

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 7, 2022 to March 30, 2023

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
April 5, 2023 to July 26, 2023

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 29, 2023

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
OCTOBER 25, 2023

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

Augusta, Maine
2023

GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$0 \$5,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 116

H.P. 453 - L.D. 684

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Study the Educare Model

Sec. 1. Study of Educare model; report. Resolved: That the Department of Education shall identify the critical components of the Educare model for publicly funded statewide early childhood education programs and identify the necessary public and private resources as well as implementation strategies for those critical components. The Department of Education shall, no later than January 29, 2025, submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs. The joint standing committee may report out a bill related to the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Office of Innovation Z333

Initiative: Provides one-time funds to contract for the services needed to conduct a study of the Educare model.

GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$7,500

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$7,500
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See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 117

S.P. 404 - L.D. 985

Resolve, to Provide Additional Funding to the Maine Veterans' Homes

Sec. 1. Transfer from fiscal year 2023-24 Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Medical Use of Cannabis Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds available balances. Resolved: That, on or before June 30, 2024, the State Controller shall transfer \$2,600,000 from available balances in the Medical Use of Cannabis Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

Sec. 2. Transfer to Department of Health and Human Services, Nursing Facilities-MVH Other Special Revenue Funds. Resolved: That, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2024, the State Controller shall transfer \$2,600,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Nursing Facilities-MVH Other Special Revenue Funds account for a one-time payment to the Maine Veterans' Homes to support ongoing operations.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Nursing Facilities 0148

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for ongoing operations at the Maine Veterans' Homes.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$5,495,395	\$0

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$5,495,395	\$0
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OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$3,116,727	\$0

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$3,116,727	\$0
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See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 118

H.P. 732 - L.D. 1160

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Analyze Data on the Essential Programs and Services Funding Formula and Allocation Methodology

Sec. 1. Department of Education to identify and conduct an analysis on school funding and allocation methodology. Resolved: That the Department of Education, referred to in this resolve as "the department," in conjunction with the Maine Education Policy Research Institute, shall identify and analyze all school funding data and reports available through or compiled by the Maine Education Policy Research Institute, the so-called Picus report and any other relevant data and reports available to the department in order to make recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The analysis

must include, but is not limited to, data and reports relating to the following components of the school funding formula in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A:

1. Transportation cost allocations under section 15681-A, subsection 3, including the predicted per-pupil transportation costs and transportation for secondary school students and transportation to and from co-curricular and extracurricular activities;

2. The determination of a municipality's ability to contribute to school funding through the calculation of the property fiscal capacity as defined in section 15672, subsection 23 through the certified state valuation and the potential inclusion of median income in the allocation methodology and its impact on equity;

3. The essential programs and services allocation model for career and technical education centers and regions under chapter 313, including but not limited to:

A. The effect of the allocation model implemented in the 129th Legislature and the calculation of the per-pupil rate; and

B. Career and technical education center and region costs for transportation for students to and from work sites, annual updates and replacements necessary for equipment specific to centers and regions, the infrastructure costs necessary to accommodate those upgrades and the staffing necessary to lower the ratio between students and staff;

4. The calculations and metrics, including options for alternative metrics, for the economically disadvantaged student factor under section 15675, subsection 2, the economically disadvantaged student adjustment under section 15689, subsection 11 and any other targeted funds to support economically disadvantaged students; and

5. Any other components or issues identified before or during the department's analysis that impact equity in the essential programs and services funding formula and allocation methodology and that require further data collection or analysis, including but not limited to recent changes in school operations, the labor market and teacher salaries and shortages.

In analyzing each component, the department shall consider: the accuracy of the data available; the interconnectedness of the essential programs and services funding formula components; the positive and negative implications of any changes, either alone or in combination with other changes; the impacts on local funding, including the potential for cost shifts at the school administrative unit level; the impact on funding at the state level; and the potential for unintended consequences.

Sec. 2. Updates; report; legislation. Resolved: That the department shall provide monthly updates to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs on the identification of data and reports and the analysis conducted under section 1. No later

than January 15, 2024, the department shall submit a final report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs with its findings, recommendations and suggested legislation. The report must include a thorough analysis of the data and reports that were considered, identification of data or other areas that require further study and recommendations on any changes to the essential programs and services funding formula model and allocation methodology that could be implemented immediately and those that could be implemented in the future. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature related to the subject matter of the report.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 119

S.P. 523 - L.D. 1286

Resolve, to Establish the Blue Economy Task Force to Support Maine's Emergence as a Center for Blue Economy Innovation and Opportunity in the 21st Century

Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved: That the Department of Economic and Community Development shall convene the Blue Economy Task Force, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," to support Maine's emergence as a center for blue economy innovation and opportunity in the 21st century. As used in this resolve, "blue economy" means business sectors that rely on the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic health, improved livelihoods, jobs or ecosystem health.

Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved: That the task force shall consist of no less than 13 members including representatives of public and private research institutions, businesses that are innovating in various blue economy sectors, fisheries businesses, aquaculture businesses and equity investors in blue economy businesses and the President of the Maine Technology Institute or the president's designee. A majority of the task force membership must represent either blue economy businesses or entities directly involved in the commercialization of blue economy-related research and innovation.

Sec. 3. Consultation. Resolved: That the task force, in conducting its duties under section 4, shall consult with individuals and entities involved in the blue economy, including, but not limited to:

1. Relevant state agencies, including the Department of Marine Resources, the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future and the State Economist;