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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair
Representative Drew Gattine, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM: Senator Mark W. Lawrence, Senate Chair
Representative Melanie F. Sachs, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

DATE: March 12, 2025

SUBJ: Biennial budget recommendations

On March 3, March 6, and March 12, 2025, the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology (EUT) reviewed the budget items in the Governor's proposed biennial budget, as considered in LD 210, pertaining to the agencies and programs under its jurisdiction.

The votes of the committee members who recorded votes on the budget items presented are listed on the attached OFPR worksheet. The initials of those members who voted after the final work session are identified with an asterisk. This memo includes an overview of the voting results for each initiative and describes any amendments recommended by the committee.

I. Department of Energy Resources and related Governor's Energy Office Initiatives

For initiatives related to the creation of the Department of Energy Resources, listed below, those committee members present at the final work session¹ unanimously voted to recommend deferring any action on these initiatives until such time that the committee has been able to consider this issue in a stand-alone bill. The committee understands that a stand-alone bill will be coming to the committee and it will provide an opportunity to have a full public hearing, which will include the provision of notice to EUT interested parties. The members believe that the creation of a new department raises important policy concerns and they would like the benefit of receiving public comment through a public hearing on an LD. The committee intends to provide recommendations to the Appropriations Committee when it has been able to consider the stand-alone bill.

- Within the proposed Department of Energy Resources: Ref# 1214, Ref# 1216, Ref# 1218, Ref# 1220, Ref# 1222, Ref# 1223, Ref# 1225, Ref# 1227);

¹ Those present for this vote: Sen. Grohoski and Reps. Sachs, Foster, Kessler, McIntyre, Runte, Wadsworth, Webb, and Warren. Senator Lawrence was not present for the vote; however, he voted after the meeting to support this recommendation. Senator Harrington and Representative Paul voted after the meeting and voted in opposition to the inclusion of the initiatives listed in this section and language part in the biennial budget.

- Language Part LL; and
- Within the Governor's Energy Office: Ref# 1431, Ref# 1433, Ref# 1435, Ref# 1437, Ref# 1439, Ref# 1440, Ref# 1442, Ref# 1444

II. Governor's Energy Office Initiatives

Governor's Energy Office	
Ref# 1419	7 in / 5 out
Ref# 1420	11 in / 1 out
Ref# 1422	7 in / 5 out
Ref# 1423	12 in / 0 out
Ref# 1425	7 in / 5 out
Ref# 1427	7 in / 5 out
Ref# 1429	7 in with amendment (see note below) / 5 out
Ref# 1430	7 in / 5 out
Ref# 1431	<i>See Part I</i>
Ref# 1433	
Ref# 1435	
Ref# 1437	
Ref# 1439	
Ref# 1440	
Ref# 1442	
Ref# 1444	
Ref# 1445	4 in with amendment (see note below) / 8 out

Reference # 1429. For this reference number, a majority of the members supported amending the initiative to a **one-time** appropriation of \$2M over the biennium.

Reference # 1445. For this reference number, a minority of the members supported amendment the initiative to a **one-time** appropriation of \$1M over the biennium.

III. Office of the Public Advocate Initiatives

Office of the Public Advocate	
Ref# 1409	7 in / 5 out
Ref# 1410	7 in / 5 out
Ref# 1411	12 in / 0 out

IV. Public Utilities Commission Initiatives

Public Utilities Commission - Emergency Services Communication Bureau	
Ref# 3068	7 in / 5 out
Ref# 3069	12 in / 0 out
Ref# 3070	12 in / 0 out

Public Utilities Commission Public Utilities – Administrative Division	
Ref# 3062	7 in / 5 out
Ref# 3063	12 in / 0 out
Ref# 3064	7 in / 5 out

Attached is the AFA Report-back indicating the Committee's votes on all individual initiatives. Please let us know if we can provide any additional information or assistance in connection with these recommendations.

Enc.

cc: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Sec. A-12. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

CONNECTMAINE AUTHORITY

ConnectMaine Fund Z294

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$1,716,285	\$1,716,285	\$1,716,285	\$1,716,285
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$1,716,285	\$1,716,285	\$1,716,285	\$1,716,285

Justification:

The ConnectMaine Authority serves as the broadband development authority for the State of Maine and is responsible for accessing federal and other grant funds necessary to expand Maine's broadband infrastructure. The ConnectMaine Authority consists of seven voting Board members.

CONNECTMAINE FUND Z294

PROGRAM SUMMARY

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$1,716,285	\$1,716,285	\$1,716,285	\$1,716,285
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$1,716,285	\$1,716,285	\$1,716,285	\$1,716,285

CONNECTMAINE AUTHORITY

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$1,716,285	\$1,716,285
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$1,716,285	\$1,716,285

Sec. A-20. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Energy Rate Relief Fund Z344

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

Public Law 2021, Resolves 168 authorized funding from the State Fiscal Recovery Funds to provide relief payments to covered utilities.

ENERGY RATE RELIEF FUND Z344

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Office of Broadband Development Z245

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Personal Services	\$278,113	\$285,561	\$286,890	\$310,605
All Other	\$1,068,000	\$1,068,000	\$1,068,000	\$1,068,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$1,346,113	\$1,353,561	\$1,354,890	\$1,378,605

Justification:

The Office of Broadband Development serves as the central broadband office for the State of Maine and is responsible for accessing federal and other grant funds necessary to expand Maine's broadband infrastructure. The office provides assistance to the ConnectME Authority Board in the administration of financial assistance to communities for expanding broadband and services.

OFFICE OF BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT Z245

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Personal Services	\$278,113	\$285,561	\$286,890	\$310,605
All Other	\$1,068,000	\$1,068,000	\$1,068,000	\$1,068,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$1,346,113	\$1,353,561	\$1,354,890	\$1,378,605

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$1,355,390	\$1,379,105
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$1,355,390	\$1,379,105

Sec. A-23. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EFFICIENCY MAINE TRUST

Efficiency Maine Trust Z100

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$145,417	\$147,316	\$166,016	\$173,247
All Other	\$15,747	\$15,747	\$15,747	\$15,747
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$161,164	\$163,063	\$181,763	\$188,994
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$19,000,000	\$17,000,000	\$17,000,000	\$17,000,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$19,000,000	\$17,000,000	\$17,000,000	\$17,000,000

Justification:

The Efficiency Maine Trust allocation is used to transfer various utility assessments collected by the Public Utilities Commission and for personnel services costs related to those Efficiency Maine Trust employees that elected prior to July 1, 2010 to remain State Employees and retain their employee rights, privileges, and benefits.

EFFICIENCY MAINE TRUST Z100

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$145,417	\$147,316	\$166,016	\$173,247
All Other	\$15,747	\$15,747	\$15,747	\$15,747
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$161,164	\$163,063	\$181,763	\$188,994
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$19,000,000	\$17,000,000	\$17,000,000	\$17,000,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$19,000,000	\$17,000,000	\$17,000,000	\$17,000,000

EFFICIENCY MAINE TRUST

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$181,763	\$188,994
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	\$17,000,000	\$17,000,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$17,181,763	\$17,188,994

Sec. A-24. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ENERGY RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF

Department of Energy Resources Z424

Initiative: Transfers new All Other funding from the Governor's Energy Office Program, Federal Expenditures Fund within the Executive Department to the Department of Energy Resources Program, Federal Expenditures Fund within the Department of Energy Resources.

Ref. #: 1214

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

All Other

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL

see part I
of report
back memo

ref #s 1214-1227

	2025-26	2026-27
	\$12,028,590	\$12,028,590
	\$12,028,590	\$12,028,590

Justification:

This initiative will transfer the new allocation established in this biennial budget to the newly created Department of Energy Resources.

Department of Energy Resources Z424

Initiative: Transfers 3 Public Service Coordinator II positions from the Governor's Energy Office Program, Federal Expenditures Fund within the Executive Department to the Department of Energy Resources Program, Federal Expenditures Fund within the Department of Energy Resources and related All Other costs. All transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, will be classified positions at the Department of Energy Resources. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Those employees will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 1216

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT

Personal Services

All Other

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL

	2025-26	2026-27
	3,000	3,000
	\$434,773	\$470,139
	\$15,995	\$16,336
	\$450,768	\$486,475

Justification:

This initiative will transfer three positions that are being made permanent in the Governor's Energy Office to the newly created Department of Energy Resources.

