

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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7/18
R. 018

L.D. 1660

DATE: 5-18-01

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MAJORITY
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
120TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1219, L.D. 1660, Bill, "An Act to Encourage Independent 3rd-party Forest Management Certification for Small Woodlot Owners"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Encourage Independent 3rd-Party Certification of Resource Managers'

Further 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 c. 801-A is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 801-A

CERTIFIED FOREST RESOURCE MANAGER GRANT FUND

§801. Grant fund established; purpose

There is established a certified forest resource manager grant fund, referred to in this chapter as the "grant fund," from which the bureau may award grants. A grant may be awarded to a licensed professional forester to assist that forester in obtaining initial independent 3rd-party certification as a forest resource manager. Forest land managed by a certified forest resource manager may achieve certification as a well-managed forest through clear review and acceptance procedures.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

2 The bureau may accept donations and grants from public and
3 private sources for deposit in the grant fund. All money
4 received from appropriations, donations and grants to the grant
5 fund must be deposited in a nonlapsing, dedicated account.

6
7 **§8012. Definitions**

8
9 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise
10 indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

11 1. Bureau. "Bureau" means the Bureau of Forestry within
12 the Department of Conservation.

13 2. Forest land. "Forest land" means land used primarily to
14 grow trees to be harvested for commercial use but where
15 management objectives may include other values.

16 3. Independent 3rd-party certification. "Independent
17 3rd-party certification" means a system that verifies sustainable
18 forest management through an independent 3rd-party audit of a
19 licensed professional forester's management of a client's forest
20 lands.

21 4. Licensed professional forester. "Licensed professional
22 forester" means a person licensed pursuant to Title 32, chapter
23 75.

24
25 **§8013. Administration of grant fund; procedure**

26 The bureau shall administer the grant fund pursuant to this
27 section.

28 1. Eligibility. The bureau may award grants to a licensed
29 professional forester seeking initial independent 3rd-party
30 certification as a forest resource manager in order that the
31 forester's client landowners may obtain the benefits accruing
32 from such certification.

33 2. Amount of grant. The bureau may provide a grant to a
34 licensed professional forester in an amount equal to 50% of the
35 cost of obtaining independent 3rd-party certification as a forest
36 resource manager or \$1,000, whichever is less.

37 3. Repayment. A licensed professional forester who accepts
38 a grant but who fails to qualify as a certified forest resource
39 manager within one year of receiving the grant or who fails to
40 retain certification for the full certification period shall
41 repay the amount of the grant to the bureau. The bureau may
42 impose a reasonable interest rate on the amount of the grant.

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2 4. Forms; rulemaking. The bureau shall provide application
4 forms for licensed professional foresters seeking grants pursuant
6 to this chapter. The bureau shall adopt rules to implement the
8 purposes of this chapter. Rules adopted pursuant to this chapter
10 are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,
12 subchapter II-A.

14 5. Report. By January 2, 2007, the director of the bureau
16 shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the
18 Legislature having jurisdiction over forestry matters outlining
20 the costs and benefits of the certified forest resource manager
22 grant fund.

This subsection is repealed January 31, 2007.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated
from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

2001-02

22 **CONSERVATION, DEPARTMENT OF**
24 **Forest Policy and Management -**
26 **Division of**

All Other \$5,000

Appropriates funds to provide
initial funding for a grant
program to be administered
through the certified forest
resource manager grant fund.
Within 30 days of the
effective date of this Act,
the State Controller shall
transfer these funds to the
certified forest resource
manager grant fund.

Sec. 3. Allocation. The following funds are allocated from
Other Special Revenue funds to carry out the purposes of this Act.

2001-02 2002-03

46 **CONSERVATION, DEPARTMENT OF**
48 **Forest Policy and Management -**

Division of

2 All Other \$5,000 \$5,000
4
6 Allocates funds to provide
8 grants to assist foresters
with the costs of obtaining
certain certifications.'

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

FISCAL NOTE

14
16 2001-02 2002-03
18 **APPROPRIATIONS/ALLOCATIONS**
20 General Fund \$5,000
22 Other Funds 5,000 \$5,000

REVENUES

24
26 Other Funds \$5,000

28
30 This bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$5,000 in
32 fiscal year 2001-02 for the Division of Forest Policy and
Management within the Department of Conservation to provide
initial funding for a grant program to be administered through
the certified forest resource manager grant fund.

34
36 This bill also includes annual Other Special Revenue funds
38 allocations of \$5,000 beginning in fiscal year 2001-02 for the
newly established certified forest resource manager grant fund
within the Department of Conservation to provide grants to assist
foresters with the costs of obtaining certain certifications.

40
42 The Department of Conservation will incur some minor
44 additional costs to adopt certain rules pertaining to the
certified forest resource manager grant fund and to submit a
required report to the Legislature. These costs can be absorbed
within the department's existing budgeted resources.'

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1219, L.D. 1660

SUMMARY

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4 This amendment is the majority report of the committee. It
6 removes the provisions for tax credits in the original bill. It
8 retains a grant program for licensed professional foresters to
assist with costs of obtaining 3rd-party certification as forest
resource managers. It appropriates \$5,000 to establish the
certified forest resource manager grant fund. It also adds an
appropriation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT