

**Sec. A-8. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Housing Opportunity Program Z336**

Initiative: Establishes 2 limited-period Public Service Coordinator II positions through June 8, 2024 and provides funding for the associated All Other costs to administer the Housing Opportunity Program within the Department of Economic and Community Development.

Ref. #: 296                      One Time                      Committee Vote: \_\_\_\_\_                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$243,874
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$206,126
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	\$0	\$0	\$450,000

**Justification:**

The Housing Opportunity Program will provide support for communities working through complicated housing zoning issues. The two staff will administer the program, write the grant criteria, and provide guidance, technical support and model ordinance to communities. All Other funding provides support for the staff as well as for website development, graphic design and other services to support model ordinance planning materials.

**Housing Opportunity Program Z336**

Initiative: Provides funding for competitive grants to regional service providers to support town housing ordinance development, planning board and public processes in each participating municipality.

Ref. #: 297    Committee Vote: \_\_\_\_\_    AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000

**Justification:**

The Housing Opportunity Program will provide support for communities working through complicated housing zoning issues. This grant funding will be used for competitive grants to regional service providers to support town housing ordinance development, planning board and public processes in each participating municipality.

**Housing Opportunity Program Z336**

Initiative: Provides funding for community housing implementation grants to individual towns to support community housing priorities.

Ref. #: 298    Committee Vote: \_\_\_\_\_    AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$1,550,000

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$1,550,000
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**Justification:**

The Housing Opportunity Program will provide support for communities working through complicated housing zoning issues. This grant funding will be used for competitive grants to support implementation of community housing priorities.

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**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$0	\$3,000,000
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>

**Sec. A-18. Appropriations and allocations.**

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE**

**Housing Authority - State 0442**

Initiative: Allocates funds to reflect increased revenue projections per the December 2021 report of the Revenue Forecasting Committee.

Ref. #: 465

Committee Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
All Other	\$0	\$9,759,154	\$10,281,551
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$9,759,154</b>	<b>\$10,281,551</b>

**Justification:**

This initiative provides an increase in funding based on distribution formulas in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, and estimated real estate transfer taxes collected.

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**HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE**

<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$9,759,154</b>	<b>\$10,281,551</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$9,759,154</b>	<b>\$10,281,551</b>

**Sec. A-23. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Blind and Visually Impaired - Division for the 0126**

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the cost of 5 Rehabilitation Counselor I positions from 40% Federal Expenditures Fund and 60% General Fund to 80% General Fund and 20% Federal Expenditures Fund within the same program. This initiative also provides funding in All Other for services for visually impaired clients.

Ref. #: 877 Committee Vote: \_\_\_\_\_ AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL FUND	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	5.000	5.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$80,057	\$81,478
All Other	\$0	\$165,000	\$165,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$245,057	\$246,478

Ref. #: 878 Committee Vote: \_\_\_\_\_ AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(5.000)	(5.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$80,057)	(\$81,478)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$80,057)	(\$81,478)

**Justification:**

This initiative reallocates 5 Rehabilitation Counselor I positions to support the increased need for Independent Living services for Mainers who are blind or visually impaired and to teach specialized adaptive skills to older individuals who are experiencing serious vision loss that leads to total or legal blindness. Federal funding is no longer available for services to individuals whose goal is not related to employment. The Department has continued to provide these services to individuals who seek assistance with adapting to their vision loss so that they can remain independent while participating fully in home and community life. This initiative also provides All Other funding to continue teaching adaptive skills enabling older persons who are experiencing serious vision loss to continue to function independently in their homes and communities.

**Employment Security Services 0245**

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent 5 Accounting Specialist positions, 4 Claims Adjudicator positions, 7 Fraud Investigator positions, 2 Hearings Examiner positions, 11 UC Eligibility Agent positions and 2 Unemployment Comp Team Leader positions previously continued by Public Law 2021, chapter 29. Also continues and makes permanent 5 Accounting Associate II positions and 2 Secretary Associate Legal positions previously continued by Public Law 2021, chapter 398.

Ref. #: 882 Committee Vote: \_\_\_\_\_ AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	38.000	38.000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$0

**Justification:**

These positions were established in response to the dramatic increase in unemployment claims that were filed by individuals affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Having permanent positions going forward will provide the Department with the resources needed to ensure people receive the unemployment benefits for which they are eligible.