Department of Energy Resources Z424

Initiative: Transfers 2 Public Service Coordinator II positions from the Governor's Energy Office Program within the Executive Department to the Department of Energy Resources Program within the Department of Energy Resources and related All Other costs. All transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, will be classified positions at the Department of Energy Resources. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Those employees will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 1218

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$285,681	\$308,620
All Other	\$11,012	\$11,228
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$296,693	\$319,848

Justification:

This initiative will transfer two positions that are being made permanent in the Governors Energy Office to the newly created Department of Energy Resources.

Department of Energy Resources Z424

Initiative: Transfers one limited-period Public Service Coordinator II position from the Governor's Energy Office Program within the Executive Department to the Department of Energy Resources Program within the Department of Energy Resources and related All Other costs. All transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, will be classified positions at the Department of Energy Resources. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Those employees will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 1220

One Time

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$149,092	\$29,856
All Other	\$15,118	\$3,322
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$164,210	\$33,178

Justification:

This initiative will transfer one limited-period position from the Governors Energy Office to the newly created Department of Energy Resources.

Department of Energy Resources Z424

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000

Justification:

This initiative will transfer the new appropriation established in this biennial budget to the newly created Department of Energy Resources.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES Z424
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GENERAL FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	5.000	5.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$801,731	\$854,282
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$3,409,418	\$3,409,418
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$4,211,149	\$4,263,700

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	13.000	13.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$2,309,975	\$2,330,146
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$15,311,188	\$15,299,949
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$17,621,163	\$17,630,095

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$20,356	\$21,185
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$397,824	\$402,515
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$418,180	\$423,700

ENERGY RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$4,211,149	\$4,263,700
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$17,621,163	\$17,630,095
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$418,180	\$423,700
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$22,250,492	\$22,317,495

Sec. A-27. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program Z388

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

The Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program was established to provide funding to foster the continued growth of cost-effective distributed solar facilities and energy storage systems in this State.

DISTRIBUTED SOLAR AND ENERGY STORAGE PROGRAM Z388

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Governor's Energy Office Z122

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	5.000	5.000	5.000	5.000
Personal Services	\$673,465	\$712,046	\$801,731	\$854,282
All Other	\$1,666,216	\$1,659,418	\$1,659,418	\$1,659,418
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$2,339,681	\$2,371,464	\$2,461,149	\$2,513,700
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	5.000	8.000	8.000	8.000
Personal Services	\$681,871	\$1,196,376	\$1,440,429	\$1,521,531
All Other	\$1,883,254	\$3,240,473	\$3,240,473	\$3,240,473
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$2,565,125	\$4,436,849	\$4,680,902	\$4,762,004
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$329,293	\$78,205	\$20,356	\$21,185
All Other	\$355,464	\$352,608	\$350,607	\$350,607
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$684,757	\$430,813	\$370,963	\$371,792
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY				
Personal Services	\$0	\$72,172	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$1,431,319	\$163,745	\$163,745	\$163,745
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$1,431,319	\$235,917	\$163,745	\$163,745

Justification:

The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security is established to carry out responsibilities of the State relating to energy resources, planning and development. The fund is non-lapsing.

Governor's Energy Office Z122

Initiative: Provides funding for the Department's share of the cost for the financial and human resources service center within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Ref. #: 1419

Committee Vote:

7/5

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

All Other

IN: ML*
MS
KW
SW

OUT: MM
SF
NW
MH*

2025-26	2026-27
\$19,698	\$24,389

LR2409(1) - App-Alloc (EUT) Part A Sec. 27 RP

NG
CK
WR

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$19,698

\$24,389

Justification:

Service Centers within DAFS provide centralized accounting, payroll, budgeting and human resources services to departments and agencies. Service Centers are established as an internal service funds intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies for services provided. The Service Centers expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

Governor's Energy Office Z122

Initiative: Continues one Public Service Coordinator II position established with Financial Order 003775 F5 through September 8, 2026 to provide programmatic leadership and administration for the activities undertaken by the Governor's Energy Office, and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 1420	One Time	Committee Vote: <u>8/2</u>	<u>11/1</u>	AFA Vote: _____	
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	In: ML*	MM	Out:	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	MS	SF	NW	\$149,092	\$29,856
All Other	KW	MH*	OP	\$15,118	\$3,322
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	SW	RP*	MB	<u>\$164,210</u>	<u>\$33,178</u>
	NG				
	CK				
	WR				

Justification:

This initiative continues one Public Service Coordinator II position established with Financial Order 003775 F5 through September 8, 2026 to provide programmatic leadership and administration for the activities undertaken by the Governor's Energy Office, and provides funding for related All Other costs. Funding is through the Solar for All federal grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, CFDA 66.959.

Governor's Energy Office Z122

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide technology services provided by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Information Technology.

Ref. #: 1422		Committee Vote: <u>7/5</u>		AFA Vote: _____	
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	IN: ML*	WK	OUT: MM	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	MS		SF	\$27,519	\$27,519
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	KW		NW	<u>\$27,519</u>	<u>\$27,519</u>
	SW		MH*		
	NG		RP*		
	CK				

Justification:

MaineIT is responsible for the delivery of safe, secure, and high-performing networks and systems to State Agencies for daily performance of their missions for the citizens of Maine. IT enterprise functions benefitting all state agencies are managed through this office to ensure consistency, volume discount efficiencies, and optimum performance and throughput. MaineIT is established as an internal service fund intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies for services provided. MaineIT expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs, including vendor increases, supply chain costs, and network and systems modernization and upgrades. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and

agencies.

Governor's Energy Office Z122

Initiative: Provides funding for an increase in federal grant awards issued to the Governor's Energy Office.

Ref. #: 1423

Committee Vote: 12/0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	IN: ML*	MM	OUT: ∅	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	NG	RP*		\$12,028,590	\$12,028,590
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	MH*	NR		<u>\$12,028,590</u>	<u>\$12,028,590</u>
	MS	NW			
	SF	SW			
	CK	KW			

Justification:

This office continues to receive federal grants each year, and requests financial orders to spend the grant funds. This initiative will provide a beginning allocation enabling business to proceed without waiting for financial orders to be processed each fiscal year.

Governor's Energy Office Z122

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one limited-period Public Service Coordinator II position previously continued by Financial Order 003730 F5, one limited-period Public Service Coordinator II position previously continued by Financial Order 003631 F5, one limited-period Public Service Coordinator II position established by Financial Order 003632 F5, and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 1425

Committee Vote: 7/5

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	IN: ML*	OUT: MH*	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	NG	SF	3.000	3.000
Personal Services	MS	MM	\$434,773	\$470,139
All Other	CK	RP*	\$15,995	\$16,336
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	WR	NW	<u>\$450,768</u>	<u>\$486,475</u>
	SW			
	KW			

Justification:

This initiative continues and makes permanent one limited-period Public Service Coordinator II position previously continued by Financial Order 003730 F5, one limited-period Public Service Coordinator II position previously continued by Financial Order 003631 F5, one limited-period Public Service Coordinator II position established by Financial Order 003632 F5, and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Governor's Energy Office Z122

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one limited-period Public Service Coordinator II position previously continued by Financial Order 003601 F5 and one limited-period Public Service Coordinator II position established by Financial Order 003712 F5, and transfers these positions from the Governor's Energy Office, Other Special Revenue account to the Governor's Energy Office, Federal Expenditures Fund account within the same program and provides funding for related All Other costs. These positions will be responsible for supporting the goals and objectives contained within the various federally funded grant awards.

