

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair

Melanie Sachs, House Chair

Justin Purvis, Committee Clerk: 287-1635 afa@legislature.maine.gov

LD 2214 "An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025"

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

The proposed budget initiatives and language may be viewed on the Revisor of Statute’s website:

<https://legislature.maine.gov/12436>

Testimony will be taken on all Part A Initiatives and Language Parts except where noted in the detailed schedule

Persons wanting to offer testimony to a committee may do so by attending the meeting in person in the committee room or by registering to testify over Zoom using the testimony submission portal at the link shown below. Generally, registration is required no later than 30 minutes prior to scheduled start of that day’s hearing(s). Once that registration is complete, you will receive additional information regarding acquiring a Zoom meeting link that can be used to join the meeting remotely during the public hearing.

<https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/>

IMPORTANT: ZOOM TESTIMONY SIGN UP AND WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUBMITTAL WILL BE BROKEN UP BY SCHEDULED START TIME SO PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SIGN UP OR SUBMIT YOUR TESTIMONY FOR THE DAY AND TIME THAT INCLUDES THE PROGRAM OR LANGUAGE RELATED TO YOUR TESTIMONY

If you want to testify in person make sure you note the date and time of the hearing containing your targeted program or language part. There is no preregistration for in-person oral testimony. Please sign up with the Committee Clerk for the hearing block that pertains to your topic. Testimony submitted through the on-line portal will be printed and given to the committee members but if you have not submitted testimony online and want written testimony passed out to the committees at the time you testify bring 40 copies to hand to the Clerk when you are called to the podium.

Persons with special needs wishing to participate in a Legislative hearing who require accommodations should notify the Legislative Information Office as soon as possible: 207-287-1692, FAX 207-287-1580, lio@legislature.maine.gov.

You may access the livestream (or archive) by going to the date of the committee meeting on the Legislature’s Calendar and clicking on the microphone

<https://legislature.maine.gov/Calendar/>

ACTUAL START TIMES MAY BE DELAYED DUE TO TECHNICAL ISSUES OR PRIOR HEARING BLOCKS TAKING LONGER THAN PLANNED

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| 2:00 PM Tuesday, February 20, 2024 |
| Programs and Language Parts Under the Jurisdiction of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs Only: |
| NOTE: Language and Initiatives related to reimbursement for the Property Tax Stabilization are not included in this hearing . The proposal was vetted under LD 646 |
| Treasurer of the State, Office of Debt Service |
| Administrative and Financial Services, Department of (no Part A Initiatives) |
| <i>Language Part "D" Adjusts funding between General Fund appropriations and Federal Expenditure Fund ARP State Fiscal Recovery Funds and the transfer of allocation of State Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and extends certain limited period positions.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "F" Updates base year component of the Appropriation Limitation calculation and clarifies the program to which certain transfers when the Budget Stabilization Fund has reached its statutory maximum.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "G" Transfers specified balances in the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund to a reserve account on June 30, 2025 and transfers it back on July 1, 2025.</i> |
| 1:30 PM Wednesday, February 21, 2024 |
| Programs and Language Parts Under the Jurisdiction of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs: |
| Library, Maine State Imagination Library of Maine Program Maine State Library |
| <i>Language Part "AAA" Authorizes the Maine State Library to carry forward up to \$300,000 in the certain appropriations within the All Other category and \$1,500,000 in certain appropriations in the Capital Expenditures line category for specified purposes.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "BBB" Transfers \$168,030 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine State Library, Imagination Library of Maine Program, Other Special Revenue Funds account.</i> |
| Community College System, Maine Maine Community College System - Board of Trustees |
| Maritime Academy, Maine Maine Maritime Academy - Debt Service |

