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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

TO: Senator Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair
Representative Drew Gattine, House Chair, and
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM: Senator Rachel Talbot Ross, Senate Chair *RT*
Representative William Pluecker, House Chair, and *WDP*
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and
Forestry

DATE: March 11, 2025

RE: Biennial Budget (LD 210) Recommendations

The Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF) Committee is pleased to submit the following report for the proposed biennial budget initiatives related to Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (see attached report-back document) for fiscal years ending 2025, 2026 and 2027. The ACF Committee voted unanimously in favor all initiatives and language parts with the exception of the following.

A majority of committee members voted “out” Ref. #287 on Page 8 (6 in favor; 2 opposed) and would like to amend language part W (6 in favor; 2 opposed). This amendment provides one-time funding, in the amount of \$500,000 from the General Fund unappropriated surplus for Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection, rather than community-based greenhouses as proposed in the Governor’s budget.

PART W is amended to read:

Sec. W-1. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; Department of Agriculture, ~~Community-based greenhouse—Bureau of Agriculture.~~ Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Program Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2026, the State Controller shall transfer \$500,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Other Special Revenue Funds ~~Community-based greenhouse—Bureau of Agriculture~~ Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Program, within the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources for one-time funding to support public-private partnerships to carry out the purposes of the program. ~~for grants for durable (glass, polycarbonate, etc.) greenhouse structures and associated siting and installation costs to schools, community centers, and other eligible public entities as determined~~

~~by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for shared and educational uses, and to enhance community-based opportunities for food production.~~

To support the amendment in language part W, a majority of the ACF Committee voted in favor (6 in favor; 2 opposed) of the following new initiative:

Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Program

This new initiative establishes an allocation in the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection program within the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to support public-private partnerships to carry out the purposes of the program. The funding is from a one-time transfer of General Fund unappropriated surplus in fiscal year 2025-2026 in the amount of \$500,000.

In addition, the ACF Committee voted unanimously in favor of amending language Part S to clarify that the interest-bearing account to support public-private partnerships to carry out the purposes of the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection program is a sub-unit within the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

PART S is amended to read:

5. Funding. A separate non-lapsing, interest-bearing account, administered by the department, is established in the department within the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to support public-private partnerships to carry out the purposes of the program. The account consists of money appropriated or allocated to it or received from any private or public source.

Again, to support the amendment to language part S, the ACF Committee voted unanimously in favor of the following new initiative which establishes an on-going baseline allocation in the amount of \$500 beginning in fiscal year ending 2026 in the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection program within the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to support public-private partnerships to carry out the purposes of the program

Thank you for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

- c: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
- Members, Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Sec. A-2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

Animal Welfare Fund 0946

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 13.500 | 13.500 | 13.500 | 13.500 |
| Personal Services | \$1,217,824 | \$1,258,697 | \$1,339,485 | \$1,420,860 |
| All Other | \$1,469,061 | \$1,476,299 | \$1,476,299 | \$1,476,299 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$2,686,885 | \$2,734,996 | \$2,815,784 | \$2,897,159 |

Justification:

The Animal Welfare Program works to ensure the humane and proper treatment of animals by administering the animal welfare laws of Maine through communication, education, and enforcement. Duties include investigating animal cruelty complaints, training local animal control officers and inspecting and licensing boarding kennels, breeding kennels, animal shelters, pet shops, and research facilities. It also administers the Help Fix ME spay/neuter program for low income dog and cat owners.

Animal Welfare Fund 0946

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide insurance coverage provided through the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Division of Risk Management based on claims experience, coverage increases, attorney fees on claims and actuarially recommended reserves.

Ref. #: 377
 Ref # 289 & 290, p.9; Ref # 441, p.28; Ref # 447, p.31;
 Ref # 465, p.39; Ref # 486, p.44; Ref # 510, p.53; Ref # 477, p.64; Ref # 424, p.72; Ref # 403, p.76

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | |
| All Other | \$1,077 | \$1,077 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$1,077 | \$1,077 |

Justification:

The Division of Risk Management within DAFS provides high quality insurance, loss control and claims services to all state agencies, the State's higher education institutions and some quasi-state agencies at the lowest possible cost. The rates are applicable to various insurance lines provided by the States self-insurance program and have been calculated in accordance with Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5 section 1733. The 2026-2027 budget includes rate increases in the Tort Policy based on claims experience, coverage increases, attorney fees on claims, and actuarially recommended reserves.

Animal Welfare Fund 0946

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide central fleet management services provided by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Ref. #: 378
 Ref # 291 & 292 & 293, p.9; Ref # 448, p.31;
 Ref # 466 & 467; p.39; Ref # 511, p.53; Ref # 404 & 405 & 406, p.76

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | |

| | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| All Other | \$2,207 | \$5,885 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$2,207 | \$5,885 |

Justification:

Central Fleet Management within DAFS centrally procures, distributes and disposes of passenger and light truck vehicles. CFM handles many aspects of vehicle services including writing vehicle specifications, ordering vehicles, providing drivers with maintenance schedules, service assistance, fueling resources, insurance protection and accident information processing. Central Fleet is established as an internal service fund intended to recoup their costs through daily and long term rental billings to departments and agencies. CFM expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs, including fuel and vehicle purchase price. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

**ANIMAL WELFARE FUND 0946
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 13.500 | 13.500 | 13.500 | 13.500 |
| Personal Services | \$1,217,824 | \$1,258,697 | \$1,339,485 | \$1,420,860 |
| All Other | \$1,469,061 | \$1,476,299 | \$1,479,583 | \$1,483,261 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$2,686,885 | \$2,734,996 | \$2,819,068 | \$2,904,121 |

