, is responsible for developing strategies and an action plan for expanding international activities by businesses in the State and encouraging international investment in the State. These strategies and the action plan must be considered in the development of the long-term economic development plan for the State.

**4. Financial support for business development.** The Finance Authority of Maine, in consultation with the banking community and the private sector, is responsible for developing strategies and an action plan to provide financial support to facilitate the growth and development of business enterprises and entrepreneurs involved in the development and fabrication of new commercial products and to promote modernization and conversion of existing firms. Financial support may include, but is not limited to, loans, equity capital and tax incentives. The Finance Authority of Maine shall seek input from the Maine Science and Technology Commission and the Maine World Trade Association to ensure that financial needs for strengthening the State's science and technology infrastructure and international commerce activities are appropriately considered and integrated in the financial support strategies and action plan. These strategies and action plan must be considered in the development of the long-term economic development plan.

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

Effective April 9, 1992.