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| Maine Maritime Academy Scholarship Fund - Casino |
| University of Maine, Board of Trustees of the University of Maine Scholarship Fund |
| Education, Department of Adult Education Child Development Services General Purpose Aid for Local Schools (GPA) Higher Education and Educator Support Services Innovative Teaching and Learning Leadership Team Learning Systems Team Maine School Safety Center Office of Innovation Office of Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways Preschool Special Education Retired Teachers' Health Insurance School and Student Supports School Finance and Operations Special Services Team |
| <i>Language Part "C" Establishes the Total Cost of Education K-12 for FY25 , the state contribution, the annual target state share percentage and mil rate.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "U" Changes the maximum period of assignment of an educator under an interchange program.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "W" Reorganizes oversight and updates practices for serving infants, toddlers and children with disabilities from birth to 6 years of age.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "X" Renames the Facilities, Safety and Transportation program within the Department of Education.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "Y" Removes the Maine School for Marine Science, Technology, Transportation and Engineering from statue to reflect the school's closure as of December 31, 2022.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "Z" Allows the certification hearing officers and Individualized Education Program due process facilitators to be covered under the Maine Tort Claims Act.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "AA" Authorizes the Commissioner of Education to disperse available funds to certain school administrative units for projects or efforts related to expanding available grade configurations.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "BB" Establishes a Higher Education Administrative Fund within the Department of Education related to the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "CC" Transfers \$11,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Education, Child Development Services Program, Other Special Revenue Funds account.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "CCC" Transfers \$4,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the School Revolving Renovation Fund at the Maine Municipal Bond Bank for school administrative units that have voluntarily assumed the free, appropriate education for children aged 3 - 5.</i> |
| 1:30 PM Thursday, February 22, 2024 |
| Programs Under the Jurisdiction of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement & Business |
| Economic and Community Development, Department of Administration – Economic and Community Development Community Development Block Grant Program Office of Tourism |
| Professional and Financial Regulation, Department of Engineers - State Board of Licensure for Professional Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation |
| 2:30 PM Thursday, February 22, 2024 |
| Programs and Language Parts Under the Jurisdiction of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation |
| NOTE: Language and Initiatives related to reimbursement for the Property Tax Stabilization are not included in this hearing . The proposal was vetted under LD 646 |
| Administrative and Financial Services, Department of Renewable Energy Facilities Property Tax Exemption <i>Language Part "H" Makes changes to the sales and use tax and service provider tax provisions of statute.</i> |
| Treasurer of the State, Office of Disproportionate Tax Burden Fund State – Municipal Revenue Sharing |
| 1:00 PM Friday, February 23, 2024 |
| Programs and Language Parts Under the Jurisdiction of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs |
| Administrative and Financial Services, Department of Adult Use Cannabis Regulatory Coordination Fund Alcoholic Beverages – General Operations |

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| Medical Use of Cannabis Fund |
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| Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Department of |
| Administration – Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management |
| Military Training & Operations |
| Veterans Services |
| <i>Language Part "R" Authorizes the carryover of up to \$400,000 specified appropriations in the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Administration program to continue the environmental closure activities at the former Maine Military Authority site in Limestone</i> |
| <i>Language Part "S-1" Transfers \$75,000 the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Maine Military Reserve Fund to be used to settle outstanding obligations of the Maine Military Authority.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "S-2" Transfers \$460,000 the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Administration - Defense funds in the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Administration program Other Special Revenue account to fund one-time environmental closure costs at the former Maine Military Authority site in Limestone.</i> |
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| Public Safety, Department of |
| Gambling Control Board |
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| Secretary of State, Department of |
| Bureau of Administrative Services and Corporations (Initiatives related to elections) |
| Elections and Commissions |

2:00 PM Friday, February 23, 2024

Programs and Language Parts Under the Jurisdiction of the Joint Select Committee on Housing

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| Housing Authority, Maine State |
| Emergency Housing Relief Fund Program |
| Housing Authority – State |
| <i>Language Part "GG" Transfers \$10,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine State Housing Authority for new housing units through the Affordable Homeownership program.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "HH" Transfers \$16,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine State Housing Authority, Emergency Housing Relief Fund program.</i> |

10:00 AM Monday, February 26, 2024

Programs and Language Parts Under the Jurisdiction of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

PROGRAMS AND LANGUAGE PARTS NOT SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY'S SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER AND ADULT MENTAL HEALTH HEARING BLOCK

