

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 315

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Date: 4/13/23

(Filing No. S-27 )

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**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

4

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**STATE OF MAINE**

6

**SENATE**

7

**131ST LEGISLATURE**

8

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

9

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 136, L.D. 315, "An Act to Provide  
10 Funding for Drought Relief and Other Programs Benefiting Maine Farmers"

11

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

12

**'Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not  
13 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

14

**Whereas,** climate change is making the availability of water more unpredictable for  
15 farmers, and it has been well documented that extreme weather patterns will continue; and

16

**Whereas,** of the State's 4 most recent droughts, 3 of them have occurred in 2020,  
17 2021 and 2022, and the State's farmers face a very uncertain future when it comes to  
18 sufficient water for crops; and

19

**Whereas,** this legislation makes necessary changes to immediately support farmers to  
20 move forward to develop sustainable water sources and invest in irrigation to mitigate risk  
21 of a changing climate and to help secure the State's food supply; and

22

**Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within  
23 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as  
24 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,  
25 therefore,'

26

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the  
27 following:

28

**'Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
29 allocations are made.

30

**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF**

31

**Bureau of Agriculture 0393**

32

Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for one Public Service Coordinator I position and  
33 associated All Other costs.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
2	POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1,000	1,000
3	Personal Services	\$80,125	\$112,618
4	All Other	\$2,625	\$3,500
5			
6	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$82,750</u>	<u>\$116,118</u>
7	<b>Maine Land Use Planning Commission Z236</b>		
8	Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for one Environmental Specialist II position and		
9	associated All Other costs.		
10	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
11	POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1,000	1,000
12	Personal Services	\$62,894	\$88,400
13	All Other	\$2,625	\$3,500
14			
15	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$65,519</u>	<u>\$91,900</u>
16	<b>Maine Land Use Planning Commission Z236</b>		
17	Initiative: Provides one-time funding for contracted services to review and overhaul the		
18	current water withdrawal permitting process.		
19	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
20	All Other	\$35,000	\$0
21			
22	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$35,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>
23	<b>Office of the Commissioner 0401</b>		
24	Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for information technology administration costs.		
25	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
26	All Other	\$5,816	\$7,754
27			
28	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$5,816</u>	<u>\$7,754</u>
29			
30	<b>AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND</b>		
31	<b>FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF</b>		
32	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
33			
34	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$189,085</b>	<b>\$215,772</b>
35			
36	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<u><b>\$189,085</b></u>	<u><b>\$215,772</b></u>
37	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF</b>		
38	<b>Administration - Environmental Protection 0251</b>		
39	Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for information technology administration costs.		
40	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
41	All Other	\$2,825	\$2,825
42			

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 136, L.D. 315 (S-27)

1	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$2,825	\$2,825
2	<b>Water Quality 0248</b>		
3	Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for one Environmental Specialist III position and		
4	associated All Other costs.		
5	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
6	POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
7	Personal Services	\$66,525	\$93,646
8	All Other	\$1,363	\$1,363
9			
10	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$67,888</u>	<u>\$95,009</u>
11			
12	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,</b>		
13	<b>DEPARTMENT OF</b>		
14	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
15			
16	GENERAL FUND	\$70,713	\$97,834
17			
18	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$70,713</u>	<u>\$97,834</u>
19			
20	<b>SECTION TOTALS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
21			
22	GENERAL FUND	\$259,798	\$313,606
23			
24	SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$259,798</u>	<u>\$313,606</u>

25

26 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation  
 27 takes effect when approved.'

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

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft. The amendment  
 32 implements some of the recommendations of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation  
 33 and Forestry January 2023 report, "Findings and Recommendations for Streamlining  
 34 Permitting New Sources of Water for Irrigation in Maine." The amendment adds an  
 35 emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill.

36 The amendment provides a one-time appropriation of \$35,000 in fiscal year 2023-24  
 37 in order for the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Maine Land Use  
 38 Planning Commission to hire a consultant to review and overhaul the current applications  
 39 to improve water withdrawal permitting.

40 The amendment establishes and provides ongoing funding for 3 full-time, permanent  
 41 positions: one within the Maine Land Use Planning Commission; one within the

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 136, L.D. 315 (5-27)

1 Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and  
2 Rural Resources' division of agricultural resource development; and one within the  
3 Department of Environmental Protection's Water Withdrawal Program.

4 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

5 (See attached)



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 315

LR 2064(02)

## An Act to Provide Funding for Drought Relief and Other Programs Benefiting Maine Farmers

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-27)  
 Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry  
 Fiscal Note Required: Yes

### Fiscal Note

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	Projections FY 2025-26	Projections FY 2026-27
<b>Net Cost (Savings)</b>				
General Fund	\$259,798	\$313,606	\$325,262	\$335,162
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
General Fund	\$259,798	\$313,606	\$325,262	\$335,162

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes ongoing General Fund appropriations to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF) of \$154,085 in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$215,772 in fiscal year 2024-25 for one Public Service Coordinator I position, one Environmental Specialist II position and associated costs. It includes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$35,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 to ACF for contracted services to review and overhaul the department's water withdrawal permitting process. The bill also includes ongoing General Fund appropriations to the Department of Environmental Protection of \$70,713 in fiscal year 2023-24 and \$97,834 in fiscal year 2024-25 for one Environmental Specialist III position and associated costs.