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 69.000 | 69.000 | 69.000 | 69.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Personal Services | \$6,762,087 | \$7,115,434 | \$7,839,947 | \$8,273,714 |
| All Other | \$2,698,468 | \$2,890,303 | \$2,855,803 | \$2,855,803 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$2,250,000 | \$58,436 | \$0 | \$0 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$11,710,555 | \$10,064,173 | \$10,695,750 | \$11,129,517 |
| | | | | |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 8.500 | 8.500 | 8.500 | 8.500 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 0.815 | 0.815 | 0.815 | 0.815 |
| Personal Services | \$1,099,758 | \$1,135,675 | \$1,151,650 | \$1,221,748 |
| All Other | \$2,984,711 | \$2,985,375 | \$2,975,591 | \$2,975,491 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$4,084,469 | \$4,121,050 | \$4,127,241 | \$4,197,239 |
| | | | | |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 19.000 | 19.000 | 19.000 | 19.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 8.210 | 8.210 | 8.652 | 8.652 |
| Personal Services | \$2,346,875 | \$2,432,334 | \$2,637,948 | \$2,817,352 |
| All Other | \$1,979,929 | \$2,982,713 | \$2,982,713 | \$2,982,713 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$0 | \$750,000 | \$0 | \$0 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$4,326,804 | \$6,165,047 | \$5,620,661 | \$5,800,065 |
| | | | | |
| FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$600,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL | \$600,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| | | | | |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$110,424 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL | \$110,424 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |

Justification:

The Bureau is primarily responsible for animal and plant health, farm and consumer quality assurance, food safety, agricultural product marketing, and partnerships that promote rural educational events. The Bureau is charged with developing programs and strategies that enhance the viability of Maine farms and its agricultural sector as well with

developing the public's understanding of the importance of Maine agriculture to the State's economy, the vitality of rural communities, and Maine's quality of life.

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Planning and Research Associate II position previously continued by Public Law 2023, chapter 17 to work with the federal emergency food assistance program and commodity supplemental food program. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 277
Ref # 308 p.14

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Personal Services | \$109,011 | \$117,109 |
| All Other | \$8,262 | \$8,606 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$117,273 | \$125,715 |

Justification:

This request continues a position within The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) responsible for food procurement and allocation, the monitoring of recipient agencies receiving assistance, and enhancing the existing Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) that supplements low-income elderly people's diets with USDA foods. A USDA audit highlighted necessary improvements by the department for its CSFP program, which this position will specifically focus on.

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Environmental Licensing Supervisor position previously established by Public Law 2023, chapter 448 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 278
Ref # 309 & 310 p.15

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Personal Services | \$142,660 | \$153,439 |
| All Other | \$3,500 | \$3,500 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$146,160 | \$156,939 |

Justification:

This position was established as limited-period in Public Law 2023, chapter 448. That law requires the department to develop and direct a permitting program for solar energy developments proposed on high-value agricultural lands greater than 5 acres. Given the pace and ongoing demand for renewable energy development in Maine, the newly established permitting program requires dedicated and ongoing staffing to effectively coordinate and oversee its successful implementation.

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Planning and Research Associate II position previously established by Public Law 2021, chapter 635 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 279
 Ref # 311 & 312 p.15

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Personal Services | \$112,269 | \$120,631 |
| All Other | \$3,500 | \$3,500 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$115,769 | \$124,131 |

Justification:

This position helps manage a number of critical animal health programs effectively that require ongoing oversight. Made permanent, this position will also manage the animal disease traceability (ADT) program for the State of Maine. Associated responsibilities include data entry, licensee correspondence, monitoring of program compliance, maintenance of ADT records, and other administrative tasks. This position also participates in livestock inspections and disease surveillance activities with Animal Health Program Managers, and supports emergency response activities (e.g., highly pathogenic avian influenza).

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Establishes one Entomology Technician position using savings from 2 seasonal Entomology Technician positions and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 280

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | (0.815) | (0.815) |
| Personal Services | (\$5,874) | (\$5,793) |
| All Other | (\$247) | (\$243) |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | (\$6,121) | (\$6,036) |

Justification:

This proposal will provide continuity in the survey and early detection of invasive pests in agricultural and horticultural crops and forest resources. This work is key to our ability to find invasive pests early and then eradicate or manage them before they become exponentially more expensive to handle. The current seasonal positions are insufficient to meet these challenges and are increasingly difficult to staff.

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Establishes one Entomology Technician position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 281

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

Ref # 314 p.16

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Personal Services | \$82,153 | \$88,127 |
| All Other | \$18,886 | \$19,964 |

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$101,039

\$108,091

Justification:

This position will allow the department to reach the majority of plant sellers every year, reduce the risk of invasive species spreading, and improve the quality of plants sold to the public. The position will focus on preventing the sale of banned plants and reducing the risk of invasive plants, jumping worms, and other pests in plant pots or rootballs. Further, the position will concentrate on education and outreach and will add staffing to the Plant Health Programs that will enhance the overall response capacity to new invasive species incursions.

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Continues one limited-period Planning and Research Associate I position previously continued by Financial Order 003627 F5 through June 19, 2027. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 282
Ref # 317 p.17

One Time

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

2025-26 2026-27

Personal Services

\$95,804 \$102,812

All Other

\$7,670 \$7,964

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL

\$103,474 \$110,776

Justification:

The position recruits AmeriCorps VISTA members to staff positions at government, community, and educational sites under the umbrella of the department's Ending Hunger Corps, a fundamental program in Maine's legislated initiative to end hunger in Maine by 2030. This program has provided capacity-building services to over 1,200 organizations, served 81,980 individuals and provided 1.2 million lbs. of food. Overall, 150,100 Mainers have reported increased food security. Making this position permanent will help to grow the program's remarkable impact.

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Establishes one Senior Planner position in the agricultural resource development division and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 283
Ref # 319 & 320 p.18

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

2025-26 2026-27

POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT

1,000 1,000

Personal Services

\$106,437 \$114,800

All Other

\$3,500 \$3,500

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

\$109,937 \$118,300

Justification:

This position will provide support to Maine farms and food producers to develop and access new market opportunities. The position will be responsible for monitoring trends and maintaining relationships to match Maine food businesses with available resources and programs to enable them to explore, assess, and access new market channels for their businesses (both in and out of state) and to best position their products in these markets.

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to replace a Somascope for the Milk Quality Laboratory.