NOTE: Testimony on Part PP and initiatives related to use of Department of Health and Human Services Purchased Social Services to support victims of crimes are not included in this hearing . The proposal was vetted under LD 2084

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| Health and Human Services, Department of |
| Child Care Services |
| Department of Health and Human Services Central Operations |
| Developmental Services – Community |
| Developmental Services Waiver - MaineCare |
| Developmental Services Waiver – Supports |
| Disability Determination - Division of |
| Division of Licensing and Certification |
| Drinking Water Enforcement |
| Food Supplement Administration |
| General Assistance – Reimbursement to Cities & Towns |
| Head Start |
| Injury and Violence Prevention Program |
| Low-Cost Drugs to Maine’s Elderly |
| Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention |
| Maternal and Child Health |
| Medicaid Services – Developmental Services |
| Medicaid Waiver for Brain Injury Residential/Community Services |
| Medicaid Waiver for Other Related Conditions |
| Medical Care – Payments to Providers (except initiative on Page A-66 related to mobile crises rates) |
| Mental Health Services – Child Medicaid |
| Mental Health Services – Children |
| Nursing Facilities |
| Office for Family Independence |
| Office for Family Independence - District |
| Office of Aging and Disability Services Adult Protective Services |
| Office of Aging and Disability Services Central Office |
| Office of Child and Family Services – Central |
| Office of Child and Family Services – District |
| Office of MaineCare Services |
| PNMI Room and Board |
| Residential Treatment Facilities Assessment |
| Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) |

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| Traumatic Brain Injury Seed |
| <i>Language Part "II" Limits municipalities from exceeding maximum levels of General Assistance past 30 days in a 12-month period for any household.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "JJ" Makes several changes to the hospital tax.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "KK" Makes changes in statute related to applications for "critical access hospital" designation.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "LL" Repeals and amends certain statute related to reimbursement of critical access hospitals.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "MM" Authorizes the Department to ensure payments to certain hospitals comply with federal rules and requirements.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "NN" Repeals and amends certain statute related to the qualified Medicare beneficiary (QMB) program; maintains the elimination of the asset test for all Medicare savings program; changes the expansion of the qualified individual (QI) program; and authorizes a reduction of the income limit in the QI program under certain conditions</i> |
| <i>Language Part "OO" Transfers \$5,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the General Assistance - Reimbursement to Cities and Towns program, Other Special Revenue Funds account.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "QQ" Repeals the hardship exception that allows access to state-funded SNAP benefits for individuals who have obtained proper work documentation but are unemployed.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "RR" Allows the DHHS, Office of Child and Family Services to carry up to \$1,500,000 for specific technology enhancements.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "SS" Changes the beginning date of the increase of eligibility for child care subsidies.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "TT" Establishes a 2-year child care staff scholarship program.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "UU" Allows funding previously appropriated or allocated in PL 2023 c. 412 for rate reform for FY25 to be distributed in two phases.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "VV" Gives DHHS the authority to adopt emergency rules to implement certain provisions of this bill.</i> |
| <i>Language Part "LLL" Authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to create and administer injury and violence prevention programs.</i> |

2:00 PM Tuesday, February 27, 2024

Programs and Language Parts Under the Jurisdiction of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER AND ADULT MENTAL HEALTH

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| Health and Human Services, Department of |
| Disproportionate Share – Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center |
| Disproportionate Share – Riverview Psychiatric Center |
| Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center |
| Forensic Services |
| Medical Care – Payments to Providers Funding for cost-of-living increases per Title 22, § 3713 (in part) (p. A-65) |
| Medical Care – Payments to Providers Funding for new mobile crisis rates and services (p. A-66) |
| Medical Care – Payments to Providers Funding for cost-of-living increases per PL 2021 c. 639 (in part) (p. A-67) |
| Mental Health Services – Community |
| Mental Health Services – Community Medicaid |
| Office of Substance Abuse & Mental Health Srv-Medicaid Seed |
| Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services |
| Opioid Use Disorder Prevention and Treatment Fund |
| Purchased Social Services |
| Riverview Psychiatric Center |
| <i>Language Part "KKK" Authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to plan for and assist a statewide network for Crisis Receiving Centers in Maine rural and urban communities.</i> |

