DATE: 3-21-02 (Filing No. H-968)

APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
120TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION


Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the 90-day period may not terminate until after the beginning of the next fiscal year; and

Whereas, certain obligations and expenses incident to the operation of state departments and institutions will become due and payable prior to June 30, 2002; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

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Sec. NN-1. Biotechnology Center of Maine. The Thomas M. Teague Biotechnology Center of Maine, located in Fairfield, Maine is officially designated as the Biotechnology Center of Maine.

PART OO

Sec. OO-1. 21-A MRSA §1124, sub-§3, as enacted by IB 1995, c. 1, §17, is amended to read:

3. Determination of fund amount. By September 1st preceding each election year, the commission shall publish an estimate of revenue in the fund available for distribution to certified candidates during the upcoming year's elections and an estimate of the likely demand for clean elections funding during that election. The commission may submit legislation to request additional funding.

PART PP

Sec. PP-1. 37-B MRSA §264, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1999, c. 185, §6, is further amended to read:

1. Sale of property; proceeds. The Adjutant General shall designate an officer to inspect military property, real and personal, and may condemn any inspected property that the Adjutant General determines to be unfit for use by the military. Property condemned under this subsection may be sold by the Adjutant General. Real property condemned under this subsection may not be sold for less than its appraised value as determined by a person licensed as a real estate appraiser under Title 32, chapter 124.

All proceeds from the sale of condemned property must be paid into the State Treasury and credited to the Capital Repair Account of the Military Bureau established under section 154. For fiscal year 2002-03 only, proceeds up to $300,000 from the sale of condemned property must be paid into the State Treasury and credited to the National Guard Education Assistance Pilot Program established under Resolve 1999, chapter 121. Funds not used for National Guard Education Assistance Pilot Program purposes must be paid into the Capital Repair Account of the Military Bureau.

Sec. PP-2. Resolve 1999, c. 121, §3 is amended to read:
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1574, L.D. 2080

technical college employers for inclusion in the Governor's operating budget.

PART KK

Part KK:

1. Extends the exemption of capital security officers from certain law enforcement officer training standards and requirements;

2. Establishes a program of training requirements for capitol security officers at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy;

3. Requires the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety to notify the Legislative Council about any prospective rule pertaining to security in the capitol area; and

4. Requires the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Capitol Security to enter into a written agreement with the Bureau of State Police, Special Services Unit, which establishes a protocol for greater coordination.

PART LL

Part LL provides that at least $2,000,000 be available in the telecommunications education access fund over the 4-year period beginning August 1, 2002 for purposes other than to support the learning technology plan and the digital library at the University of Maine.

PART MM

Part MM requires that, for fiscal years 2003-04 and 2004-05 only, the Governor shall submit a report if the Governor's recommendations for operational costs of applied research and development differ from the equivalent of not less than 2% of total actual General Fund revenue of the previous fiscal year.

PART NN

Part NN designates the Thomas M. Teague Biotechnology Center of Maine, located in Fairfield, Maine, as the Biotechnology Center of Maine.

PART OO

Part OO requires the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to provide an estimate of the anticipated funding need for every election. The amendment also authorizes
the commission to submit legislation to request additional funding.

PART PP

Part PP allows the use of any money received from the sale of armories up to $300,000 during fiscal year 2002-03 to fund the National Guard Education Assistance Pilot Program.

PART QQ

Part QQ provides that a retired teacher who is collecting retirement and benefits from the Maine State Retirement System and who becomes an employee of the Legislature be eligible for health and dental insurance in the same manner as any other employee of the Legislature.

PART RR

Part RR provides for implementation of the special retirement provisions for game wardens and marine patrol officers originally enacted last year in Public Law 2001, chapter 439. Beginning September 1, 2002, service by those employees will be credited under new retirement provisions and the increased cost of those benefits will be paid out of money set aside last year. Retroactive application of the special retirement provisions for service by those employees back to September 1, 1984 will occur when the Executive Director of the Maine State Retirement System certifies that the full actuarial cost of the special retirement provision has been paid to the Maine State Retirement System by the State.

PART SS

The shift of the home-based care program to Medicaid would not cover respite services currently used by consumers of the state-funded program. This Part requires the Department of Human Services to continue to provide a limited respite benefit for eligible persons, subject to the availability of funds.