

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 4/14/26

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STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE AMENDMENT "C" 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 Resilience 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 Resilience Program Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to support the activities of the Farmers Drought Resilience 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

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

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

Sec. 6. Transfer from Maine Budget Stabilization Fund; Improvements to Logging and Fishing Enterprises Loan Fund. 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 Improvements to Logging and Fishing Enterprises Loan Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Finance Authority of Maine to support the activities of the Improvements to Logging and Fishing Enterprises Loan Fund pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 1023-Q.

Sec. 7. Prohibition of financial benefit to Legislators and their associates. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any current or former member of the 132nd Legislature may not directly receive, solicit or retain any financial benefit derived from the proceeds of any funds authorized under this Act during the member's term in the 132nd Legislature or for 5 years following the date on which the member's term in the 132nd Legislature ends.

This prohibition applies whether the financial benefit described in this section is for the member's own benefit or for the benefit of any relative, household member, close economic association or associated organization of the member. For the purposes of this section, "relative," "close economic association" and "associated organization" have the same meanings as in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 1012.

Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF
Farmers Drought Resilience Program Fund Z364**

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

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$15,000,000
	_____	_____

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1	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$15,000,000
2	Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund Z384		
3	Initiative: Provides funds to strengthen the State's agricultural, food and forest products		
4	economy and expand infrastructure investments in the agricultural, food and forest		
5	products economy pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 320-A.		
6	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
7	All Other	\$0	\$100,000,000
8			
9	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$100,000,000
10	Maine Healthy Soils Fund Z328		
11	Initiative: Provides funds to support the activities of the Maine Healthy Soils Program		
12	pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 352.		
13	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
14	All Other	\$0	\$15,000,000
15			
16	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$15,000,000
17	Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund Z313		
18	Initiative: Provides funds to support the activities of the Maine Working Farmland Access		
19	and Protection Program pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 164.		
20	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
21	All Other	\$0	\$30,000,000
22			
23	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$30,000,000
24			
25	AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND		
26	FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF		
27	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
28			
29	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$160,000,000
30			
31	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$160,000,000
32	FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE		
33	Dairy Improvement Fund Z143		
34	Initiative: Provides funds to support the activities of the fund pursuant to the Maine Revised		
35	Statutes, Title 10, section 1023-P.		
36	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
37	All Other	\$0	\$25,000,000
38			
39	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$25,000,000
40	Improvements to Logging and Fishing Enterprises Loan Fund Z440		

SENATE AMENDMENT

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SENATE AMENDMENT "C" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 199, L.D. 299 (S-710)

Initiative: Provides funds to support the activities of the fund pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 1023-Q.

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

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$40,000,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$40,000,000</u>

SECTION TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$200,000,000
SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$200,000,000</u>

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

SUMMARY

This amendment incorporates the changes made in Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" and specifies that any current or former member of the 132nd Legislature may not directly receive, solicit or retain any financial benefit derived from the proceeds of any funds authorized under this legislation during the 132nd Legislature or for 5 years after the member's term in the 132nd Legislature ends. The prohibition also applies to financial benefits for the relative, household member, close economic association or associated organization of the member.

SPONSORED BY: _____
(Senator STEWART, T.)
COUNTY: Aroostook

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)

SENATE AMENDMENT



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 299

LR 844(08)

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 "C" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-718)

Sponsor: Sen. Stewart of Aroostook

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

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