Ref. #: 284 One Time Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | |
| Capital Expenditures | \$0 | \$75,000 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$75,000</u> |

Justification:

The Maine Milk Quality Lab provides essential and low-cost milk testing for Maine's dairy producers. This instrument measures somatic cell counts (white blood cells found in milk), which helps to determine the quality and rate of pay for producers as well as the health of the cow/herd. Test results provided by this equipment are regulated by Maine statute. The lab currently owns an antiquated Somascope that frequently needs repair, and supply chain issues have made sourcing parts very slow and expensive.

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to replace a mass comparator for the Metrology Laboratory.

Ref. #: 285 One Time Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | |
| Capital Expenditures | \$0 | \$65,000 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$65,000</u> |

Justification:

The Maine Metrology Laboratory maintains nine (9) mass comparators (balances) that are integral to calibrating and maintaining the weights and measures standards of the State of Maine and for many in and out-of-state labs, service companies, and private industry. Seven (7) of the nine balances are 20+ years old and considered obsolete by the manufacturers, with no parts available. This request continues the lab's long-term effort to replace the balances, which the Legislature began supporting in fiscal year 2021-22, and is essential to allow it to maintain its services while spreading the overall cost of the upgrade effort over multiple years.

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Provides funding to meet the statutory requirement of conducting an independent study for each of the 3 distinct segments of the milk industry in Maine in cycles of no less than every 3 years. This request funds one study per year.

Ref. #: 286 Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | |
| All Other | \$65,000 | \$65,000 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <u>\$65,000</u> | <u>\$65,000</u> |

Justification:

The Maine Milk Commission is tasked with conducting essential studies that inform the setting of minimum milk prices as well as legislative and administrative policy decisions. Historically, the Commission has been the sole source of funding for these studies, which are conducted by qualified third-party consultants and have continued to increase in cost. In fiscal year 2023, the legislature provided funding to support a cost of production study. Additional funding is required to support the timely acquisition of these studies by the Commission for it to meet statutory and policy needs and obligations.

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for grants for durable (glass, polycarbonate, etc.) greenhouse structures and associated siting and installation costs to schools, community centers, and other eligible public entities as determined by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for shared and educational uses, and to enhance community-based opportunities for food production.

Ref. #: 287 One Time Committee Vote: OUT 6-2 AFA Vote: _____

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| All Other | \$500,000 | \$0 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$500,000 | \$0 |

Notes:

See Part W

Justification:

This initiative provides resources for the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to make grants for durable (glass, polycarbonate, etc.) greenhouse structures and associated siting and installation costs to schools, community centers, and other eligible public entities for shared and educational uses, and to enhance community-based opportunities for food production. The funding is from a one-time transfer of General Fund unappropriated surplus in fiscal year 2025-26.

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Continues one limited-period Public Service Coordinator I position previously continued by Financial Order 003626 F5 through June 19, 2027. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 288 One Time Committee Vote: IN 9-0 AFA Vote: _____
Ref # 326 p.19

| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Personal Services | \$138,927 | \$149,384 |
| All Other | \$9,480 | \$9,920 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$148,407 | \$159,304 |

Justification:

This current position began work in May 2024 with USDA funding to manage the administration of ~\$11M in critical PFAS research funding (e.g., oversee the process of granting research funds, manage scientific communications, and establish a research station). The research projects are expected to endure through at least FY29, and the research station is expected to be a permanent facility.

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide insurance coverage provided through the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Division of Risk Management based on claims experience, coverage increases, attorney fees on claims and actuarially recommended reserves.

Ref. #: 289
 Ref # 377, p.1; Ref # 441, p.28; Ref # 447, p.31;
 Ref # 465, p.39; Ref # 486, p.44; Ref # 510, p.53; Ref # 477, p.64; Ref # 424, p.72; Ref # 403, p.76

Committee Vote: IN 9-0 AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$15,050 | \$15,050 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$15,050 | \$15,050 |

Ref. #: 290 Committee Vote: IN 9-0 AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$242 | \$242 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$242 | \$242 |

Justification:

The Division of Risk Management within DAFS provides high quality insurance, loss control and claims services to all state agencies, the State's higher education institutions and some quasi-state agencies at the lowest possible cost. The rates are applicable to various insurance lines provided by the States self-insurance program and have been calculated in accordance with Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5 section 1733. The 2026-2027 budget includes rate increases in the Tort Policy based on claims experience, coverage increases, attorney fees on claims, and actuarially recommended reserves.

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide central fleet management services provided by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Ref. #: 291
 Ref # 378, p.1-2; Ref # 448, p.31; Ref # 466 & 467, p.39;
 Ref # 511, p.53; Ref # 404 & 405 & 406, p.76

Committee Vote: IN 9-0 AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$51,980 | \$68,950 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$51,980 | \$68,950 |

Ref. #: 292 Committee Vote: IN 9-0 AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$593 | \$1,579 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$593 | \$1,579 |

Ref. #: 293 Committee Vote: IN 9-0 AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Personal Services | \$4,092 | \$6,710 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$4,092 | \$6,710 |

Ref. #: 297

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Personal Services | \$2,731 | \$4,476 |
| All Other | \$115 | \$188 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$2,846 | \$4,664 |

Notes:

Not Part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

Justification:

This initiative funds an employee-initiated reclassification to align work functions with the appropriate classification. The reclassification was approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on July 1, 2024.

**BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE 0393
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| GENERAL FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 69.000 | 69.000 | 72.000 | 72.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Personal Services | \$6,762,087 | \$7,115,434 | \$8,213,563 | \$8,678,877 |
| All Other | \$2,698,468 | \$2,890,303 | \$2,998,333 | \$3,015,303 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$2,250,000 | \$58,436 | \$0 | \$140,000 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$11,710,555 | \$10,064,173 | \$11,211,896 | \$11,834,180 |
| | | | | |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 8.500 | 8.500 | 10.500 | 10.500 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 0.815 | 0.815 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Personal Services | \$1,099,758 | \$1,135,675 | \$1,492,249 | \$1,589,736 |
| All Other | \$2,984,711 | \$2,985,375 | \$3,001,706 | \$3,003,747 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$4,084,469 | \$4,121,050 | \$4,493,955 | \$4,593,483 |
| | | | | |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 19.000 | 19.000 | 20.000 | 20.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 8.210 | 8.210 | 8.652 | 8.652 |
| Personal Services | \$2,346,875 | \$2,432,334 | \$2,711,943 | \$2,895,896 |
| All Other | \$1,979,929 | \$2,982,713 | \$3,502,074 | \$3,004,452 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$0 | \$750,000 | \$0 | \$0 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$4,326,804 | \$6,165,047 | \$6,214,017 | \$5,900,348 |
| | | | | |
| FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$600,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL | \$600,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| | | | | |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$110,424 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL | \$110,424 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |

Certified Seed Fund 0787

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 7.000 | 7.000 | 7.000 | 7.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 0.500 | 0.500 | 0.500 | 0.500 |
| Personal Services | \$564,070 | \$581,171 | \$637,697 | \$674,850 |
| All Other | \$361,603 | \$367,828 | \$367,828 | \$367,828 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$925,673 | \$948,999 | \$1,005,525 | \$1,042,678 |

Justification:

The Seed Potato Certification program inspects seed potatoes at the field and shipping point for regulated diseases, tests seed potato samples post-harvest to determine the final disease content of the seed potatoes they represent, and certifies seed oats and barley. Program staff also conduct surveys to demonstrate Maine's freedom from quarantine pests, such as Golden Nematode and Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid, to assist seed producers in accessing export markets.

CERTIFIED SEED FUND 0787

PROGRAM SUMMARY

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 7.000 | 7.000 | 7.000 | 7.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 0.500 | 0.500 | 0.500 | 0.500 |
| Personal Services | \$564,070 | \$581,171 | \$637,697 | \$674,850 |
| All Other | \$361,603 | \$367,828 | \$367,828 | \$367,828 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$925,673 | \$948,999 | \$1,005,525 | \$1,042,678 |

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| GENERAL FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 7.000 | 7.000 | 7.000 | 7.000 |
| Personal Services | \$1,142,381 | \$1,189,837 | \$1,370,331 | \$1,430,512 |
| All Other | \$4,317,335 | \$4,370,621 | \$4,364,037 | \$4,364,037 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$5,459,716 | \$5,560,458 | \$5,734,368 | \$5,794,549 |

| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| All Other | \$0 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$0 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 |

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 14.000 | 16.000 | 16.000 | 16.000 |
| Personal Services | \$1,579,871 | \$1,823,876 | \$1,981,327 | \$2,085,220 |
| All Other | \$57,309,345 | \$57,375,469 | \$57,374,299 | \$57,374,299 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$58,889,216 | \$59,199,345 | \$59,355,626 | \$59,459,519 |

Justification:

The Commissioner's Office develops and implements policy and provides operational direction to the department. It coordinates and supervises the activities and programs of the several bureaus and commissions. The unit defines the functions and responsibilities of the various programs, promotes coordination between the programs and facilitates their execution. Responsibilities include protecting and managing agricultural, forest and natural resources, promoting agriculture, outdoor recreation and natural resource-based industries, and promoting wise use land use management in the communities, unorganized territories, and coastal areas of the state.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Planning and Research Associate II position previously continued by Public Law 2023, chapter 17 to work with the federal emergency food assistance program and commodity supplemental food program. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 308
Ref 277 p.4

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| All Other | \$4,648 | \$4,648 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$4,648 | \$4,648 |

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$696 \$696

Justification:

This position helps manage a number of critical animal health programs effectively that require ongoing oversight. Made permanent, this position will also manage the animal disease traceability (ADT) program for the State of Maine. Associated responsibilities include data entry, licensee correspondence, monitoring of program compliance, maintenance of ADT records, and other administrative tasks. This position also participates in livestock inspections and disease surveillance activities with Animal Health Program Managers, and supports emergency response activities (e.g., highly pathogenic avian influenza).

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Establishes one Entomology Technician position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 314

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

Ref # 281 p.5

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

2025-26 2026-27

All Other

\$4,648 \$4,648

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$4,648 \$4,648

Justification:

This position will allow the department to reach the majority of plant sellers every year, reduce the risk of invasive species spreading, and improve the quality of plants sold to the public. The position will focus on preventing the sale of banned plants and reducing the risk of invasive plants, jumping worms, and other pests in plant pots or rootballs. Further, the position will concentrate on education and outreach and will add staffing to the Plant Health Programs that will enhance the overall response capacity to new invasive species incursions.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Establishes one Public Service Manager II position for water resource management and technical assistance and agricultural irrigation funding oversight.

Ref. #: 315

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

Ref # 531 p.34

GENERAL FUND

2025-26 2026-27

All Other

\$3,353 \$3,353

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

\$3,353 \$3,353

Ref. #: 316

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

2025-26 2026-27

All Other

\$696 \$696

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$696 \$696

Justification:

Increased frequency of drought conditions are growing the demand for irrigation water source development assistance for Maine farmers. This position will assist agricultural producers in making sustainable, environmentally sound irrigation improvements to their farms statewide, assist in technical evaluations, and guide the completion of permit application forms. It will also administer the new Farmer Drought Relief Grant Program within the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources and help producers navigate the grant process to acquire funding. It will also provide staff support to the Agricultural Water Management Board, coordinate water resource management information sharing between LUPC, DEP, and other agencies, and provide general guidance to agricultural producers regarding water conservation techniques and sustainable water management.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Continues one limited-period Planning and Research Associate I position previously continued by Financial Order 003627 F5 through June 19, 2027. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 317 One Time Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____
Ref # 282 p.6

| | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$4,648 | \$4,648 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$4,648 | \$4,648 |

Justification:

The position recruits AmeriCorps VISTA members to staff positions at government, community, and educational sites under the umbrella of the department's Ending Hunger Corps, a fundamental program in Maine's legislated initiative to end hunger in Maine by 2030. This program has provided capacity-building services to over 1,200 organizations, served 81,980 individuals and provided 1.2 million lbs. of food. Overall, 150,100 Mainers have reported increased food security. Making this position permanent will help to grow the program's remarkable impact.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Public Service Coordinator I position previously established by Financial Order 003897 F5 to manage financial and technical assistance in the agricultural resource development division. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs and establishes baseline allocation in the Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account.

