

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: February 14, 1996

(Filing No. S-426)

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

Reported by: Senator CASSIDY of Washington for the Committee.

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
117TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 659, L.D. 1719, Bill, "An Act to Correct Omissions in the Productivity Realization Task Force Legislation Relating to the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the Animal Welfare Board"

Amend the bill in section 8 in subsection 1 by striking out all of the last 2 lines (page 2, lines 7 and 8 in L.D.) and inserting in their place the following: 'conservation districts.'

Further amend the bill in section 8 in subsection 2 by striking out all of the last 4 lines (page 2, lines 13 to 16 in L.D.) and inserting in their place the following: 'and on procedures for the election of supervisors.'

Further amend the bill in section 8 in subsection 3 by striking out all of the last 5 lines (page 2, lines 23 to 27 in L.D.) and inserting in their place the following: 'the protection of landowner rights.'

Further amend the bill in section 8 in subsection 4 in the last line (page 2, line 32 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "districts." and inserting in its place the following: 'districts; and'

Further amend the bill in section 8 by inserting at the end the following:

'5. Conservation districts. Advise the department regarding the formation or discontinuance of soil and water conservation districts.'

Further amend the bill by striking out all of section 9 and inserting in its place the following:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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'Sec. 9. 12 MRSA §51-B is enacted to read:

§51-B. Assistance from department

The department shall assist the advisory council and individual soil and water conservation districts to further constructive working relationships with other natural resource agencies of State Government.

Sec. 10. 12 MRSA §52, as amended by PL 1991, c. 837, Pt. A, §29, is repealed.'

Further amend the bill by inserting after section 12 the following:

'Sec. 13. 12 MRSA §54-A is enacted to read:

§54-A. Budget

That part of the department's budget that pertains to the operations of the soil and water conservation districts must be separately identified as a major budget area within the department's budget.'

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

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the statement of fact the following:

FISCAL NOTE

The Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources will incur some minor additional costs to assume the duties of the former State Soil and Water Conservation Commission. These costs can be absorbed within the department's existing budgeted resources.'

STATEMENT OF FACT

The amendment repeals a section of law pertaining to the legal services, executive director and delegation of power of the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission. It also reorganizes language in the bill concerning the State Conservation District Advisory Council and the duties of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources relative to soil and water conservation districts.