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**Employment Security Services 0245**

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the cost of 43 various positions from 50% Other Special Revenue Funds and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund to 100% Federal Expenditures Fund within the same program. Position detail is on file with the Bureau of the Budget. This initiative also transfers and reallocates the cost of 3 Claims Adjudicator positions from 50% Other Special Revenue Funds and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund to 100% Other Special Revenue Funds within the same program.

Ref. #: 883

Committee Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

**FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND**

POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT

Personal Services

**2020-21      2021-22      2022-23**

0.000      43.000      43.000

\$0      \$1,649,860      \$1,768,593

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL

\$0      \$1,649,860      \$1,768,593

Ref. #: 884

Committee Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS**

POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT

Personal Services

**2020-21      2021-22      2022-23**

0.000      (43.000)      (43.000)

\$0      (\$1,649,860)      (\$1,768,593)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$0      (\$1,649,860)      (\$1,768,593)

**Justification:**

This initiative reallocates funding for the Employment Security Services program based on available funding. The Penalties and Interest Other Special Revenue Funds account no longer has an adequate funding stream to support these positions.

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**Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations Z287**

Initiative: Adjusts funding to support the work of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations between the Department of Labor, Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations program and the Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations program in the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations.

Ref. #: 887

One Time

Committee Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

**GENERAL FUND**

All Other

**2020-21      2021-22      2022-23**

\$0      (\$125,000)      \$0

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

\$0      (\$125,000)      \$0

**Justification:**

This initiative moves all remaining General Fund All Other appropriation for the Racial, Indigenous, and Maine Tribal Populations program within the Department of Labor to the newly created the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations established in Public Law 2021, chapter 436. Public Law 2021, chapter 398 appropriated funding for the Commission in the Department of Labor prior to the establishment of the Commission as separate entity. Public Law 2021, chapter 436, which established the Commission as a separate entity, deappropriated most of the funding in the Department of Labor program and reappropriated it in the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations, effective October 1, 2021. The Commission seeks to transfer the portion of appropriation remaining in the Department of Labor to the new entity to support encumbrance of a contract. This initiative relates to initiative RIT F-A-7100.

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**Regulation and Enforcement 0159**

Initiative: Establishes one Occupational Safety Specialist position and provides funding for related All Other costs in order to increase the safety and health of Maine workplaces.

Ref. #: 880

Committee Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$89,424
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$3,969
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$93,393</b>

**Justification:**

This position will increase the capacity of the department to conduct inspections of public sector workplaces across the state. Currently, inspections are largely limited to the central and northern parts of the state and to complaints or accidents regardless of location. The current staffing level does not support proactive safety and health measures statewide.

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**LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF**

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>			
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$120,057</b>	<b>\$339,871</b>
<b>FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,569,803</b>	<b>\$1,687,115</b>
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$1,649,860)</b>	<b>(\$1,768,593)</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>	<b>\$258,393</b>

**Sec. A-29. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**STATUS OF RACIAL, INDIGENOUS AND TRIBAL POPULATIONS, PERMANENT COMMISSION ON THE**

**Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations Z319**

Initiative: Adjusts funding to support the work of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations between the Department of Labor, Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations program and the Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations program in the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations.

Ref. #: 976                      One Time                      Committee Vote: \_\_\_\_\_                      AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
All Other	\$0	\$125,000	\$0
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Justification:**

This initiative moves all remaining General Fund All Other appropriation for the Racial, Indigenous, and Maine Tribal Populations program within the Department of Labor to the newly created the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations established in Public Law 2021, chapter 436. Public Law 2021, chapter 398 appropriated funding for the Commission in the Department of Labor prior to the establishment of the Commission as separate entity. Public Law 2021, chapter 436, which established the Commission as a separate entity, deappropriated most of the funding in the Department of Labor program and reappropriated it in the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations, effective October 1, 2021. The Commission seeks to transfer the portion of appropriation remaining in the Department of Labor to the new entity to support encumbrance of a contract. This initiative relates to initiative LAB F-A-7100.

**STATUS OF RACIAL, INDIGENOUS AND TRIBAL POPULATIONS, PERMANENT COMMISSION ON THE**

<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Sec. A-37. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD**

**Administration - Workers' Compensation Board 0183**

Initiative: Provides funding by increasing the hours of one Secretary Legal position from 54 hours to 80 hours biweekly.

