

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date *5-15-23* *Majority*

**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
131ST LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "*A*" to H P 628, L D 993, "An Act to Facilitate Stakeholder Input Regarding Forest Policy in Maine"

Amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 24-H in the 2nd line (page 1, line 4 in L D ) by striking out the following "Not Authorized" and inserting the following 'Expenses only'

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

**'Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §8007** is enacted to read

**§8007. Maine Forest Advisory Board established**

The Maine Forest Advisory Board, as established in Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 24-H and referred to in this section as "the board," advises the bureau and provides input in the development, updating and implementation of the state forest action plan required under the federal Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110-234 and Public Law 110-246.

**1. Membership.** The board consists of 10 members appointed by the Governor as follows

A A representative of a statewide organization representing the forest products industry,

B A representative of an organization representing professional logging contractors,

C A representative of a nonprofit corporation that owns a large amount of forested land in the State,

D A representative of a cooperative representing loggers in the State,

E A representative of a fisheries conservation organization with a statewide presence,

F A representative of a statewide organization representing small woodland owners in the State,

G A representative of a statewide organization representing outdoor enthusiasts, including, but not limited to, hunters and anglers, in the State,

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 H A representative of a statewide organization dedicated to wildlife issues,  
 2 I A wildlife biologist with expertise in forest habitat representing the University of  
 3 Maine System, and  
 4 J A representative who is a member of a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or  
 5 band in this State The appointment of the member of a federally recognized Indian  
 6 nation, tribe or band in this State must be based on the joint recommendation of the  
 7 tribal governments of the Mi'kmaq Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the  
 8 Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik and the  
 9 Penobscot Nation If the tribal governments do not make a recommendation or a  
 10 unanimous joint recommendation, the Governor shall appoint a member of a federally  
 11 recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in this State and rotate the appointment among  
 12 members of each federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in this State  
 13 At least one of the members must be a professional forester as defined in section 8868,  
 14 subsection 3 In making appointments under paragraphs A to I, the Governor shall consider  
 15 any person recommended by the organization the member is to represent

16 **2. Terms; quorum; meetings.** Members serve for a term of 3 years At the end of a  
 17 term, an outgoing member serves until a successor has been appointed A member may  
 18 serve multiple terms The board shall meet at least 4 times a year to conduct business and  
 19 to elect officers The board shall annually elect a chair A quorum consists of at least 6  
 20 members The affirmative vote of a majority of the members present is necessary to decide  
 21 any business brought before the board

22 **3. Duties of board.** The board shall advise and assist the bureau in the development  
 23 and implementation of the state forest action plan required under the federal Food,  
 24 Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110-234 and Public Law 110-246,  
 25 including conditions and trends in the forests of the State and policy, laws, rules, fiscal  
 26 needs and other factors affecting the use, ownership and management of forest resources '

27 Amend the bill by striking out all of section 3 and inserting the following

28 **'Sec. 3. State forest action plan; report.** No later than January 1, 2025, and every  
 29 10 years thereafter, the Director of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of  
 30 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall submit to the Governor and the Legislature a  
 31 report on the implementation of the state forest action plan required under the federal Food,  
 32 Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110-234 and Public Law 110-246

33 **Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
 34 allocations are made

35 **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF**  
 36 **Forest Resource Management Z233**

37 Initiative Provides funding for reimbursement of board expenses

38	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
39	All Other	\$5,130	\$5,130
40			
41	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$5,130	\$5,130

42 ' ,

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

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This amendment, which is the majority report, reduces the number of members on the  
5 Maine Forest Advisory Board from 21 to 10 and requires the Governor to appoint all  
6 members of the board. The amendment also requires that at least one member of the board  
7 be a professional forester. The amendment revises the duties of the board to advise and  
8 assist the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and  
9 Forestry in the development and implementation of the state forest action plan required  
10 under the federal Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. The amendment also  
11 requires the director of the bureau to submit to the Governor and the Legislature a decennial  
12 report on the implementation of the state forest action plan, beginning January 1, 2025.  
13 This amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

14 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

15 (See attached)



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 993

LR 811(02)

## An Act to Facilitate Stakeholder Input Regarding Forest Policy in Maine

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-143)  
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	\$5,130	\$5,130	\$5,130	\$5,130
<b>Appropriations/Allocations</b>				
General Fund	\$5,130	\$5,130	\$5,130	\$5,130

#### Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill creates the Maine Forest Advisory Board to advise the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF) regarding a variety of forestry issues and to provide input on the state forest action plan required under the federal Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008. The bill includes ongoing appropriations starting in fiscal year 2023-24 of \$5,130 to ACF for the reimbursement of board member expenses. While this bill does not include specific instructions for staffing to the board, ACF has indicated that if requested to provide staffing to the advisory board, the department may require additional funding of \$120,611 for one Senior Planner position, its associated costs and for the anticipated use of contracted facilitation services.

Additional costs to the University of Maine System associated with having a wildlife biologist representing the University of Maine participate on the advisory board can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.