

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(Filing No. S-395)

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

129TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 604, L.D. 1788, Bill, "An Act To Eliminate Online Burn Permit Fees for All Areas of the State"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1 and inserting the following:

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §9326, 3rd ¶, as amended by PL 2017, c. 449, §3, is further amended to read:

A person may apply for a permit to burn using the Internet or as otherwise provided in this article. When a person applies for and is issued a permit electronically pursuant to this section, a fee of \$7 must be paid. ~~From the \$7 fee, \$4 must be deposited in the General Fund, \$2 must be transferred to the municipality in which the permit is issued and the remainder of \$1 must be used to cover administrative costs. For a permit issued in the unorganized and deorganized areas, from the \$7 fee, \$6 must be deposited in the General Fund and the remainder of \$1 must be used to cover administrative costs~~ may not be charged.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §9327, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 449, §4, is amended to read:

6. Private party burn permit software to be provided at no charge. A vendor or owner of a private party burn permit software system may not charge a municipality for use of private party burn permit software approved under subsection 1.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF
Division of Forest Protection 0232**

Initiative: Provides funding for an online burn permit system from InforME.

1	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
2	All Other	\$0	\$9,600
3			
4	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$9,600</u>
5			

6 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
7 section number to read consecutively.

8 **SUMMARY**

9 This amendment clarifies that a person may not be charged a fee to obtain an online
10 burn permit.

11 The amendment also allows a vendor or owner of a private party burn permit
12 software system to charge a municipality for use of private party burn permit software.

13 The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

14 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

15 (See attached)



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1788

LR 2340(02)

An Act To Eliminate Online Burn Permit Fees for All Areas of the State

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-395)

Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	Projections FY 2021-22	Projections FY 2022-23
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$52,739	\$52,739	\$52,739
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	\$9,600	\$9,600	\$9,600
Revenue				
General Fund	\$0	(\$43,139)	(\$43,139)	(\$43,139)

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill would eliminate the \$7 fee the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF) charges for electronically issued burn permits via their online permit system. Currently, \$4 is deposited into the General Fund, \$2 is transferred to the municipality where the permit was issued and \$1 goes to InforME for the administrative cost of the online permit system. In unorganized areas, \$6 of the fee is deposited into the General Fund and \$1 is for the administrative costs of InforME. Beginning in fiscal year 2020-21, elimination of the fee would reduce annual General Fund revenue by \$43,139, reduce revenue to municipalities by approximately \$20,000 a year and reduce revenue available to pay InforME by \$9,600. The bill includes an ongoing General Fund appropriation to ACF of \$9,600 beginning in fiscal year 2020-21 to continue to pay InforME for burn permits issued through the state online system. Municipalities may incur additional costs if the vendor or owner of a private party burn permit software system chooses to impose fees for its use.