

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MINORITY

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

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

STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

132ND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 364, L.D. 832, "An Act to Provide Funds to Reduce the Debt of the Vassalboro Sanitary District"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Direct the Department of Environmental Protection to Provide Funding to Public Wastewater Systems for the Repayment of Loans'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §411-C, sub-§2, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 377, §3, is amended to read:

B. To forgive or provide funding for the repayment of loans held by public wastewater systems for the acquisition, planning, design, construction, reconstruction, enlargement, repair, protection or improvement of public wastewater systems and treatment facilities and water pollution abatement systems;

Sec. 2. Maine Clean Water Fund; loan repayment competitive process. The Department of Environmental Protection shall use the funds transferred in accordance with section 3 and deposited into the Maine Clean Water Fund established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 411-C to provide funding for the repayment of loans held by public wastewater systems in accordance with Title 38, section 411-C, subsection 2, paragraph B. The department shall establish a competitive process by which public wastewater systems, including sanitary districts established in accordance with Title 38, chapter 11 and sewer districts as defined in Title 38, section 1032, subsection 3, may apply to the department for funds for loan repayment. In evaluating applications for loan repayment and awarding funds under the competitive process, the department shall seek to provide funding to public wastewater systems most at risk of defaulting on their debt by considering the amount of debt held by the public wastewater system, the necessary rate increases to repay that debt, the number of customers of the public wastewater system and any other factors as determined by the department. The department shall make the first award of funds in accordance with this section by July 1, 2026.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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Sec. 3. Transfer. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before January 1, 2026, the State Controller shall transfer \$3,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Clean Water Fund for funding to support the uses described in section 2 and authorized in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 411-C, subsection 2, paragraph B.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF
Water Quality 0248**

Initiative: Provides funding for expenditures authorized in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 411-C, subsection 2, paragraph B.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$3,000,000	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$3,000,000	\$0

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

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill and changes the title. It authorizes the Maine Clean Water Fund to be used for repayment of loans held by public wastewater systems. It requires the Department of Environmental Protection to establish a competitive process to use \$3,000,000 in funds from the Maine Clean Water Fund to provide funding for the repayment of loans held by public wastewater systems. It requires the department, in evaluating applications for loan repayment and awarding funds under the competitive process, to seek to provide funding to public wastewater systems most at risk of defaulting on their debt. The department is required to make an initial award of funds by July 1, 2026.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)

**132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE****LD 832****LR 1151(02)****An Act to Provide Funds to Reduce the Debt of the Vassalboro Sanitary District**

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-156)
Committee: Energy, Utilities and Technology
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	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Transfers				
General Fund	(\$3,000,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes a one-time transfer of \$3,000,000 on or before January 1, 2026, from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine Clean Water Fund within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the department to provide funding for the repayment of loans held by public wastewater systems. The bill includes an accompanying Other Special Revenue Funds allocation to the DEP to authorize expenditures related to this purpose.