Ref. #: 1018 Committee Vote: \_\_\_\_\_ AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
Personal Services	\$0	\$5,556	\$23,340
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$5,556</b>	<b>\$23,340</b>

**Justification:**

This request increases one Secretary Legal position's hours from 54 hours to 80 hours biweekly to meet operational needs in the Advocate Program. The average case count in this position's office is 92, the highest of the five Advocate offices statewide. The Workers' Compensation Board is paying overtime weekly to the sole Secretary Legal in this office, but backlogs persist. The estimated increase in insurance assessment revenue provides the resources to cover the increased costs.

**Administration - Workers' Compensation Board 0183**

Initiative: Provides funding for increased STA-CAP charges.

Ref. #: 1019 Committee Vote: \_\_\_\_\_ AFA Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
All Other	\$0	\$252,786	\$256,546
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$252,786</b>	<b>\$256,546</b>

**Justification:**

This initiative provides funding to cover an increase in STA-CAP charges. The Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) moved out of a state-owned facility in July 2016. When the STA-CAP rates were being determined for fiscal year 2018-2019 (based on costs incurred in fiscal year 2016-2017) the cost of square footage was incorrect because it was still based on the WCB being in a state-owned facility. To correct this the rates were reduced to avoid an overcharge. The rate set for fiscal year 2021-22 was calculated based on actual costs in fiscal year 2019-20 reflecting the WCB being housed in leased space and setting the rate at an accurate and appropriate level. The estimated increase in insurance assessment revenue provides the resources to cover the increased costs.

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD**

<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$258,342</b>	<b>\$279,886</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$258,342</b>	<b>\$279,886</b>



## PART U

Sec. U-1. 5 MRSA §13056-J is enacted to read:

### §13056-J Housing Opportunity Program

**1. Program established; administration.** The Housing Opportunity Program is established within the department to encourage and support the development of additional housing units in Maine, including housing units that are affordable for low and moderate income people and housing units targeted to community workforce housing needs. The department shall administer the program and provide technical and financial assistance to support communities implementing zoning and land uses related policies required to support increased housing development. The program will support regional approaches, municipal model ordinance development, and will encourage policy that supports increased housing density where feasible to protect working and natural lands.

**2. Housing Opportunity Fund.** The Housing Opportunity Fund referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a fund within the department for the purpose of providing funds for the program. The fund consists of money appropriated to the fund by the Legislature and any funds received by the department for the purposes of the program.

**A. Service Provider grants.** The department shall solicit applications for grants from the fund through a competitive application process that may be awarded to experienced service providers to support municipal ordinance development, technical assistance, and public process and community engagement support. These programs may encourage regional coordination between municipalities.

**B. Community Housing Incentive Program grants.** The department shall solicit applications for the following:

1. Community housing planning grants to be awarded through a competitive process to municipalities to support the creation of housing development plans which include ordinance and policy amendments to support those plans. The grants shall be awarded for a period of up to three years, with required progress reports each year.
2. Community housing implementation grants to be awarded through a competitive process to support the implementation of community housing priorities.

**C. Direct Technical Assistance.** The department shall provide technical assistance, housing policy development, and guidance directly to regional groups, municipalities and other housing stakeholders, to the extent feasible with available resources. This may include, but is not limited to, assisting municipalities with information about available grant opportunities, sharing best practices from jurisdictions inside and outside of Maine, providing model language for local ordinances and policies, and providing information to the general public which may support local and statewide policy changes meant to increase the supply of housing.

**3. Program evaluation.** Any recipient of grant funds through this program shall cooperate with the department in performing program evaluation and specific reporting requirements.

**4. Report.** By January 15, 2024, the department shall report to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development and housing matters about the program with any recommendations for changes in the statutes to improve the program and its delivery of services to municipalities. The joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development and housing matters may report out a bill relating to this program and continued funding.

## **PART U SUMMARY**

This Part establishes the Housing Opportunity Program within the Department of Economic and Community Development to encourage and support the development of additional housing units in Maine, including housing units that are affordable to low and moderate income people and housing units targeted to community workforce housing needs.

## **PART NN**

**Sec. NN-1. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; Reserve for retirement benefits.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2022, the State Controller shall transfer up to \$14,700,000 an amount certified by the Executive Director of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to a retirement benefits reserve account established within the General Fund for the purpose of providing the resources to fund a one-time retirement payment for retired state employees and teachers.

## **PART NN SUMMARY**

This Part authorizes the State Controller to transfer up to \$14,700,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to a reserve for retirement benefits established within the General Fund in 5 MRSA §1552. The purpose of the transfer is to fund a one-time retirement payment for retired state employees and teachers.