Ref. #: 1427

Committee Vote: 7/5

AFA Vote: _____

IN: ML* KW OUT: MH*
 NG SF
 MS MM
 CK RP*
 WR NW
 SW

Justification:

This initiative provides funding to sustain and implement the state's energy planning initiatives, the implementation and design of energy procurements, and regional collaboration opportunities. This funding will help meet the statutorily requested energy planning and analysis, design and implementation of energy procurements needed to advance affordable, reliable and cleaner energy for Maine. Funding will also support the recommendations of the stakeholder-based Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap; Pursue offshore wind supply chain, infrastructure, and workforce investments to support economic growth and resilience; Harness abundant renewable energy to reduce long-term costs, reliance on fossil fuels, and fight climate change; Advance Maine-based innovation to compete in the developing national and global offshore wind industry; Support Maine's vital and thriving seafood industries and coastal communities; and Protect the environment, wildlife, and fisheries ecosystem in the Gulf of Maine. Additionally, the funds will allow the Governor's Energy Office to utilize contract support to meet the extensive statutory obligations from Public Law 2023, Chapter 481, An Act Regarding the Procurement of Offshore Wind Energy Resources from the Gulf of Maine, which also align with the Roadmap.

Governor's Energy Office Z122

Initiative: Transfers new All Other funding from the Governor's Energy Office Program, Federal Expenditures Fund within the Executive Department to the Department of Energy Resources Program, Federal Expenditures Fund within the Department of Energy Resources.

Ref. #: 1431

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

		2025-26	2026-27
All Other		(\$12,028,590)	(\$12,028,590)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL		(\$12,028,590)	(\$12,028,590)

see memo part 1

for ref # 1431 - 1444

Justification:

This initiative will transfer the new allocation established in this biennial budget to the newly created Department of Energy Resources.

Governor's Energy Office Z122

Initiative: Transfers 3 Public Service Coordinator II positions from the Governor's Energy Office Program, Federal Expenditures Fund within the Executive Department to the Department of Energy Resources Program, Federal Expenditures Fund within the Department of Energy Resources and related All Other costs. All transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, will be classified positions at the Department of Energy Resources. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Those employees will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 1433

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

		2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT		(3,000)	(3,000)
Personal Services		(\$434,773)	(\$470,139)
All Other		(\$15,995)	(\$16,336)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL		(\$450,768)	(\$486,475)

Governor's Energy Office Z122

Initiative: Transfers 14 positions, all Personal Services and All Other funding from the Governor's Energy Office Program within the Executive Department to the Department of Energy Resources Program within the Department of Energy Resources within the same fund. All transferred positions, with the exception of the reorganized Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, including those currently unclassified, will be classified positions at the Department of Energy Resources. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Those employees will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances. Position details are on file with the Bureau of Budget.

Ref. #: 1439

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	(5.000)	(5.000)
Personal Services	(\$801,731)	(\$854,282)
All Other	(\$1,659,418)	(\$1,659,418)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	(\$2,461,149)	(\$2,513,700)

Ref. #: 1440

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	(8.000)	(8.000)
Personal Services	(\$1,440,429)	(\$1,521,531)
All Other	(\$3,240,473)	(\$3,240,473)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	(\$4,680,902)	(\$4,762,004)

Ref. #: 1442

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	(1.000)	(1.000)
Personal Services	(\$20,356)	(\$21,185)
All Other	(\$397,824)	(\$402,515)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	(\$418,180)	(\$423,700)

Justification:

This initiative will transfer all of the current positions budgeted in the Governor's Energy Office to the newly created Department of Energy Resources, this will also transfer all current All Other funding.

Governor's Energy Office Z122

Initiative: Transfers new All Other Funding from the Governor's Energy Office Program, General Fund within the Executive Department to the Department of Energy Resources Program, General Fund within the Department of Energy Resources.

Ref. #: 1444

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

All Other

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

2025-26	2026-27
(\$1,750,000)	(\$1,750,000)
(\$1,750,000)	(\$1,750,000)

Justification:

This initiative will transfer the new appropriation established in this biennial budget to the newly created Department of Energy Resources.

Governor's Energy Office Z122

Initiative: Provides funding to sustain and implement the offshore wind program to meet climate, clean energy and economic goals for the state, as well as advance regional collaboration opportunities.

Ref. #: 1445

Committee Vote: 4/8

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

All Other

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

IN W/ AMENDMENT - ONE TIME FUNDING

KW
CK
WR
ML*

OUT: NG SW
MH* MS
RP* SF
MM
NW

2025-26	2026-27
\$500,000	\$500,000
\$500,000	\$500,000

Justification:

This initiative provides funding to sustain and implement the offshore wind program to meet climate, clean energy and economic goals for the state, as well as advance regional collaboration opportunities. The request for General Fund allocation will help meet objectives identified in the stakeholder-based Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap: Pursue offshore wind supply chain, infrastructure, and workforce investments to support economic growth and resilience; Harness abundant renewable energy to reduce long-term costs, reliance on fossil fuels, and fight climate change; Advance Maine-based innovation to compete in the developing national and global offshore wind industry; Support Maine's vital and thriving seafood industries and coastal communities; and Protect the environment, wildlife, and fisheries ecosystem in the Gulf of Maine. Additionally, the funds will allow the Governor's Energy Office to utilize contract support to meet the extensive statutory obligations from Public Law 2023, Chapter 481, An Act Regarding the Procurement of Offshore Wind Energy Resources from the Gulf of Maine, which also align with the Roadmap.

**GOVERNOR'S ENERGY OFFICE Z122
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	5.000	5.000	0.000	0.000
Personal Services	\$673,465	\$712,046	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$1,666,216	\$1,659,418	\$0	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$2,339,681	\$2,371,464	\$0	\$0
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	5.000	8.000	0.000	0.000
Personal Services	\$681,871	\$1,196,376	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$1,883,254	\$3,240,473	\$0	\$0
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$2,565,125	\$4,436,849	\$0	\$0
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.000
Personal Services	\$329,293	\$78,205	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$355,464	\$352,608	\$0	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$684,757	\$430,813	\$0	\$0
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY				
Personal Services	\$0	\$72,172	\$0	\$0
All Other	\$1,431,319	\$163,745	\$163,745	\$163,745
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL	\$1,431,319	\$235,917	\$163,745	\$163,745

Maine Offshore Wind Renewable Energy and Economic Development Program Z389

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

The Maine Offshore Wind Renewable Energy and Economic Development Program was established to further the development and use of offshore wind power projects in the Gulf of Maine. The office, in collaboration with the commission administers the program to ensure that the program is designed to advance the greenhouse gas emissions reduction obligations and climate policies of this State, the renewable energy goals and all applicable workforce development efforts of this State.

**MAINE OFFSHORE WIND RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM Z389
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Offshore Wind Research Consortium Fund Z314

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

The Offshore Wind Research Consortium Fund was established as a nonlapsing fund administered by the office and the Department of Marine Resources and in coordination with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The fund consists of funds that are appropriated by the Legislature, funds received from federal and state sources, payments from offshore wind power and other funds from any public or private source. The fund may be used to support the consortium and the work of the advisory board.

OFFSHORE WIND RESEARCH CONSORTIUM FUND Z314

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Public Advocate 0410

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	10.000	11.000	11.000	11.000
Personal Services	\$1,546,486	\$1,773,391	\$1,923,205	\$2,026,514
All Other	\$2,180,729	\$2,180,729	\$2,180,729	\$2,180,729
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$3,727,215	\$3,954,120	\$4,103,934	\$4,207,243

Justification:

The Office of Public Advocate is charged by law to represent the interests of residential, commercial and industrial ratepayers of the electric, natural gas, telephone, water, and ferry utilities within the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The Public Advocate may intervene in any proceeding before the PUC, and may petition the PUC to initiate proceedings to review, investigate and take appropriate action with respect to the rates or service of any utility or competitive service provider. In fiscal year 2016-17 the Office of Public Advocate intervened in 78 cases before the Maine PUC, or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in Washington, D.C. The average cost per case was \$23,229. The Public Advocate staff estimate that savings attributable to these interventions and the arguments made in them, not duplicated by any other party, and incorporated in final PUC, FERC or FCC Orders, came to \$5,235,577. This amounts to an average of \$67,123 in savings to ratepayers for each of these interventions. The \$5,235,577 represents a savings of \$2.89 for every \$1 of the Public Advocate's budget. Additionally, the Office of Public Advocate periodically publishes a Ratewatcher Telecom Guide and an Electricity Guide.