Ref. #: 318 Committee Vote: IN 7-0 AFA Vote: _____
Ref # 537 & 538 p.55

| | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$4,648 | \$4,648 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$4,648 | \$4,648 |

Justification:

Oversees the Maine Agriculture, Food, and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment Fund and staff the fund's legislatively mandated Advisory Group. Provide strategic oversight to all of the State's ongoing and one-time grant and loan programs to ensure maximum access and impact. Programs overseen include ADG, AMLF, DIF, SCBG, RFSI, and AIP.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Establishes one Senior Planner position in the agricultural resource development division and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 319
 Ref # 283 p.6

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| All Other | \$3,353 | \$3,353 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$3,353 | \$3,353 |

Ref. #: 320

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| All Other | \$696 | \$696 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$696 | \$696 |

Justification:

This position will provide support to Maine farms and food producers to develop and access new market opportunities. The position will be responsible for monitoring trends and maintaining relationships to match Maine food businesses with available resources and programs to enable them to explore, assess, and access new market channels for their businesses (both in and out of state) and to best position their products in these markets.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Provides funding for the increase in the cost of legal services provided by the Department of the Attorney General.

Ref. #: 321

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| All Other | \$0 | \$27,776 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$0 | \$27,776 |

Justification:

This initiative provides funding based on estimates provided by the Department of the Attorney General for legal services.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Provides funding for the department's share of the cost for the financial and human resources service center within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Ref. #: 322

Committee Vote: IN 7-0

AFA Vote: _____

| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| All Other | \$86,535 | \$132,844 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$86,535 | \$132,844 |

Ref. #: 323

Committee Vote: IN 7-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$96,543 | \$148,277 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$96,543 | \$148,277 |

Justification:

Service Centers within DAFS provide centralized accounting, payroll, budgeting and human resources services to departments and agencies. Service Centers are established as internal service funds intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies for services provided. Service Center expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Establishes one Management Analyst II position to support the PFAS Fund and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 325

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Personal Services | \$102,312 | \$110,178 |
| All Other | \$27,023 | \$28,426 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$129,335 | \$138,604 |

Justification:

The PFAS Fund is responsible for administering \$65 million and needs a staff member dedicated to financial administration. This position will be responsible for assisting with the development and management of administrative policies, procedures, and programs supporting the PFAS Fund's four program areas: financial support to impacted producers, land acquisition and management, research, and health initiatives. It will assist with evaluating, executing, and adapting PFAS-related programs requiring administrative, financial, contractual, and information management review.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Continues one limited-period Public Service Coordinator I position previously continued by Financial Order 003626 F5 through June 19, 2027. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 326

One Time

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

Ref # 288 p.8

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$4,648 | \$4,648 |

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$4,648

\$4,648

Justification:

This current position began work in May 2024 with USDA funding to manage the administration of ~\$11M in critical PFAS research funding (e.g., oversee the process of granting research funds, manage scientific communications, and establish a research station). The research projects are expected to endure through at least FY29, and the research station is expected to be a permanent facility.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Public Service Coordinator I position previously continued by Financial Order 003610 F5 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 327

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

2025-26

2026-27

POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT

1.000

1.000

Personal Services

\$122,146

\$131,828

All Other

\$30,560

\$32,287

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$152,706

\$164,115

Justification:

This position provides critical financial management and policy/administrative guidance throughout the department and is necessary to manage the ongoing additional resources provided to the department. The position develops administrative procedures to follow policy impacting the efficiency of program operations and internal controls, including audit compliance over significant fiscal resources.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Historic Site Specialist position previously established by Public Law 2021, chapter 635 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 329

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

Ref # 400 p.75

GENERAL FUND

2025-26

2026-27

All Other

\$3,353

\$3,353

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

\$3,353

\$3,353

Ref. #: 330

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

2025-26

2026-27

All Other

\$696

\$696

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$696

\$696

Justification:

This position in the Municipal Planning Assistance Program assembles and provides data to municipalities via new web-based tools as required by Title 30-A§ 4326, provides administrative support for the Coastal Community Grant program to support local/municipal climate resilience, and for the Regional Council contracts that support housing and land use technical assistance to municipalities. This position plays an essential role in developing GIS tools in support of the program.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Senior Planner position in the Geology and Resource Information program previously established by Public Law 2021, chapter 635 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 337
Ref # 484 p.43

Committee Vote: IN 9-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| All Other | \$3,353 | \$3,353 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$3,353 | \$3,353 |

Ref. #: 338

Committee Vote: IN 9-0 AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| All Other | \$696 | \$696 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$696 | \$696 |

Justification:

This makes permanent one Senior Planner position to implement the state climate action plan, support inter-agency collaboration and secure federal funds for climate initiatives. Incumbent supports multiple programs within the Bureau and Agency providing research and community outreach materials on inland flood modeling, wildfire risk assessment and mitigation, natural and working lands conservation, and community resilience.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Secretary Associate position previously established by Public Law 2021, chapter 635 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 339
Ref # 485 p.44

Committee Vote: IN 9-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| All Other | \$3,353 | \$3,353 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$3,353 | \$3,353 |

Ref. #: 340

Committee Vote: IN 9-0 AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

2025-26 2026-27

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$134,681

\$137,936

Justification:

MaineIT is responsible for the delivery of safe, secure, and high-performing networks and systems to State Agencies for daily performance of their missions for the citizens of Maine. IT enterprise functions benefitting all state agencies are managed through this office to ensure consistency, volume discount efficiencies, and optimum performance and throughput. MaineIT is established as an internal service fund intended to recoup their costs through billings to departments and agencies for services provided. MaineIT expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs, including vendor increases, supply chain costs, and network and systems modernization and upgrades. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies. This also includes increased departmental needs for services.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Continues one Limited Period Senior Planner position established by Financial Order AGR00-0031 through June 18, 2027 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 359
Ref # 408 p.77

One Time

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

All Other

2025-26

2026-27

\$3,353

\$3,353

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

\$3,353

\$3,353

Ref. #: 360

One Time

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

All Other

2025-26

2026-27

\$611

\$611

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$611

\$611

Justification:

This position would support the General Fund Bond to Promote the Design, Development and Maintenance of Trails for Outdoor Recreation and Active Transportation approved by voters in November 2024 within the Bureau of Parks and Lands. It will administer a competitive grant process to award funds to organizations fulfilling the requirements for the design, development, and maintenance of non-motorized, motorized, and multi-use trails, trailheads, and trailside amenities statewide. The administration will involve designing the program, reviewing grant applications, facilitating a grant review committee, providing technical assistance, making awards, monitoring grant compliance, and ensuring fiscal accountabilities for all funds awarded.