1:00 PM Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Programs and Language Parts Under the Jurisdiction of the Joint Standing Committees on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

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| Administrative and Financial Services, Department of |
| State Mandate Defrayal |
| Professional and Financial Regulation, Department of |
| Licensure in Medicine – Board of |
| Nursing – Board of |
| Osteopathic Licensure – Board of |
| <i>Language Part "DDD" Updates the effective date for in PL 2023, chapter 329 "An Act to Establish the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact" to allow timely staffing consistent with the allocations provided.</i> |

2:00 PM Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Programs and Language Parts Under the Jurisdiction of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

NOTE: Testimony on Part PP and initiatives related to use of Department of Health and Human Services Purchased Social Services to support victims of crimes are not included in this hearing . The proposal was vetted under LD 2084

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| Attorney General, Department of |
| Administration – Attorney General |
| Chief Medical Examiner – Office of |
| District Attorney's Salaries |

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| Human Services Division |
| Maine Mass Violence Care Fund (Allocation in Language Part N) |
| Victims Compensation Board |
| <i>Language Part "N" Creates the Maine Mass Violence Care Fund, transfers \$5,000,000 into the fund and creates a working group to develop standards for distributions from the fund to be implemented by the Victim's Compensation Board</i> |
| Indigent Legal Services, Maine Commission on |
| Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services |
| <i>Language Part "WW" Authorizes a one-time transfer of available balances of appropriations between the Personal Services and All Other line categories in the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services program.</i> |
| Judicial Department |
| Courts – Supreme, Superior and District |
| <i>Language Part "XX" Authorizes a one-time transfer of available balances of appropriations between the Personal Services and All Other line categories in the Supreme Judicial and Superior Courts program to fund certain temporary services contracts.</i> |

1:00 PM Thursday, February 29, 2024

Programs Under the Jurisdiction of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

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| Public Safety, Department of |
| State Police |
| Traffic Safety-Commercial Vehicle Enforcement |

2:00 PM Thursday, February 29, 2024

Programs and Language Parts Under the Jurisdiction of Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

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| Corrections, Department of |
| Administration – Corrections |
| Corrections Food |
| Corrections Fuel |
| County Jail Operations Fund |

Language Part "O" Transfers funds from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Corrections for one-time implementation costs of the Offender Management System.

Language Part "P" Authorizes the carryover of specified funds in the Department of Corrections for the subscription costs for the Offender Management System.

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| Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Department of |
| Administration-Maine Emergency Management Agency |

Language Part "Q" Makes changes to the statute related to the Disaster Recovery Fund, Other Special Revenue account in the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management

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| Public Safety, Department of |
| Capitol Police, Bureau of |
| Computer Crimes |
| Emergency Medical Services |
| Fire Marshall – Office of |
| Licensing and Enforcement - Public Safety |
| Safe Homes Program |

Language Part "EEE" Transfers \$200,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Public Safety, Safe Homes Program, Other Special Revenue Funds account.

Language Part "FFF" Authorizes employees in a Fire Investigator position to immediately progress to a Senior level under specified conditions.

9:30 AM Friday, March 1, 2024

Programs Under the Jurisdiction of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

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| Executive Department |
| Governor's Energy Office |
| Public Advocate |
| Public Utilities Commission |
| Public Utilities – Administrative Division |

10:00 AM Friday, March 1, 2024

Programs Under the Jurisdiction of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

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| Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of |
| ATV Enforcement Fund |
| Endangered Nongame Operations |
| Enforcement Operations – IF&W |
| Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations |
| Licensing Services – IF&W |