Public Advocate 0410

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide technology services provided by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Information Technology.

Ref. #: 1409

Committee Vote:

7/5

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS			2025-26	2026-27
All Other	(In: ML* MS KW	(Out: MM	\$15,908	\$16,015
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	SW NG CK WR	SF NW MH* RP*	\$15,908	\$16,015

Justification:

MaineIT is responsible for the delivery of safe, secure, and high-performing networks and systems to State Agencies for daily performance of their missions for the citizens of Maine. IT enterprise functions benefitting all state agencies are managed through this office to ensure consistency, volume discount efficiencies, and optimum performance and throughput. MaineIT is established as an internal service fund intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies for services provided. MaineIT expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs, including vendor increases, supply chain costs, and network and systems modernization and upgrades. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

Public Advocate 0410

Initiative: Provides funding for the department's proportionate share of the cost for the financial and human resources service center, within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Ref. #: 1410

Committee Vote: 7/5

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

All Other

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

IN : ML*
MS
KW
JW
NG
CK
WR

OUT: MM
SF
NW
MH*
RP*

2025-26	2026-27
\$10,887	\$13,055
\$10,887	\$13,055

Justification:

Service Centers within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services provide centralized accounting, payroll, budgeting and human resources services to departments and agencies. Service Centers are established as an internal service funds intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies for services provided. The Service Centers expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

Public Advocate 0410

Initiative: Provides funding for an increase in consulting services.

Ref. #: 1411

Committee Vote: 12/0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

All Other

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

IN : ML* MM
MS SF
KW NW
JW MH*
NG RP*
CK
WR

OUT: ∅

2025-26	2026-27
\$221,470	\$221,470
\$221,470	\$221,470

Justification:

The Office of the Public Advocate routinely contracts for expert consulting services for proceedings before the Maine Public Utilities Commission. Expenditures for consulting services increased by 186% from fiscal year 2021-22 to fiscal year 2022-23, and by 142% from fiscal year 2021-22 to fiscal year 2023-24.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE 0410

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	10.000	11.000	11.000	11.000
Personal Services	\$1,546,486	\$1,773,391	\$1,923,205	\$2,026,514
All Other	\$2,180,729	\$2,180,729	\$2,428,994	\$2,431,269
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$3,727,215	\$3,954,120	\$4,352,199	\$4,457,783

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$0
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$4,353,699	\$4,459,283
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	\$163,745	\$163,745
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$4,517,444	\$4,623,028

Sec. A-67. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Emergency Services Communication Bureau 0994

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	9.000	10.000	10.000	10.000
Personal Services	\$1,073,976	\$1,197,689	\$1,355,867	\$1,421,594
All Other	\$6,273,992	\$6,390,563	\$6,390,563	\$6,390,563
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$7,347,968	\$7,588,252	\$7,746,430	\$7,812,157

Justification:

The Emergency Services Communication Bureau (ESCB), originally established as a Public Safety Bureau in 1996 and moved to the Public Utilities Commission in 2003, manages the statewide Enhanced 9-1-1 (E9-1-1) system, which is the component of the statewide emergency response system that displays the telephone number and physical location of an E9-1-1 caller to the call taker at a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP).

Emergency Services Communication Bureau 0994

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide technology services provided by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Information Technology.

Ref. #: 3068

Committee Vote: 7/5 AFA Vote: _____

		2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS			
All Other	IN: ML* NG MS KW SW CK WR	OUT: MM SF NW MH* RP*	\$54,711
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL		\$49,197	\$54,711

Justification:

MaineIT is responsible for the delivery of safe, secure, and high-performing networks and systems to State Agencies for daily performance of their missions for the citizens of Maine. IT enterprise functions benefitting all state agencies are managed through this office to ensure consistency, volume discount efficiencies, and optimum performance and throughput. MaineIT is established as an internal service fund intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies for services provided. MaineIT expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs, including vendor increases, supply chain costs, and network and systems modernization and upgrades. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

Emergency Services Communication Bureau 0994

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide property leases provided through the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Division of Leased Space.

Ref. #: 3069

Committee Vote: 12/0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

All Other

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

IN: ML* MH*
 NG SF
 MS MM
 KW NW
 SW RP*
 CK
 WR

2025-26	2026-27
\$126,276	\$134,276
<u>\$126,276</u>	<u>\$134,276</u>

Justification:

Leased Space within DAFS locates, negotiates and holds all real property leases required by all Departments and agencies to ensure those leases are to the best economic advantage of the State. The current portfolio includes over 220 leases for more than 1.6 million square feet. Leased Space is established as an internal service fund intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies. Leased Space expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

Emergency Services Communication Bureau 0994

Initiative: Provides funding for contracted services in the Emergency Services Communication Bureau.

Ref. #: 3070

Committee Vote: 12/0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

All Other

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

IN: ML* MH*
 NG WR
 MS SF
 KW MM
 SW NW
 CK RP*

2025-26	2026-27
\$1,998,417	\$1,998,417
<u>\$1,998,417</u>	<u>\$1,998,417</u>

Justification:

Increases include improvements to the NG911 system, quality assurance review for Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP), integration of 988 (Crisis Response) into 911; advertising/public relations to develop a campaign to assist PSAP; continuing education courses for PSAP personnel, and transition of voice service providers to NG911 compliant call delivery.

**EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMUNICATION BUREAU 0994
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	9.000	10.000	10.000	10.000
Personal Services	\$1,073,976	\$1,197,689	\$1,355,867	\$1,421,594
All Other	\$6,273,992	\$6,390,563	\$8,564,453	\$8,577,967
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$7,347,968	\$7,588,252	\$9,920,320	\$9,999,561

Oversight and Evaluation Fund Z106

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$252,660	\$252,660	\$252,660	\$252,660
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$252,660	\$252,660	\$252,660	\$252,660

Justification:

Public Law 2009, chapter 372 requires the Public Utilities Commission to establish an oversight fund to be used solely to defray the commission's projected cost of overseeing the Efficiency Maine Trust, including but not limited to reviewing and approving the triennial plan and contracting with expert third-party resources to provide technical assistance or impartial evaluation of the performance of energy efficiency programs administered by the trust.

**OVERSIGHT AND EVALUATION FUND Z106
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$252,660	\$252,660	\$252,660	\$252,660
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$252,660	\$252,660	\$252,660	\$252,660

Public Utilities - Administrative Division 0184

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
Personal Services	\$58,934	\$58,934	\$58,934	\$58,934
All Other	\$1,066	\$1,066	\$1,066	\$1,066
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	68.000	69.000	69.000	69.000
Personal Services	\$9,819,409	\$10,392,230	\$11,108,765	\$11,611,875
All Other	\$5,832,719	\$5,847,626	\$5,492,973	\$5,492,973
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$15,652,128	\$16,239,856	\$16,601,738	\$17,104,848

Justification:

The Maine Legislature established the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) in 1913 as a quasi-judicial independent state agency. The Commission has jurisdiction over approximately 600 utility companies and districts that generate approximately \$1 billion a year in electric, telephone, water and gas utility revenues.

Public Utilities - Administrative Division 0184

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide technology services provided by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Information Technology.

