

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
110TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

(Filing No. H-321)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 995, L.D. 1183, Bill, "AN ACT to Allow the Board of Environmental Protection to Authorize and Pay for Oil Spill Damage Studies."

Amend the Bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §551, sub-§5, ¶H is enacted to read:

H. Sums, up to \$50,000 each annum, which have been allocated by the Legislature on a contingency basis in accordance with section 555 for payment of costs for studies of the environmental impacts of discharges prohibited by section 543 which may have adverse economic effects and which occur subsequent to such allocation, when such studies are deemed necessary by the commissioner.

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §551, sub-§6, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 375, §14, is amended to read:

A. All disbursements made by the fund pursuant to subsection 5, paragraphs B, D and, E and H in connection with a prohibited discharge;

Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §555, as last amended by PL 1979, c. 541, Pt. A, §269, is further amended to read:

§555. Budget approval

The board shall submit ~~to each legislature~~ its budget recommendations for disbursements from the fund in accordance with section 551, subsection 5, paragraphs A, C, F and H for each biennium. The budget shall be submitted in accordance with Title 5, sections

to
1663/1666. ~~Upon approval thereof the~~ The State Controller shall authorize expenditures therefrom as approved by the board. Expenditures pursuant to section 551, subsection 5, paragraphs B, D, E and G may be made as authorized by the State Controller following approval by the board.'

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to permit the Legislature to make a contingency allocation of \$50,000 each annum from the Oil Conveyance Fund so that funds will be immediately available to commence studies of the economic impacts of a prohibited discharge when it occurs. The amendment also provides for the recovery of the study expenditure from the party legally responsible for the discharge. Legislative oversight of fund expenditures for such studies is retained.

Reported by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
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