



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 788

S.P. 348

In Senate, March 4, 2025

### **An Act to Promote an Innovation-driven Economy by Increasing Research and Development Spending**

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Received by the Secretary of the Senate on February 27, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Housing and Economic Development pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford and  
Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, LAWRENCE of  
York, STEWART of Aroostook, Representative: CLOUTIER of Lewiston.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §929-C**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 420, §6, is amended to read:

3 **§929-C. Research and development budgetary recommendations**

4 The Maine Economic Growth Council, established in section 929-A, with input from  
5 the Office of Innovation, established pursuant to Title 5, section 13105, and the Maine  
6 Innovation Economy Advisory Board, under section 949, shall ~~review the innovation~~  
7 ~~economy action plan, as described in Title 10, chapter 107-D, and develop specific annual~~  
8 ~~budgetary recommendations to support the plan's vision and goals. These~~  
9 ~~recommendations must include specific bonding and General Fund appropriations~~  
10 ~~investment levels. By June 1st of each year, the council shall submit its recommendations,~~  
11 ~~along with an annual accountability update that summarizes the State's commitment to~~  
12 ~~research and development investments in the prior year, to the Governor, the Legislature~~  
13 ~~and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business,~~  
14 ~~research and economic development issues support and track progress toward the goal of~~  
15 ~~increasing the State's research and development spending as a percentage of the State's~~  
16 ~~gross domestic product to meet the national average by 2030 and maintaining that national~~  
17 ~~average each year thereafter. By December 1st of each year, the council shall submit an~~  
18 ~~annual accountability update that summarizes the State's commitment to research and~~  
19 ~~development investments in the prior year to the Governor and the joint standing committee~~  
20 ~~of the Legislature having jurisdiction over research and economic development matters and~~  
21 ~~the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and~~  
22 ~~financial affairs. In coordination with the Office of Innovation and the Maine Innovation~~  
23 ~~Economy Advisory Board, the council may also submit specific budgetary~~  
24 ~~recommendations to support this research and development spending goal.~~

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill adds supporting the goal of increasing research and development spending as  
27 a percentage of the State's economy to meet the national average by 2030 to the  
28 responsibilities of the Maine Economic Growth Council. It also directs the council to track  
29 the progress toward the research and development spending goal and submit a report  
30 annually to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over  
31 research and economic development matters and appropriations and financial affairs. The  
32 council is also authorized to seek budgetary recommendations from the Office of  
33 Innovation and the Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board regarding the research and  
34 development spending goal.