Ref. #: 3062

Committee Vote:

7/5

AFA Vote: _____

		2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS			
All Other		\$191,580	\$197,174
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL		\$191,580	\$197,174

IN: ML*
MS
KW
NG
SW
CK
WR

OUT: MM
SF
NW
MH*
RP*

Justification:

MaineIT is responsible for the delivery of safe, secure, and high-performing networks and systems to State Agencies for daily performance of their missions for the citizens of Maine. IT enterprise functions benefitting all state agencies are managed through this office to ensure consistency, volume discount efficiencies, and optimum performance and throughput. MaineIT is established as an internal service fund intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies for services provided. MaineIT expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs, including vendor increases, supply chain costs, and network and systems modernization and upgrades. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

Public Utilities - Administrative Division 0184

Initiative: Establishes one Utility Analyst-Safety Programs Inspector position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 3063

Committee Vote: 12/0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT
Personal Services
All Other

IN: ML*
NG
MH*
KW
SW
MS
CK
SF
WR
RP*
MM
NW

2025-26	2026-27
1,000	1,000
\$126,672	\$133,006
\$7,408	\$7,459
<u>\$134,080</u>	<u>\$140,465</u>

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

Justification:

This initiative provides funds for one Utility Analyst-Safety Programs Inspector to conduct federally-mandated gas safety inspections, perform analysis, and engage in outreach with regulated gas utilities, industry groups, and damage prevention stakeholders. The position will allow the gas safety and damage prevention programs to increase outreach to regulated groups, facilitate incorporation and enforcement of significant upcoming and recently enacted federal gas distribution-related rulemakings, enhance damage prevention efforts, ensure continuous inspection and investigation coverage, and allow the program to establish succession-related resiliency.

Public Utilities - Administrative Division 0184

Initiative: Establishes one Utility Analyst position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 3064

Committee Vote: 7/5

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT
Personal Services
All Other

IN: ML*
MS
KW
NG
SW
CK
WR
OUT: MM
SF
NW
MH*
RP*

2025-26	2026-27
1,000	1,000
\$149,069	\$161,365
\$7,408	\$7,459
<u>\$156,477</u>	<u>\$168,824</u>

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

Justification:

This initiative provides funds for one Utility Analyst position to provide analysis, advice and project management of the Commissions Case Management System (CMS). Conduct testing and analysis of changes proposed. Assist the Commission in its review of OIT's plans to make database, browser and other changes impacting CMS and other Commission systems. Work with OIT to help oversee and manage CMS. Assist the Commission's Administrative Director with miscellaneous information technology projects impacting the commission including computer upgrades, information technology request for proposals, networking, and audio/video streaming projects.

**PUBLIC UTILITIES - ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION 0184
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND				
Personal Services	\$58,934	\$58,934	\$58,934	\$58,934
All Other	\$1,066	\$1,066	\$1,066	\$1,066
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	68.000	69.000	71.000	71.000
Personal Services	\$9,819,409	\$10,392,230	\$11,384,506	\$11,906,246
All Other	\$5,832,719	\$5,847,626	\$5,699,369	\$5,705,065
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$15,652,128	\$16,239,856	\$17,083,875	\$17,611,311

PUC - Interconnection Ombudsman Fund Z393

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Personal Services	\$118,414	\$122,203	\$185,746	\$200,764
All Other	\$15,891	\$15,891	\$15,891	\$15,891
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$134,305	\$138,094	\$201,637	\$216,655

Justification:

Public Law 2023 chapter 307 requires the Public Utilities Commission to establish a fund to be used solely to contract with an appointed interconnection ombudsman to evaluate whether treating distributed generation resources that use the tariff rate program as load-reducing resources would provide greater value to all ratepayers than the treatment of those resources as wholesale generation resources. The appointed ombudsman shall also evaluate whether the tariff rate program has been implemented in a way that maximizes the value of the portfolio of the resources to all ratepayers.

PUC - INTERCONNECTION OMBUDSMAN FUND Z393

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Personal Services	\$118,414	\$122,203	\$185,746	\$200,764
All Other	\$15,891	\$15,891	\$15,891	\$15,891
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$134,305	\$138,094	\$201,637	\$216,655

PUC - Unused NEB Credits for Low-Income Assistance Z392

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Justification:

Public Law 2023 chapter 230 requires the agency to establish a program to receive funds remitted by transmission and distribution utilities with net energy billing arrangements for unused or expired kilowatt-hour credits that will used towards low-income assistance.

PUC - UNUSED NEB CREDITS FOR LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE Z392

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$60,500	\$60,500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$27,458,992	\$28,080,687
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$27,519,492	\$28,141,187

Sec. A-73. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERVICES COUNCIL

Telecommunications Relay Services Council Fund Z266

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000

Justification:

The Telecommunications Relay Services Council, as established by Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 30-C, shall evaluate telecommunications relay services in the State of Maine and implement the Maine telecommunications relay services program as certified by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to 47 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 64, Subpart F.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERVICES COUNCIL FUND Z266

PROGRAM SUMMARY

	History 2023-24	History 2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
All Other	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000

TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERVICES COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
 OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$600,000	\$600,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$600,000	\$600,000

PART LL

Sec. LL-1. 2 MRSA §9 is amended to read:

1. Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

- A. **Commissioner.** “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Energy Resources appointed pursuant to section 3.
- B. **Department.** “Department” means the Maine Department of Energy Resources as established by section 2.

21. Department Office established. The Governor's Energy Office, referred to in this section as “the office,” is established in the Executive Department to carry out responsibilities of the State relating to energy resources, planning and development. The office is directly responsible to the Governor. The Department of Energy Resources is established as a cabinet-level department to carry out responsibilities of the State relating to energy resources, planning, programs and development and is the successor to the office that was established under Title 2, §9. The department shall conduct planning, develop policies and establish programs designed to ensure all Maine households, communities, and businesses have access to an affordable, reliable, and resilient energy supply to meet energy demand and support economic development. The department is designated as the state energy office for the state of Maine.

32. Director Commissioner. The office department is under the control and supervision of the Director of the Governor's Energy Office, referred to in this section as “the director.” Commissioner of the Maine Department of Energy Resources who reports directly to the Governor. The director is appointed by the Governor and serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

- A. **Appointment.** The Governor shall appoint the commissioner, subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy, utility and technology matters and confirmation by the Senate. The commissioner serves at the pleasure of the Governor.
- B. **Deputy.** The commissioner shall appoint a deputy commissioner to assist the commissioner with the operations of the department. The deputy commissioner serves at the pleasure of the commissioner.
- C. **Staff.** The commissioner may employ, subject to the Civil Service Law, personnel for the department and prescribe the duties of these employees as the Commissioner deems necessary to fulfill the duties of the department.
- D. **Delegation.** The commissioner may delegate duties assigned to the commissioner under this chapter to staff of the department.

43. Powers and Duties. The director commissioner is responsible for the execution of the duties of the office department. The director shall:

- a. Advise the Governor and other state agencies on matters related to energy;
- b. A. Serve as a member of the Efficiency Maine Trust Board, established under Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 10-C;

- c. ~~B.~~ In collaboration with the relevant state agencies, coordinate state energy policy and actively foster cooperation with the Efficiency Maine Trust, established in Title 35-A, chapter 97, and the Maine State Housing Authority, established in Title 30-A, chapter 201; and
 - d. Represent the state's interests in relevant regional energy organizations and forums to coordinate energy policy.
- B. Duties of the department.** Under the supervision of the commissioner, the department shall:
- a. ~~C. In consultation with the Efficiency Maine Trust Board, established in Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 10-C, prepare~~ Prepare and submit a comprehensive state energy plan to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters by January 15, 2009 and submit an updated plan every 2 years thereafter of each odd year. Within the comprehensive state energy plan, the director shall identify opportunities to lower the total cost of energy to consumers in this State and transmission capacity and infrastructure needs and recommend appropriate actions to lower the total cost of energy to consumers in this State and facilitate the development and integration of new renewable energy generation within the State and support the State's renewable resource portfolio requirements specified in Title 35-A, section 3210 and wind energy development goals specified in Title 35-A, section 3404. The comprehensive state energy plan must include a section that specifies the State's progress in meeting the oil dependence reduction targets in subsection 5. The office shall make recommendations, if needed, for additional legislative and administrative actions to ensure that the State can meet the reduction targets in subsection 5. The recommendations must include a cost and resource estimate for technology development needed to meet the reduction targets. The state energy plan shall:
 - i. Identify opportunities to lower and maintain reasonable total energy costs for consumers in the State;
 - ii. Evaluate energy data, including, but not limited to, data on energy supply, demand and costs in this State with consideration of all available energy sources;
 - iii. Include a section that details the State's progress toward meeting its energy goals for new renewable energy generation and energy storage, including distributed energy resources;
 - iv. Evaluate the State's progress in meeting the oil dependence reduction targets in subsection 510;
 - v. Identify resource and transmission capacity and infrastructure needs to facilitate the development and integration of new renewable energy generation within the State and support the State's renewable resource portfolio requirements specified in Title 35-A, section 310 in close coordination with the Public Utilities Commission Grid Planning Process and transmission and distribution utilities;
 - vi. Address the association between energy planning and meeting the greenhouse gas reduction goals in the state climate action plan pursuant to Title 38, section 577;

- vii. Include a cost and resource estimate for technology development to meet targets; and
- viii. Include energy supply and demand forecasts which shall be considered in other planning efforts including updates to the state's climate action plan and the Efficiency Maine Trust's Triennial Plan.

