

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
130<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

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DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND  
BUSINESS**

December 2021

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**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC  
ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS**

**LD 492 An Act To Create a Regional Grant Program To Help Rural Businesses Find  
Qualified Staff**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 420 creates a grant program and related fund for the purpose of supporting groups working on local economic development initiatives in rural regions of the State that will assist rural businesses in those regions in locating, recruiting and retaining qualified staff to meet workforce needs. The law defines “rural regions of the State” to mean the counties of Aroostook, Piscataquis, Somerset and Washington. It also requires that all funds awarded be matched by the group that receives the grant. It appropriates funds of \$200,000 in fiscal year 2021-22 and fiscal year 2022-23, and requires the Department of Economic and Community Development to report by January 15th of each year to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters on the program, including the number of grants given and the results achieved.

**LD 768 Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and Community Development and  
a Representative from the Office of the Governor To Study the Softwood Pulp Industry**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2021, chapter 47 directs the Department of Economic and Community Development and a representative of the Office of the Governor to study the softwood pulp industry. The department shall submit a report, including recommendations for supporting the forest products industry and employment in that sector in this State, to the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business by February 1, 2022.

**LD 857 An Act To Create a Municipal Grant Program To Promote Sustainable Economic  
Development**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 319 establishes a fund to provide competitive grants funding for cities and towns for projects that further the goals of sustainable economic development as outlined by the Maine Economic Growth Council, in the council’s annual “Measures of Growth” report or by the “Maine Economic Development Strategy 2020-2029.” It provides initial funding from the Federal Government through stimulus or relief funds received by the State in 2021 to counter the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic that are eligible for the purposes of the Municipal Grant Fund.