**DACF ADMINISTRATION 0401
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| GENERAL FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 7.000 | 7.000 | 7.000 | 7.000 |
| Personal Services | \$1,142,381 | \$1,189,837 | \$1,370,331 | \$1,430,512 |
| All Other | \$4,317,335 | \$4,370,621 | \$5,145,182 | \$5,234,920 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$5,459,716 | \$5,560,458 | \$6,515,513 | \$6,665,432 |

| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| All Other | \$0 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$0 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 |

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 14.000 | 16.000 | 18.000 | 18.000 |
| Personal Services | \$1,579,871 | \$1,823,876 | \$2,271,479 | \$2,395,486 |
| All Other | \$57,309,345 | \$57,375,469 | \$57,707,723 | \$57,766,300 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$58,889,216 | \$59,199,345 | \$59,979,202 | \$60,161,786 |

Division of Forest Protection Z232

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 78.000 | 78.000 | 78.000 | 78.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 1.692 | 1.692 | 1.691 | 1.691 |
| Personal Services | \$8,731,208 | \$9,093,186 | \$10,878,783 | \$11,464,651 |
| All Other | \$3,084,028 | \$3,222,414 | \$3,165,605 | \$3,165,605 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$200,000 | \$125,000 | \$0 | \$0 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$12,015,236 | \$12,440,600 | \$14,044,388 | \$14,630,256 |
| | | | | |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 2.000 | 3.000 | 3.000 | 3.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 2.192 | 2.192 | 3.135 | 3.135 |
| Personal Services | \$356,398 | \$558,021 | \$478,471 | \$501,421 |
| All Other | \$720,644 | \$1,843,368 | \$1,843,368 | \$1,843,368 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$1,077,042 | \$2,401,389 | \$2,321,839 | \$2,344,789 |
| | | | | |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$227,529 | \$227,529 | \$227,529 | \$227,529 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$227,529 | \$227,529 | \$227,529 | \$227,529 |

Justification:

The Forest Protection Division provides services in wildfire control, incident management and disaster response. The division's Forest Rangers are responsible for wildfires and protect landowners through wildfire readiness, detection, prevention, suppression, and natural resources law enforcement. Rangers also enforce certain public safety laws, maintain the state's only helicopter fleet, and provide rescue services.

Division of Forest Protection Z232

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved range change of 48 Forest Ranger II positions from range 19 to range 21.

Ref. #: 438

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | |
| Personal Services | \$477,616 | \$507,002 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$477,616 | \$507,002 |

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------------|------------|------------------|
| All Other | \$0 | \$130,500 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$0 | \$300,000 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$0 | \$430,500 |

Justification:

This initiative funds planned maintenance for all aircraft in air operations.

Division of Forest Protection Z232

Initiative: Provides funding to purchase a wildfire engine.

Ref. #: 445 One Time Committee Vote: TN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Capital Expenditures | \$100,000 | \$0 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$100,000 | \$0 |

Justification:

Maine Forest Service (MFS) is working to acquire a Freightliner Federal Excess chassis and make a Type 2 Water Tender. Water Tenders are a needed resource for suppression needs. Currently the division has one type of water tender all in the same age class. We need to diversify and provide opportunities for equipment development to ensure we have continuity for our program for years to come.

Division of Forest Protection Z232

Initiative: Provides funding for equipment installation in vehicles, including radios.

Ref. #: 446 Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| All Other | \$12,000 | \$12,000 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$12,000 | \$12,000 |

Justification:

This initiative provides funding for cost increases for radio and equipment installations for Forest Ranger vehicles. This will fund the increases for 12 vehicles in each year.

Division of Forest Protection Z232

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide insurance coverage provided through the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Division of Risk Management based on claims experience, coverage increases, attorney fees on claims and actuarially recommended reserves.

Ref. #: 447

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

Ref # 377, p.1; Ref # 289 & 290, p.9; Ref # 441, p.28;
 Ref # 465, p.39; Ref # 486, p.44; Ref # 510, p.53; Ref # 477, p.64; Ref # 424, p.72; Ref # 403, p.76

| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| All Other | \$20,469 | \$20,469 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$20,469 | \$20,469 |

Justification:

The Division of Risk Management within DAFS provides high quality insurance, loss control and claims services to all state agencies, the State's higher education institutions and some quasi-state agencies at the lowest possible cost. The rates are applicable to various insurance lines provided by the States self-insurance program and have been calculated in accordance with Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5 section 1733. The 2026-2027 budget includes rate increases in the Tort Policy based on claims experience, coverage increases, attorney fees on claims, and actuarially recommended reserves.

Division of Forest Protection Z232

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide central fleet management services provided by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Ref. #: 448

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

Ref # 378, p.1-2; Ref # 291 & 292 & 293, p.9; Ref 466 & 467; p.39;
 Ref # 511, p.53; Ref # 404 & 405 & 406, p.76

| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| All Other | \$124,277 | \$158,824 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$124,277 | \$158,824 |

Justification:

Central Fleet Management within DAFS centrally procures, distributes and disposes of passenger and light truck vehicles. CFM handles many aspects of vehicle services including writing vehicle specifications, ordering vehicles, providing drivers with maintenance schedules, service assistance, fueling resources, insurance protection and accident information processing. Central Fleet is established as an internal service fund intended to recoup their costs through daily and long term rental billings to departments and agencies. CFM expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs, including fuel and vehicle purchase price. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

Division of Forest Protection Z232

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Office Associate II position to an Office Specialist I position.