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| Office of the Commissioner – IF&W |
| Public Information and Education, Division of |
| Resource Management Services – IF&W |
| 11:00 AM Friday, March 1, 2024 |
| Programs Under the Jurisdiction of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources: |
| Marine Resources, Department of |
| Bureau of Marine Science |
| Bureau of Policy and Management |
| Bureau of Public Health |
| Marine Patrol – Bureau of |
| Sea Run Fisheries and Habitat |
| 1:00 PM Friday, March 1, 2024 |
| Programs and Language Parts Under the Jurisdiction of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government |
| <i>NOTE: Language and Initiatives related to the proposed Office of New Americans are not included in this hearing. The proposal was vetted under LD 2167</i> |
| Auditor, Office of the State |
| Audit Bureau |
| Executive Department |
| GOPIF - Community Resilience Partnership |
| <i>Language Part "EE" Transfers \$5,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Executive Department, GOPIF - Community Resilience Partnership, Other Special Revenue account.</i> |
| Maine Office of Community Affairs |
| Maine Office of Community Affairs |
| <i>Language Part "DD" Creates the Maine Office of Community Affairs agency and establishes a Director position .</i> |
| Perm Comm on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Pop |
| Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations |
| Secretary of State, Department of |
| Administration – Archives |
| Bureau of Administrative Services and Corporations (initiatives unrelated to elections) |
| <i>Language Part "GGG" Authorizes the Secretary of State to carry forward up to \$1,500,000 previously appropriated in the Administration-Archives program, Capital Expenditures line category.</i> |
| Administrative and Financial Services, Department of (DAFS) |
| Buildings & Grounds Operations |
| Central Services – Purchases |
| Information Services |
| Risk Management – Claims |
| Workers' Compensation Management Fund Program |
| 10:00 AM Monday, March 4, 2024 |
| Programs Under the Jurisdiction of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources |
| Environmental Protection, Department of |
| Administration – Environmental Protection |
| Land Resources |
| Maine Environmental Protection Fund |
| Remediation and Waste Management |
| Water Quality |
| Saco River Corridor Commission |
| Saco River Corridor Commission |
| 11:00 AM Monday, March 4, 2024 |
| Programs and Language Parts Under the Jurisdiction of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing |
| Labor, Department of |
| Administration - Bur Labor Stds |
| Administration - Labor |
| Employment Security Services |
| Employment Services Activity |
| Maine Apprenticeship Program |
| Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund |
| Regulation and Enforcement |
| Rehabilitation Services |
| Safety Education and Training Programs |

Language Part "YY" Transfers unobligated balances in the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund program, Enterprise account at the end of FY24.

Language Part "ZZ" Establishes the Wage Recovery Fund within the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards

1:00 PM Monday, March 4, 2024

Programs and Language Parts Under the Jurisdiction of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Department of

Bureau of Agriculture

Conservation and Recreation Fund

Conservation Land Management Fund

DACF Administration

Division of Forest Protection

Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program

Forest Resource Management

Harness Racing Commission

Land for Maine's Future

Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund

Land Management and Planning

Maine Healthy Soils Program

Maine Land Use Planning Commission

Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Program

Milk Commission

Natural Areas Program

Off-road Recreational Vehicles Program

Parks – General Operations

Language Part "I" Authorizes carry forward of specified unexpended balances in the Capital Expenditures line category in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry in FY24 to upgrade the Cony Road Facility.

Language Part "J" Transfers funds from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry be used to upgrade the Cony Road facility.

Language Part "K" Authorizes a one-time transfer of certain balances in the Department of Agriculture and Forestry for capital expenditures.

Language Part "L" Establishes the Agricultural Fair Promotion Fund as a separate unit within the Harness Racing Commission.

Language Part "M" Streamlines the accounting for the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund.

Language Part "HHH" Transfers \$3,000,000 in FY24 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Milk Commission Program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to provide one-time payments to Milk producers.

Language Part "III" Transfers \$6,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Parks-General Operations, Other Special Revenue Funds account for damage incurred during recent storms.

Language Part "JJJ" Authorizes the carry forward of up to \$500,000 in unexpended All Other appropriations and \$1,500,000 in unexpended Capital Expenditures appropriations in the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to be used for specified purposes.

Finance Authority of Maine

Dairy Improvement Fund