



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

December 9, 2015

The Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Thibodeau:

I am pleased you and Speaker Eves have agreed to support the hiring of 10 additional drug enforcement agents. The number of Maine Drug Enforcement Agency (MDEA) agents is the smallest in recent memory, despite our drug crisis being the worst our state has ever seen.

Since you have assured me the Legislature will fund these 10 agents in an expedited manner in January, I am authorizing additional funds by way of financial order so MDEA can immediately begin to contract agents. As you know, the hiring and training process can take months. We need these agents to hit the streets as soon as possible.

I urge you and Speaker Eves to take the time you need to ensure your final legislation adequately supports education and prevention efforts in a meaningful way.

Again, thank you for acknowledging the increasingly organized, ruthless and prolific nature of the supply side of the heroin crisis and for agreeing that a stronger law enforcement effort is an important part of our overall anti-drug strategy.

Also, as has been communicated to you repeatedly, I am more than willing to meet with you on matters of good public policy that will move our state forward and benefit the Maine people.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor

CC: Hon. Mark W. Eves, Speaker of the House
Hon. Justin L. Alford, Senate Democratic Leader
Hon. Kenneth W. Fredette, House Republican Leader



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State of Maine
Executive Department
FINANCIAL ORDER



ORDERED,

That the State Controller transfer \$781,292 from the All Other line category in account 010-16A-Z002-01, Gambling Control Board, to the All Other line category in account 010-16A-0388-01, Drug Enforcement Agency; and,

Be it further ordered,
that the State Controller increase allotment in account 010-16A-0388-01, Drug Enforcement Agency, in the All Other line category and decrease the allotment in account 010-16A-Z002-01, Gambling Control Board, in the All Other line category for the purpose of contracting for 10 Drug Enforcement Agency agents; and,

Be it further ordered,
that the State Controller authorize the expenditure in accordance with the attached "Revision of the Work Program for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2016", for which this shall be our sufficient warrant.

Statement of Fact

This financial order transfers funding from the Gambling Control Board, General Fund account to the Drug Enforcement Agency, General Fund account in order to fund 10 contracted Drug Enforcement Agents. Funds in the Gambling Control Board program, General Fund account are no longer needed for the purpose they were originally intended as the expenditures of the Board will be made using the existing balance forward in the Gambling Control Board program, Other Special Revenue Funds account. This transfer is authorized in 5 MRSA, §1585, sub-§1. Failure to approve this order will result in the funds not being available for this purpose.

Janet Joyeux for

Signature of Department Head

John E. Morris, Commissioner

Name and Title

FOR BUREAU OF THE BUDGET USE ONLY

Melissa L. Gott

Signature of State Budget Officer

Policy Area: 06 - Justice and Protection

Umbrella: PUS00 - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Agency Contact: Kathryn Comeau

Agency Phone: (207) 623-6703

*ujw 12/09/15
30 day wait*

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