Ref. #: 449

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|
| Personal Services | \$5,624 | \$6,031 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$5,624 | \$6,031 |

Notes:

Not Part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

Justification:

This employee-initiated reclassification was approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on December 5, 2024.

**DIVISION OF FOREST PROTECTION Z232
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 78.000 | 78.000 | 80.000 | 80.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 1.692 | 1.692 | 3.883 | 3.883 |
| Personal Services | \$8,731,208 | \$9,093,186 | \$11,593,392 | \$12,224,378 |
| All Other | \$3,084,028 | \$3,222,414 | \$3,379,864 | \$3,562,045 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$200,000 | \$125,000 | \$100,000 | \$300,000 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$12,015,236 | \$12,440,600 | \$15,073,256 | \$16,086,423 |
| | | | | |
| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 2.000 | 3.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 2.192 | 2.192 | 0.943 | 0.943 |
| Personal Services | \$356,398 | \$558,021 | \$258,839 | \$270,630 |
| All Other | \$720,644 | \$1,843,368 | \$1,838,355 | \$1,838,035 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$1,077,042 | \$2,401,389 | \$2,097,194 | \$2,108,665 |
| | | | | |
| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| All Other | \$227,529 | \$227,529 | \$227,529 | \$227,529 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$0 | \$0 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$227,529 | \$227,529 | \$427,529 | \$427,529 |

Emergency Food Assistance Program Fund Z332

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| All Other | \$500 | \$500 | \$500 | \$500 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | <hr/> \$500 | <hr/> \$500 | <hr/> \$500 | <hr/> \$500 |

Justification:

The Emergency Food Assistance Program Fund supports the Department's emergency food assistance program and funds grants to hunger relief organizations. Revenue collected via a specific income tax check-off is credited to the fund, which may also receive money from other sources, including grants, gifts, bequests, and donations.

**EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUND Z332
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| All Other | \$500 | \$500 | \$500 | \$500 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | <hr/> \$500 | <hr/> \$500 | <hr/> \$500 | <hr/> \$500 |

Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program Fund Z364

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| GENERAL FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| All Other | \$0 | \$300,000 | \$300,000 | \$300,000 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$0 | \$300,000 | \$300,000 | \$300,000 |
| | | | | |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$2,000,500 | \$1,000,500 | \$500 | \$500 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$2,000,500 | \$1,000,500 | \$500 | \$500 |

Justification:

The Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program assists farmers in the state to overcome the adverse effects of drought conditions by providing grants to establish a source of irrigation water to alleviate the risk of crop losses due to drought. The source of irrigation water must be sustainable, environmentally sound, and affordable. The fund consists of any funds received from private and public sources.

Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program Fund Z364

Initiative: Establishes one Public Service Manager II position for water resource management and technical assistance and agricultural irrigation funding oversight.

Ref. #: 531

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

Ref # 315 & 316 p.16

| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Personal Services | \$135,445 | \$146,470 |
| All Other | \$3,500 | \$3,500 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$138,945 | \$149,970 |

Justification:

Increased frequency of drought conditions are growing the demand for irrigation water source development assistance for Maine farmers. This position will assist agricultural producers in making sustainable, environmentally sound irrigation improvements to their farms statewide, assist in technical evaluations, and guide the completion of permit application forms. It will also administer the new Farmer Drought Relief Grant Program within the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources and help producers navigate the grant process to acquire funding. It will also provide staff support to the Agricultural Water Management Board, coordinate water resource management information sharing between LUPC, DEP, and other agencies, and provide general guidance to agricultural producers regarding water conservation techniques and sustainable water management.

Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program Fund Z364

Initiative: Provides funding to establish a baseline allocation in the Farmers Drought Relief Grant program.

Ref. #: 532

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$100,000 | \$100,000 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$100,000 | \$100,000 |

Justification:

This will establish a baseline allocation in the program.

**FARMERS DROUGHT RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM FUND Z364
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| GENERAL FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 0.000 | 0.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Personal Services | \$0 | \$0 | \$135,445 | \$146,470 |
| All Other | \$0 | \$300,000 | \$303,500 | \$303,500 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$0 | \$300,000 | \$438,945 | \$449,970 |

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| All Other | \$2,000,500 | \$1,000,500 | \$100,500 | \$100,500 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$2,000,500 | \$1,000,500 | \$100,500 | \$100,500 |

Forest Resource Management Z233

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 39.000 | 41.000 | 41.000 | 41.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 2.904 | 2.904 | 2.904 | 2.904 |
| Personal Services | \$4,280,467 | \$4,519,088 | \$5,110,603 | \$5,402,442 |
| All Other | \$844,378 | \$897,709 | \$897,709 | \$897,709 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$70,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$5,194,845 | \$5,416,797 | \$6,008,312 | \$6,300,151 |
| | | | | |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 9.000 | 9.000 | 9.000 | 9.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 2.711 | 2.711 | 2.711 | 2.711 |
| Personal Services | \$813,704 | \$933,691 | \$932,928 | \$979,413 |
| All Other | \$835,663 | \$1,635,711 | \$1,635,679 | \$1,635,679 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$1,649,367 | \$2,569,402 | \$2,568,607 | \$2,615,092 |
| | | | | |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| All Other | \$290,829 | \$290,829 | \$290,829 | \$290,829 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$290,829 | \$290,829 | \$290,829 | \$290,829 |

Justification:

The Forest Health and Monitoring Division protects the forest, shade and ornamental tree resources of the State from significant insect and disease damage and provides pest management and damage prevention for homeowners, municipalities, and forest landowners; the division also monitors the extent and condition of Maine's forest resource to provide timely, unbiased, credible, and relevant information at sufficient precision to enable timely and informed forest policy decisions. The Forest Policy and Management Division supports Maine's forest-based economy by providing technical assistance, information, and education services to woodland owners and managers, forest products manufacturers, municipalities, and the public. The division collects and analyzes data on forest policy issues to provide recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature and to administer programs that support informed decisions that protect the multiple values of Maine's forests.