(1) ~~Beginning in 2015, the update to the plan must:~~

- ~~(a) Be submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources matters;~~
- ~~(b) Address the association between energy planning and meeting the greenhouse gas reduction goals in the state climate action plan pursuant to Title 38, section 577. The director shall consult with the Department of Environmental Protection in developing this portion of the plan;~~
- ~~(c) Include a section devoted to wind energy development, including:~~
 - ~~(i) The State's progress toward meeting the wind energy development goals established in Title 35-A, section 3404, subsection 2, including an assessment of the likelihood of achieving the goals and any recommended changes to the goals;~~
 - ~~(ii) Examination of the permitting process and any recommended changes to the permitting process;~~
 - ~~(iii) Identified successes in implementing the recommendations contained in the February 2008 final report of the Governor's Task Force on Wind Power Development created by executive order issued May 8, 2007;~~
 - ~~(iv) A summary of tangible benefits provided by expedited wind energy developments, including, but not limited to, documentation of community benefits packages and community benefit agreement payments provided;~~
 - ~~(v) A review of the community benefits package requirement under Title 35-A, section 3454, subsection 2, the actual amount of negotiated community benefits packages relative to the statutorily required minimum amount and any recommended changes to community benefits package policies;~~
 - ~~(vi) Projections of wind energy developers' plans, as well as technology trends and their state policy implications;~~
 - ~~(vii) Recommendations, including, but not limited to, identification of places within the State's unorganized and deorganized areas for inclusion in the expedited permitting area established pursuant to Title 35-A, chapter 34-A and the creation of an independent siting authority to consider wind energy development applications;~~
- ~~(d) Include a description of activities undertaken pursuant to paragraph H; and~~
- ~~(e) Include a description of the State's activities relating to the expansion of natural gas service, any actions taken by the office to expand access to natural gas in the State and any~~

~~recommendations for actions by the Legislature to expand access to natural gas in the State.~~

The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters may report out legislation by February 1st of each odd-numbered year relating to the content of the plan. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources matters may make recommendations regarding that legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters.

- b. Make recommendations, if needed, for additional legislative and administrative actions to ensure that the State can meet energy targets. Develop, recommend and, as appropriate, take action to implement integrated or comprehensive strategies, including at regional and federal levels, to carry out the goals and objectives of the state energy plan, to secure Maine's interest in energy resources, their supply and cost-effective use, and lower the total cost of energy to consumers in this state;
 - i. Based on the comprehensive state energy plan, the department may conduct competitive solicitations for renewable resources for energy, associated environmental attributes or a combination of both, to achieve the emission reduction and renewable energy goals of the State and to meet expected growth in electric demand and reliability needs. After the department conducts a competitive solicitation, the commission may direct an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to enter into one or more contracts for energy or renewable energy credits from renewable resources.
- c. ~~C-1.~~ By January 15th of each year, prepare and submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters an annual report that describes the activities of the department ~~office~~ during the previous calendar year in carrying out its duties under this subsection and describes the State's progress in implementation of the state energy plan prepared pursuant to paragraph C and its annual accounting pursuant to subsection 2-A, paragraph B. After receipt and review of the annual report required under this paragraph, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters may submit legislation relating to energy policy;
- d. ~~D.~~ In collaboration with other relevant state agencies, private industry and nonprofit organizations, collect and analyze energy data, including, but not limited to, data on energy supply, demand and costs in this State with consideration of all available energy sources;
- e. ~~E.~~ Review and coordinate ~~Coordinate~~ the dissemination of energy information developed by other state agencies intended for to the public and the media;
- f. ~~F.~~ Provide technical assistance and information to the Governor and the Legislature regarding the State's short-range and long-range energy needs and the resources to meet those needs;
- g. ~~G.~~ Seek, accept and administer funds from public and private sources and develop partnerships with public and private entities to support the goals of the office,

including, but not limited to, promoting energy efficiency, demand-side management and distributed generation;

- h. Receive and administer funds from the federal government, including from the U.S. Department of Energy's State Energy Program;
- i. H-Work with transmission and distribution utilities, state agencies involved in the permitting of energy generation facilities and other relevant entities to negotiate agreements that create value for electricity consumers with developers of renewable generation who are interested in building energy generation facilities or developing or utilizing energy transmission infrastructure in this State; This paragraph does not authorize the director to be a signatory to any such agreement unless that authority is otherwise granted by law;
- j. I. Monitor energy transmission capacity planning and policy affecting this State and make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature as necessary for changes to the relevant laws and rules to facilitate energy infrastructure planning and development;
- k. Monitor petroleum inventories, deliveries, curtailments, shortfalls or other matters relating to the availability of petroleum products in the State;
- l. Prepare and submit a State Energy Security Plan in accordance with federal requirements;
- m. Establish and manage a program to promote clean energy job development and clean-tech business innovation in coordination with industry, educational, and training organizations to support current and future workforce needs;
- n. Coordinate with the Maine Public Utilities Commission and the Efficiency Maine Trust to monitor beneficial electrification trends and opportunities; and
- o. Review and report on the status and impacts of the implementation of the renewable portfolio requirements established in Title 35-A section 3210 as described in Title 35-A section 3210 subsection 11.

~~J. Take action as necessary to carry out the goals and objectives of the state energy plan prepared pursuant to paragraph C including lowering the total cost of energy to consumers in this State.—~~

54. Coordination; advice to state agencies. The department director shall advise state agencies regarding energy-related principles for agencies to consider, along with the laws and policies governing those agencies, in instances including: ~~conjunction with the sale, lease or other allowance for use of state-owned land or assets for the purpose of development of energy infrastructure. For the purposes of this subsection, "state-owned" means owned by the State or by a state agency or state authority. At a minimum, the director shall consider the following principles in advising state agencies under this subsection:—~~

~~A. The principles for the determination of the long-term public interest of the State as specified in Title 35-A, former section 122, subsection 1-D, paragraph B;—~~

~~B. Avoiding wherever possible the use of lands subject to the provisions of the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 23;—~~

~~C. Maximizing the benefit realized from the State's strategic location within New England and the northeastern region; and—~~

~~D. Complying with the provisions of the memorandum of agreement between the Maine Turnpike Authority and the Department of Transportation under Title 35-A, former section 122, subsection 1-C, when applicable.~~

- A. The sale, lease, or other allowance for use of state-owned land or assets for the purpose of development of energy infrastructure;
- B. The issuance of revenue obligation securities for energy facilities pursuant to Title 10 section 1044;
- C. Energy programs at state facilities and operations to improve energy efficiency, greenhouse gas emission reduction, and demand management; and
- D. The administration of State and federally funded energy programs to support:
 - a. The federal low-income home energy assistance program which provides heating assistance to eligible low-income persons and any state funded or privately funded heating assistance program of a similar nature assigned to it for administration; and
 - b. The federal weatherization assistance program which offers home weatherization grants and heat system upgrades to eligible persons of low income.

Nothing in this subsection alters any of the responsibilities or limits any of the authority of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services pursuant to Title 5. Nothing in this subsection alters or limits the ability of departments or agencies of the State, along with the Bureau of General Services pursuant to Title 5, to generate or cogenerate energy at state facilities for use on site and elsewhere.

