

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LAWS**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF MAINE**

**AS PASSED BY THE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND SPECIAL SESSION**  
**September 29, 2021**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**  
**January 5, 2022 to May 9, 2022**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**SECOND SPECIAL SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**DECEMBER 29, 2021**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**AUGUST 8, 2022**

**PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES**  
**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,**  
**TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.**

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**Augusta, Maine**  
**2022**

tureland, including seeding and actions to promote rotational grazing; ~~for the design or implementation of improvements to infrastructure, equipment and natural resources to enhance a commercial agricultural enterprise's climate adaptation or mitigation capacity; for refinancing existing loans used to finance eligible uses as defined in this section; or, if the commissioner so approves at the time of loan insurance commitment, to pledge money in the fund as security for, and to apply money in the fund to, payment of principal, interest and other amounts due on any term loans insured by the Finance Authority of Maine to an eligible dairy farmer. Repayment of these loans and interest on these loans must be credited to the fund and may be used for the purposes stated in this section or Title 7, section 436. Interest earned on money in the fund and interest earned on loans made from the fund may be used to pay the administrative costs of processing loan applications and servicing and administering the fund and loans and grants made from the fund since the inception of the agricultural marketing loan program, to the extent that these costs exceed the fee for administrative costs established by Title 7, section 435, subsection 4.~~

**Sec. 12. Transfer balance of interest in the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no later than September 1, 2022 the Finance Authority of Maine shall transfer the balance of realized interest in the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund, as established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 1023-J, and any previously awarded agricultural development grant funds that have not been paid to grantees to the Agricultural Development Fund, as established under Title 7, section 306-A, through a transfer to the Agricultural Development Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account.

**Sec. 13. Transfer from unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2023, the State Controller shall transfer \$467,240 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Agricultural Development Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account.

**Sec. 14. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

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

**Bureau of Agriculture 0393**

Initiative: Provides a one-time allocation for grants to public agencies, private for-profit entities and nonprofit entities based in the State to conduct market research or to undertake market promotion activities for the purpose of expanding existing markets and developing new markets for state agricultural products; to test and

demonstrate new technologies related to the production, storage and processing of state agricultural products; and to provide technical assistance grants for conducting market research, feasibility studies, engineering studies, construction planning, land use planning, facility design and configuration planning and funding the purchase of on-farm equipment and other technology purchases that directly support the growth of agricultural enterprises.

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
All Other	\$0	\$617,240
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	\$617,240
FUNDS TOTAL		

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 711**

**S.P. 106 - L.D. 245**

**An Act Regarding Consumer-owned Water Utilities**

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §6410-A** is enacted to read:

**§6410-A. Consumer-owned water utilities; lack of quorum**

**1. Appointment of receiver.** If, after investigation, the commission determines that the board of trustees of a consumer-owned water utility, as defined in section 6101, subsection 1-A, lacks a sufficient number of duly elected trustees to constitute a quorum, the commission may appoint a receiver to oversee the operations of the utility. A receiver appointed by the commission pursuant to this subsection has all the authorities granted to a full board of trustees pursuant to this chapter until such time as the board of trustees for the utility includes a sufficient number of duly elected trustees to constitute a quorum.

**2. Costs.** The commission may include the cost of appointing receivers pursuant to subsection 1 in the assessment charged to consumer-owned water utilities in accordance with section 116, subsection 1.

**3. Rules.** The commission may adopt by rule standards and procedures necessary for the administration of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

See title page for effective date.