FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Maine Department of Administrative & Financial Services September 21, 2021 | Contact: Kelsey Goldsmith

State Reports \$42.4 Million in Surplus Revenues for August 2021

Monthly revenue report shows State revenues exceeded projections by 11.8 percent for the month, and by 11.3 percent for the first two months of Fiscal Year 2022

Augusta, MAINE – The Mills Administration today reported that the State of Maine recorded \$42.4 million in surplus revenues for August 2021, exceeding expectations by 11.8 percent.

Adjusting for the increase in revenue sharing to local communities, General Fund revenues for the first two months of this fiscal year (Fiscal Year 2022) are up \$186.5 million or 31.7 percent compared to the same period last fiscal year, and over budget by \$77.9 million or 11.3 percent relative to the <u>projections of the nonpartisan Revenue Forecasting Committee</u> for this fiscal year.

"State government finances are in excellent shape, with Maine continuing to record surplus revenues and operate in the black. Federal stimulus, the State's unprecedented level of savings, and the Mills Administration's prudent fiscal management – including preserving critical public health, safety, and education funding – continue to be vital to Maine's economic recovery," said Kirsten Figueroa, Commissioner of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. "That we avoided the fiscal distress experienced broadly by other states between March and December 2020 is a testament to the wise, bipartisan decisions made by the Governor and Legislature from the onset of this Administration, even prior to the pandemic, to invest appropriately and responsibly and to manage State government in a fiscally sound manner. That we entered the pandemic on such solid footing has made all the difference."

In addition to performance so far this fiscal year, the State ended the previous fiscal year (Fiscal Year 2021) with a surplus. Approximately \$223 million of the Fiscal Year 2021 surplus was deposited into the State's Budget Stabilization, or so-called "Rainy Day" Fund, which, when combined with the Governor's previous investments into the Fund, increased it to an historic high of \$491.9 million. Further, the biennial budget recently approved by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor, in combination with all other laws and General Fund appropriations, is balanced, does not raise taxes, and is estimated to be approximately \$456 million lower than projected General Fund revenue for Fiscal Years 2024-2025.

Additionally, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Moody's Investors Service and S&P Global Ratings, global companies that analyze and issue reports of credit worthiness, reaffirmed Maine's strong credit ratings and stable outlooks. S&P praised Maine's "active budget management" and the State's "steady progress in strengthening its reserve profile" while noting that the State's cash pool is "very good." Moody's stated that Maine has a "strong financial position with adherence to governance best practices." The affirmation of Maine's ratings came as at least 22 states' experienced downgrades of their bond ratings and outlooks.

The August 2021 revenue memo will be available later today at https://www.maine.gov/osc/financial-reporting/revenue-reports along with a full reporting of revenues and related tables.

###