6. Rulemaking. The department may adopt rules the commissioner deems necessary for the proper implementation of this chapter pursuant to the Maine Administrative Procedures Act. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules, as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, unless otherwise specified.

7 2-A. Funding. In addition to funds provided from the General Fund or other available resources, ~~t~~The office is funded in accordance with this subsection.

- A. The office is funded by federal funds that are available to and received by the office. Such federal funds may be applied to support the personal services and all other costs of the office.
- B. To the extent federal funds are inadequate to meet the funding needs of the office, the office may receive funds from the Efficiency Maine Trust, established in Title 35-A, chapter 97, but only for that portion of the office's activities that support or reasonably relate to programs or activities of the Efficiency Maine Trust. The director shall keep an accounting of the office's resources devoted to its various duties and activities, including that portion of its resources devoted to activities in support of or reasonably related to programs or activities of the Efficiency Maine Trust. The office shall provide the accounting to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters as part of its annual report under subsection 3, paragraph C-1. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters shall make recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs with regard to any proposed allocation of the Efficiency Maine Trust funds to support the office. In accordance with any legislative allocation or deallocation of Efficiency Maine Trust funds to support the office, the director shall request from the Efficiency Maine Trust and the trust shall provide the allocated resources to the office.

~~C. Any additional funding of the office must be provided from the General Fund or other available resources.~~

8. Acceptance and administration of funds. The department may accept, administer and expend funds, including but not limited to funds from the Federal Government or from private sources, for purposes consistent with this chapter. The commissioner shall provide a report of the amount of any outside funding received from private sources and its designated purpose to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature with jurisdiction over energy, utility and technology issues on an annual basis.

9. Contracts; agreements. The department may employ expert and professional consultants, contract for services as the commissioner determines necessary, within the limits of the funds provided and consistent with the powers and duties of the department, and enter into agreements with the Federal Government and other agencies and organizations as will promote the duties of the department.

105. Oil dependence reduction plan. The office, with input from stakeholders and in consultation with the Efficiency Maine Trust, shall develop a plan to reduce the use of oil in all sectors of the economy in this State. The plan must:

- A. Be designed to achieve the targets of reducing the State's consumption of oil by at least 30% from 2007 levels by 2030 and by at least 50% from 2007 levels by 2050;
- B. Focus on near-term policies and infrastructure changes that set the State on a reasonable trajectory to meet the 2030 and 2050 targets in paragraph A;
- C. Prioritize the improvement of energy efficiency and the transition to the use of alternative energy sources for heating and transportation; and
- D. Draw on existing state data and studies rather than new analyses, including, but not limited to, analyses and data from the State's climate action plan pursuant to Title 38, section 577 and the progress updates to the climate action plan under Title 38, section 578, the comprehensive state energy plan pursuant to subsection 3, paragraph C, the Efficiency Maine Trust's triennial plan pursuant to Title 35-A, section 10104, subsection 4 and analyses completed by the Federal Government, nonprofit organizations and other stakeholders.

116. Maine Energy Resources Development Program. The Maine Energy Resources Development Program, referred to in this subsection as "the program," is established to promote energy research and demonstration activities related to both the use of indigenous, renewable resources and more efficient use of energy. The ~~office~~ department, as funding allows, shall administer the program. The ~~director~~ commissioner may accept private money for the purpose of funding the program.

- A. The ~~director~~ commissioner shall include, in the comprehensive state energy plan under subsection 3, paragraph C, a report that specifies, in regard to the program, the expenditure of program funds, the purposes for which the funds were used and the amount of the funds and the sources from which the funds were derived.
- B. For all proposed program expenditures of \$10,000 or more, the ~~director~~ commissioner shall seek approval for those expenditures from the Governor. If the Governor approves, the director shall seek approval for those expenditures from the Legislature under the procedures authorizing the transfer of funds set forth in Title 5, section 1585.

116-A. Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program. The Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program, referred to in this subsection as "the program," is established to provide funding to foster the continued growth of cost-effective distributed solar facilities and energy storage systems in this State. The ~~office~~ department, as funding allows, shall develop the program no later than July 1, 2024.

A. As used in this subsection, the following terms have the following meanings.

(1) "Distributed solar facility" means a solar generating facility interconnected to a transmission and distribution utility as defined in Title 35-A, section 102, subsection 20-B.

(2) "Energy storage system" has the same meaning as in Title 35-A, section 3481, subsection 6.

(3) "Combined project" means a distributed solar facility that is paired with an energy storage system.

B. The program must be designed to obtain and provide available federal funds to support cost-effective distributed solar facilities and energy storage systems. The ~~office~~ department shall consult with the Public Utilities Commission in developing and administering the program.

C. In order to support the office's activities in administering the program, the ~~office~~ department may request funds from the Public Utilities Commission for the office's administrative costs, which may include, but are not limited to, costs associated with hiring consultants and office personnel and contracting for technical analysis. Notwithstanding Title 35-A, section 117, if the office requests funding in accordance with this paragraph, the commission may provide funding, to the extent available, from the Public Utilities Commission Reimbursement Fund under section 117. If the Public Utilities Commission Reimbursement Fund does not have sufficient funding, notwithstanding Title 35-A, section 116, subsection 4, the commission may provide funding from the Public Utilities Commission Regulatory Fund in accordance with this paragraph.

D. The ~~office~~ department shall apply for available federal funds to fund the program, including, but not limited to, funds from the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund under 42 United States Code, Section 7434. Nothing in this paragraph limits other uses of federal funds received by the ~~office~~ department consistent with applicable federal requirements.

E. Except as provided in paragraphs C and F, ratepayer funds may not be used to implement the program or to provide funding under the program to distributed solar facilities or energy storage systems.

F. The ~~office~~ department may petition the Public Utilities Commission to procure energy, capacity or renewable energy credits in accordance with Title 35-A, section 3803 from distributed solar facilities or combined projects that receive federal funding pursuant to the program. The commission may not direct a transmission and distribution utility to enter into a long-term contract for energy, capacity or renewable energy credits from a distributed solar facility or a combined project unless the commission finds that the contract will benefit ratepayers and the procurement is in accordance with Title 35-A, section 3804.

127. Reporting of petroleum inventories and deliveries. The following provisions govern the reporting of petroleum inventories and deliveries.

A. As used in this subsection, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) "Petroleum product" means propane; gasoline; unleaded gasoline; gasohol; kerosene; #2 heating oil; diesel fuel; kerosene-based jet fuel; aviation gasoline; #4, #5 and #6 residual oil for utility and nonutility uses; and Bunker C oil;

(2) "Primary storage facility" means a facility that receives petroleum products into the State by pipeline or by ship; and

(3) "Primary supplier" means a refiner, marketer, distributor, firm or person who makes the first sale of any petroleum product to resellers or consumers in this State.

B. Each owner or lessee of a primary storage facility in the State shall make an accurate report of petroleum inventories and deliveries on the first and 3rd Monday of each month to the office on a form provided by the ~~director~~ commissioner. The form must contain a conspicuous statement of the penalties provided in paragraph D and must require, with regard to the owner's or lessee's primary storage facility, the following information:

(1) The total inventory of each petroleum product stored in the State, as measured within not more than 3 working days prior to the reporting date; and

(2) The quantities of each petroleum product delivery expected into the State within 15 days of the reporting date or within any longer period established by the commissioner ~~director~~.

C. Each primary supplier of petroleum products shall make an accurate report of actual and anticipated deliveries on the 3rd Monday of each month to the office on a form provided by the commissioner ~~director~~, unless the report is already being submitted in accordance with federal regulations. The form must contain a conspicuous statement of the penalties provided in paragraph D and must require the following information:

(1) Actual deliveries of all petroleum products in this State during the preceding calendar month;

(2) Anticipated deliveries of all petroleum products in this State during the following calendar month or during any longer period established by the commissioner ~~director~~; and

(3) Allocation fractions for all petroleum products for the following month or for any longer period established by the commissioner ~~director~~.

