

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1997

Date: 3/20/24

(Filing No. S-594)

**INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND
BUSINESS**

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 822, L.D. 1997, "An Act to Implement
Critical Reforms to the Department of Environmental Protection Outlined in the State
COVID-19 Reopening Plan"

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

**'An Act to Enhance Services Provided by the Department of Environmental
Protection'**

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

'Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §342, sub-§4, ¶B, as amended by PL 2009, c. 579, Pt. B, §5 and
affected by §13, is further amended by repealing the 2nd blocked paragraph.

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §342, sub-§4, ¶C is enacted to read:

C. The Office of Innovation and Assistance is established within the department to
provide assistance to the public and regulated entities in navigating and accessing
services offered by the department, including, but not limited to:

(1) Providing information regarding and assistance in the application process for
licenses, permits and other approvals issued by the department pursuant to this
Title and department rules; and

(2) Coordinating and consulting as necessary with other state agencies and entities,
including, but not limited to, the Business Ombudsman Program established
pursuant to Title 5, section 13063 within the Department of Economic and
Community Development, regarding the provision of such assistance to the public
and regulated entities.

Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §342, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2009, c. 579, Pt. B, §5 and
affected by §13, is further amended by enacting at the end a new last blocked paragraph to
read:

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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The commissioner shall identify a staff person or persons in each bureau of the department whose primary responsibility is to provide guidance to any party through the permit review process.

Sec. 4. 38 MRSA §344-B, 2nd ¶, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 804, Pt. B, §4 and affected by §7, is amended to read:

The provisions of this section apply only to new permit and license applications, except that the provisions of this section apply to all applications under chapter 3, subchapter 1, article 6.

Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF
Administration - Environmental Protection 0251**

Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for 2 Environmental Specialist III positions and associated costs to assist the public and regulated entities in navigating and accessing the services offered by the department.

GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$187,618
All Other	\$0	\$28,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$215,618

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

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill and changes the title. Current law provides that the Commissioner of Environmental Protection must determine and annually publish a processing time for new permit and license applications for each type of permit or license issued by the Department of Environmental Protection. The amendment provides that the commissioner must publish a processing time for all applications under the site location of development laws, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, chapter 3, subchapter 1, article 6. The amendment also establishes in the Maine Revised Statutes the Office of Innovation and Assistance within the Department of Environmental Protection to provide assistance to the public and regulated entities in navigating and accessing services offered by the department. The amendment provides ongoing appropriations for 2 positions and associated costs within the Administration - Environmental Protection program for the Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Innovation and Assistance to carry out the duties of the office.

The amendment also amends the language requiring the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to identify a staff person or persons in each bureau of the department whose primary responsibility is to provide guidance to any party through the

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 822, L.D. 1997 (S-594)

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permit review process so that the language applies to the entire department instead of to the Office of Pollution Prevention.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1997

LR 2425(02)

An Act to Implement Critical Reforms to the Department of Environmental Protection Outlined in the State COVID-19 Reopening Plan

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-594)
Committee: Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	Projections FY 2025-26	Projections FY 2026-27
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$215,618	\$224,998	\$234,848
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	\$215,618	\$224,998	\$234,848

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$215,618 starting in fiscal year 2024-25 to the Department of Environmental Protection for two Environmental Specialist III positions and associated costs to assist the public and regulated entities in navigating and accessing the services offered by the department.