

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: 3/25/99

(Filing No. H-94 )

**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
119TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 487, L.D. 694, Bill, "An Act to Increase the Number of Elm Trees in the State"

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

'Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §8702-A is enacted to read:

**§8702-A. Elm Tree Restoration Fund**

**1. Establishment of fund.** The Elm Tree Restoration Fund, referred to in this section as the "fund," is established as a nonlapsing fund under the jurisdiction of the bureau to promote the restoration of disease-resistant cultivars of American elm in the municipalities of the State. The bureau may apply for and accept any appropriation, grant, gift or service made available from any public or private sources consistent with the purpose of this section and shall deposit any such money into the fund.

**2. Use of the fund.** Through a community forestry program pursuant to section 8002, subsection 1, paragraph B, the bureau shall develop a process for municipalities to submit proposals and establish criteria for reviewing proposals and awarding grants from the fund. The grants must be used for the planting and maintenance of disease-resistant cultivars of American elm and must match on a one-to-one basis funds raised by a municipality.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

**Sec. 2. Allocation.** The following funds are allocated from Other Special Revenue funds to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	1999-00	2000-01
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**CONSERVATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Administration - Forestry**

All Other	\$500	\$500
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Provides initial allocations to reflect the establishment of the Elm Tree Restoration Fund.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

**FISCAL NOTE**

	1999-00	2000-01
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**APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS**

Other Funds	\$500	\$500
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The Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Conservation will require base allocations to authorize expenditures from the Elm Tree Restoration Fund. This bill includes Other Special Revenue funds allocations of \$500 in each of fiscal years 1999-00 and 2000-01 to reflect the establishment of the Elm Tree Restoration Fund. Authorizing the bureau to apply for and accept public and private monies for deposit into the fund will increase dedicated revenues collected by the Department of Conservation. The amounts can not be determined at this time.'

**SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a fund within the Bureau of Forestry to be used for grants to municipalities to plant and maintain disease-resistant cultivars of American elm. It directs the bureau to develop a process to accept applications and award grants. It adds an allocation section to the bill and adds a fiscal note to the bill.