D. A person who violates this subsection is subject to the following penalties.

(1) An owner or lessee of a primary storage facility or a primary supplier who fails to provide the information required by this subsection commits a Class D crime. Violation of this subparagraph is a strict liability crime as defined in Title 17-A, section 34, subsection 4-A.

(2) An owner or lessee of a primary storage facility or a primary supplier who knowingly or recklessly supplies false or misleading information is guilty of a violation of Title 17-A, section 453. An owner or lessee of a primary storage facility who supplies false or misleading information commits a civil violation for which a fine of \$2,500 may be adjudged.

E. The department office shall provide reports to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters as follows:

(1) If the department office determines, based on available information, that there is or may be a significant shortfall in supply inventories or anticipated deliveries into the State of home heating oil or kerosene, the department office shall provide a report including:

(a) The information that suggests a supply shortfall;

(b) Current and anticipated inventories of home heating oil and kerosene storage supplies;

(c) Any recommendations of the office for actions by the State in response to the anticipated supply shortfall; and

(d) A report on inventories, deliveries, curtailments, shortfalls or other matters relating to the availability of petroleum products in this State, at the request of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters.

Sec. LL-2. 5 MRSA §15302, sub-§3 is amended to read:

3. Board of Directors of the Maine Technology Institute. The institute is governed and all of its powers exercised by a board of directors, referred to in this chapter as the "board," consisting of 13 voting members and 2 nonvoting members.

A. The Governor shall appoint 10 voting directors, 8 of whom must be representatives of targeted technologies. The other 2 directors must have demonstrated significant experience in finance, lending or venture capital. In making the appointments from targeted technologies, the Governor shall consider recommendations submitted by representatives of targeted technology sectors. Directors of the board appointed by the Governor are entitled to receive reimbursement at the legislative rate for necessary expenses for their attendance at authorized meetings of the board.

B. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the commissioner's designee, the President of the Maine Community College System or the president's designee and the Chancellor of the University of Maine System or the chancellor's designee are ex officio voting directors.

C. The Director of the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future or the director's designee is an ex officio nonvoting director.

D. The Maine Technology Institute Director is a nonvoting director.

E. The Commissioner of the Department of Energy Resources or the commissioner's designee is an ex officio nonvoting director.

Sec. LL-3. 30-A MRSA §4723, sub- §2 B-1 is amended to read:

B-1. The Governor, in making appointments or reappointments to fill vacancies for commissioners under paragraph B, shall ensure that commissioners of the Maine State Housing Authority include the following:

- (1) A commissioner who represents tenants, who is an advocate for tenants' rights or who resides in housing subsidized by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development or the Maine State Housing Authority;
- (2) A commissioner who has knowledge and expertise in civil rights or in affirmatively advancing fair housing policy;
- (3) A commissioner who represents residents with disabilities or aging residents;
- (4) A commissioner with expertise in energy efficiency issues regarding residential structures; and

(5) A commissioner with expertise in the sustainability requirements established in Title 30-A, section 4726; and

(5) Four ~~Three~~ members who have:

- (a) Experience or expertise in any of the following: housing development and rehabilitation; supporting unhoused populations; improving labor standards; economic and community development; transportation; municipal land use planning; the building trades; the real estate market; or banking and finance; and
- (b) An interest in and commitment to increasing the availability and affordability of housing opportunities for the people of the State.

Sec. LL-4. 10 MRSA §965, sub-§3 is amended to read:

3. At-large members. Nine members appointed by the Governor in accordance with the following 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 must be appointed from at large.

- A. Two of the at-large members must be veterans.
- B. Two of the at-large members must be knowledgeable in the field of natural resource enterprises or financing.
- C. One of the at-large members must be knowledgeable in the field of student financial assistance.
- D. One of the at-large members must be knowledgeable in the field of higher education.

E. One of the at-large members must be knowledgeable in the field of clean energy or technology solutions to climate change.

Sec. LL-5. 38 MRSA §579 is amended to read:

The department may participate in the regional greenhouse gas initiative under chapter 3-B. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee and ~~the members of the Public Utilities Commission~~ the commissioner of the Department of Energy Resource's or their designee are authorized to act as representatives for the State in the regional organization as defined in section 580-A, subsection 20, may contract with organizations and entities when such arrangements are necessary to efficiently carry out the purposes of this section and may coordinate the State's efforts with other states and jurisdictions participating in that initiative, with respect to:

- 1. Regional market.** The design, conduct and supervision of a regional market for carbon dioxide allowances;
- 2. Additional offset categories.** The establishment and mutual recognition of additional offset categories that recognize the State's unique geography, economy and natural resources; and
- 3. Ensuring no unfair disadvantage.** Efforts seeking to ensure that electricity generated within participating states and jurisdictions is not unfairly disadvantaged as a result of imports of electricity from nonparticipating states and jurisdictions.

Sec. LL-6. 2 MRSA §6, sub-§3 is further amended to read:

1. Range 91. The salaries of the following state officials and employees are within salary range 91:

Commissioner of Transportation;
Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry;
Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services;
Commissioner of Education;
Commissioner of Environmental Protection;
Executive Director of Dirigo Health;
Commissioner of Public Safety;
Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation;
Commissioner of Labor;
Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife;
Commissioner of Marine Resources;
Commissioner of Corrections;
Commissioner of Economic and Community Development;
Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management; ~~and~~
Executive Director, Workers' Compensation Board; and
Commissioner of Energy Resources

Sec. LL-7. 2 MRSA §6, sub-§4 is further amended to read:

4. Range 88. The salaries of the following state officials and employees are within salary range 88:

Director, Bureau of Air Quality;
Director, Bureau of Water Quality;
Director, Bureau of Land Resources;
Director, Bureau of Remediation and Waste Management;
Deputy Commissioner, Environmental Protection; and
Deputy Chief of the State Police; and
Deputy Commissioner, Energy Resources

Sec. LL-8. 5 MRSA §931, sub-§1-G is further amended to read:

G. Employees working in the Governor's office, Governor's Office of Communications, ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ and at the Blaine Mansion

Sec. LL-9. 5 MRSA §960, is enacted to read:

§960. Department of Energy Resources

1. Major policy-influencing positions. The following positions are major policy-influencing positions within the Department of Energy Resources. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, these positions and their successor positions are subject to this chapter:

A. Deputy Commissioner

Sec. LL-10. Transition provisions, Governor's Energy Office program. The following provisions govern the transition of the Governor's Energy Office program from Executive Department to the Department of Energy Resources program, Department of Energy Resources.

1. The Department of Energy Resources is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the Governor's Energy Office program.
2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the Governor's Energy Office program or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Department of Energy Resources.
3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the Governor's Energy Office program continue in effect.
4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the Governor's Energy Office program become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Department of Energy Resources.
5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the Governor's Energy Office program may be utilized by the Department of Energy Resources until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

6. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer any unobligated balances related to the coastal zone management program remaining in the Bureau of Policy and Management program, Department of Marine Resources, other special revenue and federal funds to the Department of Energy Resources no later than the effective date of this Act.

**PART LL
SUMMARY**

The Part transitions the Governor's Energy Office from a program within the Executive Department to the Department of Energy Resources.

PART RRR

Sec. RRR-1. 35-A §7104 sub-§5, as amended by PL 2019 c. 343 Pt. UUU §4, is further amended to read:

5. Funds for Communications Equipment Fund. The commission shall annually transfer ~~\$85,000~~ \$250,000 from a state universal service fund established pursuant to this section to the Communications Equipment Fund established under Title 26, section 1419-A.

If the Department of Labor, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services does not receive from federal or other sources funds in addition to the ~~\$85,000~~ \$250,000 sufficient to carry out the purposes of Title 26, section 1419-A, the commission, at the request of the Department of Labor, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, may transfer from the state universal service fund to the Communications Equipment Fund an additional \$100,000.

The commission may require contributions to the state universal service fund in an amount necessary to collect amounts transferred pursuant to this subsection.

**PART RRR
SUMMARY**

This Part increases the level of funding provided to the Communications Equipment Fund through the State Universal Service Fund of the Public Utilities Commission.

