

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 5/21/25

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AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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STATE OF MAINE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

132ND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1010, L.D. 1525, "An Act to Promote Firewood Banks in Maine"

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §1849, sub-§1, ¶B is enacted to read:

B. Upon written request from a firewood bank, the bureau may donate timber for use as firewood to the firewood bank if the following conditions are met:

(1) The director determines that sufficient funds are available in the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund in subsection 2;

(2) Any harvest and trucking fees are paid for or reimbursed by the firewood bank; and

(3) All contractual requirements of the harvest operation from which timber is donated are met.

For purposes of this paragraph, "firewood bank" means an organization that purchases or accepts donations of firewood and makes available firewood free of charge to individuals and families in need of heating assistance.

Sec. 2. Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry to promote firewood banks. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry shall promote the development and public awareness of firewood banks in this State. For purposes of this section, "firewood bank" has the same meaning as in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 1849, subsection 1, paragraph B. The bureau shall develop and dispense informational resources to promote the successful operation of firewood banks in this State. In fulfilling its obligations under this section, the bureau may collaborate with the University of Maine System. The bureau shall:

1. Provide information to the public for the purpose of increasing awareness of the resources available at firewood banks and the charitable efforts needed to maintain firewood banks in this State; and

2. Develop and maintain on the bureau's publicly accessible website a list of all firewood banks operating in the State.'

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

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment authorizes the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to donate timber for use as firewood to a firewood bank if certain conditions are met.

The amendment also directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry to promote the development and public awareness of firewood banks in this State. In addition, the amendment directs the bureau to develop and dispense informational resources to promote the successful operation of firewood banks in this State. In fulfilling its obligations, the bureau may collaborate with the University of Maine System.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



Approved: 05/14/25 **LRL**

132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1525

LR 1981(02)

An Act to Promote Firewood Banks in Maine

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment

Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

A (H-248)

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to adopt the changes in this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.