

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

---

**Legislative Document**

**No. 1528**

S.P. 612

In Senate, April 8, 2025

### **An Act to Support Farmland Conservation**

---

Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.

Cosponsored by Senators: BRENNER of Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec,

Representatives: BLIER of Buxton, CRAY of Palmyra, DUCHARME of Madison, HALL of Wilton, PLUECKER of Warren.

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

2               **Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §164, sub-§5** is enacted to read:

3               **5. Funding.** A separate nonlapsing, interest-bearing account, administered by the  
4 department, is established in the department within the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and  
5 Rural Resources to support public-private partnerships to carry out the purposes of the  
6 program. The account consists of money appropriated or allocated to it by the Legislature  
7 or received from any private or public source.

8               **Sec. 2. Transfer.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before  
9 June 30, 2026, the State Controller shall transfer \$1,000,000 from the unappropriated  
10 surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry,  
11 Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, Maine Working Farmland Access and  
12 Protection Program established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 164 for  
13 funding to support farmland conservation efforts.

14               **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
15 allocations are made.

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

17       **Bureau of Agriculture 0393**

18 Initiative: Provides funding for farmland conservation efforts under the Maine Working  
19 Farmland Access and Protection Program established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title  
20 7, section 164.

21 <b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
22       All Other	\$1,000,000	\$0
23		
24       OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$1,000,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>

25       **Bureau of Agriculture 0393**

26 Initiative: Establishes one Resource Management Coordinator position and provides  
27 funding for associated All Other costs.

28 <b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
29       POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
30       Personal Services	\$114,286	\$120,766
31       All Other	\$3,500	\$3,500
32		
33       GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$117,786</u>	<u>\$124,266</u>

34       **DACF Administration 0401**

35 Initiative: Establishes one Resource Management Coordinator position and provides  
36 funding for associated All Other costs.

37 <b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
38       All Other	\$3,292	\$3,292
39		
40       GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$3,292</u>	<u>\$3,292</u>

41

1	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
2	All Other	\$647	\$647
3			
4	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<u>\$647</u>	<u>\$647</u>
5			
6	<b>AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND</b>		
7	<b>FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF</b>		
8	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
9			
10	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$121,078</b>	<b>\$127,558</b>
11	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$1,000,647</b>	<b>\$647</b>
12			
13	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<u><b>\$1,121,725</b></u>	<u><b>\$128,205</b></u>

14 **SUMMARY**

15       This bill establishes a separate nonlapsing, interest-bearing account administered by  
16 the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to support public-private  
17 partnerships to carry out the purposes of the Maine Working Farmland Access and  
18 Protection Program. The account consists of money appropriated or allocated to the  
19 program account by the Legislature or received from any private or public source.

20       The bill establishes and provides ongoing funding for one full-time, permanent position  
21 within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture,  
22 Food and Rural Resources.

23       The bill also transfers \$1,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund  
24 to fund farmland conservation efforts under the Department of Agriculture, Conservation  
25 and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, Maine Working Farmland  
26 Access and Protection Program.