

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 299

Date: 4/9/26

(Filing No. S-1662)

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
132ND LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 199,  
L.D. 299, "An Act to Support Investment in Agriculture"

Amend the amendment by striking out the substitute title and inserting the following:

**'An Act to Capitalize Agricultural Program Funds'**

Amend the amendment by striking out all of sections 1 to 5 and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 1. Transfer from Maine Budget Stabilization Fund; Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$100,000,000 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to strengthen the State's agricultural, food and forest products economy and expand infrastructure investments in the agricultural, food and forest products economy pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 320-A.

**Sec. 2. Transfer from Maine Budget Stabilization Fund; Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$15,000,000 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to support the activities of the Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 220-A.

**Sec. 3. Transfer from Maine Budget Stabilization Fund; Maine Healthy Soils Program.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$15,000,000 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the Maine Healthy Soils Program Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to support the activities of the Maine Healthy Soils Program pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 352.

**SENATE AMENDMENT**

1           **Sec. 4. Transfer from Maine Budget Stabilization Fund; Maine Working**  
 2 **Farmland Access and Protection Program.** Notwithstanding any provision of law  
 3 to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$30,000,000  
 4 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund within the Department of Administrative and  
 5 Financial Services to the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Program Other  
 6 Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and  
 7 Forestry to support the activities of the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection  
 8 Program pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 164.

9           **Sec. 5. Transfer from Maine Budget Stabilization Fund; Dairy**  
 10 **Improvement Fund.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before  
 11 June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$25,000,000 from the Maine Budget  
 12 Stabilization Fund within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the  
 13 Dairy Improvement Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Finance  
 14 Authority of Maine to support the activities of the Dairy Improvement Fund pursuant to  
 15 the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 1023-P.

16           **Sec. 6. Transfer from Maine Budget Stabilization Fund; Improvements to**  
 17 **Logging and Fishing Enterprises Loan Fund.** Notwithstanding any provision of law  
 18 to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$15,000,000  
 19 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund within the Department of Administrative and  
 20 Financial Services to the Improvements to Logging and Fishing Enterprises Loan Fund  
 21 Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Finance Authority of Maine to support  
 22 the activities of the Improvements to Logging and Fishing Enterprises Loan Fund pursuant  
 23 to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 1023-Q.

24           **Sec. 7. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
 25 allocations are made.

26 **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF**

27 **Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program Fund Z364**

28 Initiative: Provides funds to support the activities of the Farmers Drought Relief Grant  
 29 Program pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 220-A.

30 <b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
31 All Other	\$0	\$15,000,000
32		
33 <b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$15,000,000</u>

34 **Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund Z384**

35 Initiative: Provides funds to strengthen the State's agricultural, food and forest products  
 36 economy and expand infrastructure investments in the agricultural, food and forest  
 37 products economy pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 320-A.

38 <b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
39 All Other	\$0	\$100,000,000
40		
41 <b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$100,000,000</u>

42 **Maine Healthy Soils Fund Z328**



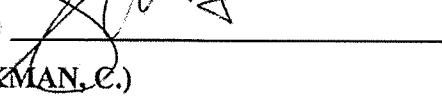
SENATE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 199, L.D. 299 (S-6627)

1	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$40,000,000
2			
3	SECTION TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
4			
5	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$200,000,000
6			
7	SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$200,000,000</u>

8  
9 Amend the amendment by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or  
10 section number to read consecutively.

11 **SUMMARY**

12 This amendment amends Committee Amendment "A" by striking the provisions of the  
13 committee amendment and instead authorizing a one-time transfer of \$200,000,000 in  
14 fiscal year 2026-27 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund to be distributed to  
15 agricultural programs within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and  
16 the Finance Authority of Maine.

17 **SPONSORED BY:**   
18 (Senator HICKMAN, C.)  
19 **COUNTY:** Kennebec

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
**(See attached)**



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 299

LR 844(06)

**An Act to Build a Viable Future for Maine Agriculture by Transferring a Portion of Real Estate Transfer Tax Revenue to the Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund**

**Fiscal Note for Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S. 6602)**

**Sponsor: Sen. Hickman of Kennebec**

**Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

## Fiscal Note

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
<b>Net Cost (Savings)</b>				
General Fund	\$0	(\$5,000,000)	(\$5,000,000)	(\$5,000,000)
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$195,000,000	(\$5,000,000)	(\$5,000,000)
<b>Revenue</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	(\$5,000,000)	(\$5,000,000)	(\$5,000,000)
<b>Transfers</b>				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$200,000,000	\$0	\$0

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

This amendment removes the provisions directing the transfer of a portion of the revenue from the real estate transfer tax. Instead, the amendment authorizes a one-time transfer of \$200,000,000 in fiscal year 2026-27 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund to be distributed to the following programs within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF) and the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME).

#### ACF

Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund	\$100,000,000
Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program	\$15,000,000
Maine Healthy Soils Program	\$15,000,000
Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Program	\$30,000,000

#### FAME

Dairy Improvement Fund	\$25,000,000
Improvements to Logging and Fishing Enterprises Loan Fund	\$15,000,000