

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1241

H.P. 816

House of Representatives, March 25, 2025

An Act to Establish the Make Change for Wildlife Program to Support the Maine Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund

Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham.
Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and
Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, DILL of Old Town, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard
Beach, MATLACK of St. George, SAYRE of Kennebunk, TERRY of Gorham, Senator:
BALDACCI of Penobscot.

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10253, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §10253, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Make Change for Wildlife program. The Make Change for Wildlife program is established to encourage voluntary support for the fund from businesses that collect voluntary customer contributions at the point of sale. Businesses may deduct customer contributions up to \$10,000 annually pursuant to Title 36, section 5200-A, subsection 2, paragraph JJ. All money generated pursuant to this subsection must be deposited in the fund.

Sec. 3. 36 MRSA §5200-A, sub-§2, ¶JJ is enacted to read:

JJ. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, an amount equal to the funds voluntarily contributed by the taxpayer up to \$10,000 under Title 12, section 10253, subsection 6.

SUMMARY

This bill repeals the Wildlife Enthusiast's Conservation Appreciation, Recreation and Enjoyment, or "WE CARE," support program and establishes the Make Change for Wildlife program as a way to generate voluntary contributions to benefit the Maine Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund. The bill also allows businesses to deduct up to \$10,000 of those amounts contributed for purposes of the corporate income tax for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.