

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SAC  
ROES

L.D. 593

Date: 4/22/21

(Filing No. H-82)

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
130TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 436, L.D. 593, "An Act To Restore Regular Eelgrass Mapping in the State"

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

**'An Act To Restore Eelgrass Mapping and Enhance Salt Marsh Vegetation Mapping in the State'**

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

**'Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §1805 is enacted to read:**

**§1805. Eelgrass and salt marsh vegetation mapping**

In accordance with the requirements of this section and in consultation with the Department of Marine Resources, the department shall establish and administer an eelgrass and salt marsh vegetation mapping program. For the purposes of this section, "eelgrass" means the flowering marine plant species *Zostera marina* that is primarily found in shallow, protected intertidal and subtidal locations in the State. For the purposes of this section, "salt marsh vegetation" means salt-tolerant vegetation that contains a mixture of graminoids and forbs and sometimes includes cordgrasses.

**1. Mapping procedures.** The department shall in accordance with the schedule in subsection 3 facilitate the production and update of eelgrass and salt marsh vegetation distribution maps for eelgrass beds and salt marsh vegetation within the State. The data collected and the maps produced and updated in accordance with this section must, to the maximum extent practicable, be compatible with the State's geographic information system.

**2. Eelgrass and Salt Marsh Vegetation Mapping Fund.** The Eelgrass and Salt Marsh Vegetation Mapping Fund is created within the department as a nonlapsing dedicated fund to support the establishment and administration of the eelgrass and salt marsh vegetation mapping program required under this section. The fund may accept revenue from grants, bequests, gifts or contributions from any source, public or private.

1 **3. Mapping schedule.** The mapping of eelgrass beds and salt marsh vegetation  
 2 required under this section must be conducted in accordance with the following schedule,  
 3 as department resources allow.

4 A. No later than November 1, 2022, mapping must be completed for that portion of  
 5 the coast from Phippsburg to St. George and must be updated every 5 years thereafter.

6 B. No later than November 1, 2023, mapping must be completed for that portion of  
 7 the coast from St. George to Brooklin and must be updated every 5 years thereafter.

8 C. No later than November 1, 2024, mapping must be completed for that portion of  
 9 the coast from Brooklin to Jonesport and must be updated every 5 years thereafter.

10 D. No later than November 1, 2025, mapping must be completed for that portion of  
 11 the coast from Jonesport to Calais and must be updated every 5 years thereafter.

12 E. No later than November 1, 2026, mapping must be completed for that portion of  
 13 the coast from Eliot to Phippsburg and must be updated every 5 years thereafter.

14 **4. Availability of data and maps.** The department shall make available on its publicly  
 15 accessible website the data collected and maps produced and updated under this section.

16 **5. Report.** On or before March 1, 2023, and biennially thereafter, the department shall  
 17 submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over  
 18 environmental and natural resources matters a report summarizing the data collected and  
 19 maps produced and updated under this section and including an analysis, if available, of  
 20 the changes to the eelgrass beds and salt marsh vegetation within the State that are  
 21 demonstrated by the data collected and maps produced under this section.'

22 Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting the following:

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

25 **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF**

26 **Eelgrass and Salt Marsh Vegetation Mapping Fund N302**

27 Initiative: Provides an allocation to accept grants, bequests, gifts or contributions from any  
 28 source, public or private, to support the administration of the eelgrass and salt marsh  
 29 vegetation mapping program.

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

32			
33	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$500</b>

34 **Water Quality 0248**

35 Initiative: Provides appropriations for one Biologist II position and one Environmental  
 36 Technician position and All Other costs.

37 <b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
38 POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2,000	2,000
39 Personal Services	\$191,551	\$195,382
40 All Other	\$6,292	\$6,418

41

ROFS

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "4" to H.P. 436, L.D. 593

1	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$197,843	\$201,800
2	<b>Water Quality 0248</b>		
3	Initiative: Provides appropriations for aerial imagery acquisition and processing and annual		
4	equipment maintenance and replacement.		
5	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
6	All Other	\$86,671	\$129,825
7			
8	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$86,671	\$129,825
9			
10	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,</b>		
11	<b>DEPARTMENT OF</b>		
12	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
13			
14	GENERAL FUND	\$284,514	\$331,625
15	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$500	\$500
16			
17	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$285,014</b>	<b>\$332,125</b>
18			
19	Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section		
20	number to read consecutively.		

## SUMMARY

This amendment changes the title and, in addition to eelgrass, requires the Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Department of Marine Resources, to establish and administer a program to regularly produce and update maps regarding the distribution of salt marsh vegetation in the State. It also provides a definition for "salt marsh vegetation."

## FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)

# COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

**130th MAINE LEGISLATURE****LD 593****LR 869(02)****An Act To Restore Regular Eelgrass Mapping in the State****Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment****Committee: Environment and Natural Resources****Fiscal Note Required: Yes***A (H-82)*

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**Fiscal Note**

	<b>FY 2021-22</b>	<b>FY 2022-23</b>	<b>Projections FY 2023-24</b>	<b>Projections FY 2024-25</b>
<b>Net Cost (Savings)</b>				
General Fund	\$284,514	\$331,625	\$328,305	\$274,683
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
General Fund	\$284,514	\$331,625	\$328,305	\$274,683
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

**Fiscal Detail and Notes**

This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in consultation with the Department of Marine Resources (DMR), to establish and implement an eelgrass and salt marsh vegetation mapping program and publicly disseminate data and mapping information.

The bill includes General Fund appropriations to the Bureau of Water Quality within the DEP of \$197,843 in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$201,800 in fiscal year 2022-23 for one Biologist II position and one Environmental Technician position and associated All Other costs and \$86,671 in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$129,825 in fiscal year 2022-23 to collect aerial imagery, process maps, disseminate findings and maintain or replace equipment. The bill also includes ongoing Other Special Revenue Funds allocations of \$500 starting in fiscal year 2021-22 to establish the Eelgrass and Salt Marsh Vegetation Mapping 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 DMR to consult with the DEP are anticipated to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.