

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SA  
ROFS

L.D. 437

Date: 5/4/21

(Filing No. S- 75)

## MAJORITY

### AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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#### STATE OF MAINE

#### SENATE

#### 130TH LEGISLATURE

#### FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 179, L.D. 437, "An Act To Establish the Maine Healthy Soils Program"

Amend the bill in section 1 in c. 7 in §351 in subsection 4 in the first line (page 1, line 14 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "emissions benefits" and inserting the following: 'drawdown'

Amend the bill in section 1 in c. 7 in §351 in subsection 4 in the first line (page 1, line 14 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "emissions benefits" and inserting the following: 'drawdown'

Amend the bill in section 1 in c. 7 in §351 in subsection 5 in paragraph A in the last line (page 1, line 21 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "emissions benefits" and inserting the following: 'drawdown'

Amend the bill in section 1 in c. 7 in §352 by striking out all of the first indented paragraph (page 1, lines 37 and 38 and page 2, lines 1 to 4 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

'The Maine Healthy Soils Program, referred to in this chapter as "the program," is established within the department and is administered by the commissioner. The commissioner shall consult and cooperate with the University of Maine, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, soil and water conservation districts as defined in section 3, subsection 2 and the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service in the development and administration of the program. The commissioner may consult with the Department of Environmental Protection in carrying out the purpose of the program.'

Amend the bill in section 1 in c. 7 in §352 in subsection 1 in paragraph B in the 2nd line (page 2, line 9 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "emissions benefits" and inserting the following: 'drawdown'

Amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following:

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**Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF  
Maine Healthy Soils Fund N358**

Initiative: Provides an allocation to accept grants, bequests, gifts or contributions from any source, public or private, to support the administration of the healthy soils program.

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
All Other	\$500	\$500
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$500</b>

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

**SUMMARY**

This amendment changes "greenhouse gas emissions benefits" to "greenhouse gas drawdown" to more accurately reflect greenhouse gas emissions source reduction or sequestration. The amendment also clarifies that the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall not only consult but also cooperate with the University of Maine, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, state soil and water conservation districts and the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service in the development and administration of the Maine Healthy Soils Program. The amendment provides that the commissioner may consult with the Department of Environmental Protection in carrying out the purpose of the program. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
**(See attached)**



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 437

LR 1314(02)

## An Act To Establish the Maine Healthy Soils Program

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-75)  
 Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry  
 Fiscal Note Required: Yes

### Fiscal Note

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Projections FY 2023-24	Projections FY 2024-25
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill establishes the Maine Healthy Soils program within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF) to promote and expand the use of healthy soils and best practices among farmers and farmland owners. It requires the ACF to consult with the Department of Environmental Protection and cooperate with the University of Maine, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, state and soil conservation districts and the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, in the development and administration of the program.

The ACF has indicated that it will not require additional staffing at this time. The bill includes ongoing Other Special Revenue Funds allocations of \$500 starting in fiscal year 2021-22 to establish the Maine Healthy Soils Fund to allow acceptance of grants, bequests, gifts or contributions to support the program from any source, public or private. Any additional costs to the other state agencies referenced in this bill as a result of cooperation or consultation with the ACF are anticipated to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.