

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 1264

S.P. 468

In Senate, April 11, 1995

**An Act Regarding the Schedule of the Distribution of Funds from the
Maine Environmental Trust Fund.**

(EMERGENCY)

Submitted by the Department of Conservation pursuant to Joint Rule 24.
Reference to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry suggested and
ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "May M. Ross".

MAY M. ROSS
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PARADIS of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representatives: JACQUES of Waterville, SPEAR of Nobleboro, STROUT
of Corinth.

2 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
as emergencies; and

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6 **Whereas,** current law provides that funds from the Maine
Environmental Trust Fund are distributed annually; and

8 **Whereas,** programs funded from the Maine Environmental Trust
Fund have a need for more frequent distribution of funds in order
to be adequately sustained; and

12 **Whereas,** funds from the Maine Environmental Trust Fund were
distributed in August 1994 and another distribution is required
by the end of the current fiscal year's 3rd quarter; and

16 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
safety; now, therefore,

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

24 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7759, sub-§3,** as amended by PL 1993, c. 567,
§1 and c. 683, Pt. B, §2 and affected by §5, is repealed and the
following enacted in its place:

28 3. Distribution from fund. The first \$10,000 received from
the sale of environmental registration plates must be allocated
to the Department of Conservation for marketing of the plates.
Money distributed from the fund may be used for marketing the
plates and for the production and marketing of goods using the
environmental plate design. After the Treasurer of State has
reimbursed the Secretary of State for costs of producing and
issuing environmental registration plates in accordance with
Title 29-A, section 455, the Treasurer of State shall, at the end
of each quarter in the fiscal year, distribute the balance in the
fund as follows:

40 A. Sixty percent of the balance must be deposited in the
Maine State Parks Fund established in section 610; and

42 B. Forty percent of the balance must be deposited in the
Maine Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund established in
section 7757.

46 This subsection is repealed March 31, 1996.

48 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
50 preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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6 Current law regarding distribution of funds from the Maine
Environmental Trust Fund provides that distributions must be made
8 annually. Uncertainty exists whether annual refers to a calendar
year or a fiscal year. Further, the programs funded by the Maine
10 Environmental Trust Fund, the Maine Endangered and Nongame
Wildlife program and the Maine Bureau of Parks and Recreation's
operational budget, require a more frequent distribution of funds
12 in order to sustain them through the year. This bill clarifies
that the distribution schedule is quarterly, on a fiscal year
14 basis.