

LD 1643

An Act To Establish the Maine
Life Science Innovation Center
Senator Teresa Pierce

A Strategic Investment in Our Future

Maine's life sciences sector is a key part of the state's future economy—spanning medicine, animal health, marine biology, agriculture, forestry, and data science. This industry has immense potential to drive economic growth, create jobs, and enhance public health. **The Maine Life Science Innovation Center** will centralize coordination, uniting stakeholders and resources to implement an impactful statewide life science economic development strategy.

Problem Statement

Maine's life science sector is exhibiting organic growth, but strategies to accelerate sector development are fragmented and State financial support for R&D is insufficient. Maine ranks 37th in the nation for R&D activity, with life sciences contributing only 1% to the state's GDP compared to the national average of 3%. Neighboring states like Rhode Island and New Hampshire are making significant investments, while Maine lacks cohesive public-private partnerships to deploy incentives, expand talent pools, and support innovation infrastructure.

Solution

The Maine Life Science Innovation Center will serve as a strategic coordinating organization, reducing fragmentation, accelerating investment, and strengthening collaboration. By leveraging Maine's expertise in human and animal health, ocean science, agriculture, and forestry, the Center will unify efforts, align with state strategies, and enhance economic and environmental outcomes while promoting public health.

Operations

The Center will develop and implement statewide strategies to: 1) promote Maine as a premier destination for life sciences; 2) strengthen the talent pipeline within Maine; 3) enhance research, patent generation, and commercialization efforts; 4) improve business development and attraction; and 5) advocate for policies, grant funding, and partnerships that enhance Maine's competitiveness. A Board will govern the Center and oversee the management of the Maine Life Science Innovation Fund, which will support clinical trials, business expansion, and infrastructure investments to grow life sciences in Maine.

Funding

The Life Science Innovation Fund will receive funds, gifts, grants, and other revenue sources to support the Center's operations. The proposed legislation includes an initial budget of \$4 million from the State over two years.

R&D Acceleration

Bigelow Laboratory, MaineHealth, MDI Biological Laboratory, The Jackson Laboratory, The Roux Institute, University of Maine, University of New England, Others

Industry & Startup Support

Bigelow Laboratory, Coastal Enterprises, Inc., FocusMaine, Maine & Co., Maine Center for Entrepreneurs, Maine SBDC, SCORE Maine, The Roux Institute, University of Maine, Others

Infrastructure & Investment

Finance Authority of Maine, Local Governments, Maine & Co., Maine DECD, Maine International Trade Center, Maine Technology Institute, Maine Venture Fund, Others

Maine Life Science Innovation Center

*One-stop-shop
Coordinated state strategy*

Regulatory & Policy Advocacy

BioME, Others

Promotion & Public Engagement

Bigelow Laboratory, BioME, Educate Maine, FocusMaine, Maine & Co., MaineHealth, MDI Biological Laboratory, State of Maine, The Jackson Laboratory, The Roux Institute, University of Maine, Others

Workforce & Talent Pipeline

Bigelow Laboratory, BioME, Community Colleges, Educate Maine, Maine DOE, Maine DOL, MDI Biological Laboratory, The Roux Institute, University of Maine, University of New England, Others