Forest Resource Management Z233

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Office Associate II position to an Office Specialist I position.

Ref. #: 458

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | |
| Personal Services | \$5,803 | \$6,029 |

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

\$5,803

\$6,029

Notes:

Not Part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

Justification:

This initiative funds a reclassification to align work functions with the appropriate classification.

Forest Resource Management Z233

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Senior Planner position to a Resource Management Coordinator position.

Ref. #: 459

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| Personal Services | \$10,362 | \$10,761 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <u>\$10,362</u> | <u>\$10,761</u> |

Notes:

Not Part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

Justification:

This position serves as a Water Resources Specialist. This initiative funds a reclassification to align work functions with the appropriate classification.

Forest Resource Management Z233

Initiative: Eliminates 2 seasonal Conservation Aide positions and reorganizes one seasonal Conservation Aide position to a full-time Entomology Technician position. This initiative also reallocates the cost of the reorganized position from 100% General Fund to 87% General Fund and 13% Federal Expenditures Fund within the same program.

Ref. #: 460

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | (0.885) | (0.885) |
| Personal Services | (\$3,976) | (\$357) |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <u>(\$3,976)</u> | <u>(\$357)</u> |

Ref. #: 461

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Personal Services | (\$24,343) | (\$26,331) |
| All Other | (\$539) | (\$583) |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | (\$24,882) | (\$26,914) |

Justification:

This initiative will align work effort with appropriate funding.

Forest Resource Management Z233

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide insurance coverage provided through the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Division of Risk Management based on claims experience, coverage increases, attorney fees on claims and actuarially recommended reserves.

Ref. #: 465
 Ref # 377, p.1; Ref # 289 & 290, p.9; Ref # 441, p.28;
 Ref # 447, p.31; Ref # 486, p.44; Ref # 510, p.53; Ref # 477, p.64; Ref # 424, p.72; Ref # 403, p.76

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$5,863 | \$5,863 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$5,863 | \$5,863 |

Justification:

The Division of Risk Management within DAFS provides high quality insurance, loss control and claims services to all state agencies, the State's higher education institutions and some quasi-state agencies at the lowest possible cost. The rates are applicable to various insurance lines provided by the States self-insurance program and have been calculated in accordance with Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5 section 1733. The 2026-2027 budget includes rate increases in the Tort Policy based on claims experience, coverage increases, attorney fees on claims, and actuarially recommended reserves.

Forest Resource Management Z233

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide central fleet management services provided by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Ref. #: 466
 Ref # 378, p.1-2; Ref # 291 & 292 & 293, p.9; Ref # 448, p.31;
 Ref # 511, p.53; Ref # 404 & 405 & 406, p.76

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$5,676 | \$15,135 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$5,676 | \$15,135 |

Ref. #: 467
 Committee Vote: IN 10-0
 AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|--|----------------|-----------------|
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$3,971 | \$10,586 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$3,971 | \$10,586 |

Justification:

Central Fleet Management within DAFS centrally procures, distributes and disposes of passenger and light truck vehicles. CFM handles many aspects of vehicle services including writing vehicle specifications, ordering vehicles, providing drivers with maintenance schedules, service assistance, fueling resources, insurance protection and accident information processing. Central Fleet is established as an internal service fund intended to recoup their costs through daily and long term rental billings to departments and agencies. CFM expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs, including fuel and vehicle purchase price. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

**FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT Z233
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 39.000 | 41.000 | 42.000 | 42.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 2.904 | 2.904 | 2.019 | 2.019 |
| Personal Services | \$4,280,467 | \$4,519,088 | \$5,147,135 | \$5,445,206 |
| All Other | \$844,378 | \$897,709 | \$909,248 | \$918,707 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$70,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$5,194,845 | \$5,416,797 | \$6,056,383 | \$6,363,913 |
| | | | | |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 9.000 | 9.000 | 9.000 | 9.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 2.711 | 2.711 | 2.384 | 2.384 |
| Personal Services | \$813,704 | \$933,691 | \$841,828 | \$884,288 |
| All Other | \$835,663 | \$1,635,711 | \$1,637,632 | \$1,644,158 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$1,649,367 | \$2,569,402 | \$2,479,460 | \$2,528,446 |
| | | | | |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$290,829 | \$290,829 | \$290,829 | \$290,829 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$290,829 | \$290,829 | \$290,829 | \$290,829 |

Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives Z329

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|----------|----------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| All Other | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 |

Justification:

The Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives provides incentives to federal food and nutrition assistance program participants to purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables and supports outreach for and administration of programs that offer nutrition incentives to participants of federal food and nutrition assistance programs. The Fund matches contributions from private and public sources of up to \$50,000 annually. Fund recipients must be state-based organizations that support local food producers, local food production, or low-income individuals in receiving food and nutrition assistance.

Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives Z329

Initiative: Provides ongoing funding to be used to provide match from private and public sources.

Ref. #: 525

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| GENERAL FUND | | |
| All Other | \$600,000 | \$600,000 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$600,000 | \$600,000 |

Justification:

This funding will provide ongoing support and the required match funding for federally administered retail and farmers' market-based incentive programs (i.e., Maine Harvest Bucks, 7 MRS§219-B and Farm Fresh Rewards), which enable eligible low-income program participants to increase their purchases of locally grown fruits and vegetables.

**FUND TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY AND PROVIDE NUTRITION INCENTIVES Z329
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| All Other | \$0 | \$0 | \$600,000 | \$600,000 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$0 | \$0 | \$600,000 | \$600,000 |

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|----------|----------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| All Other | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 |

Geology and Resource Information Z237

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 12.000 | 12.000 | 12.000 | 12.000 |
| Personal Services | \$1,590,133 | \$1,657,845 | \$1,456,114 | \$1,535,201 |
| All Other | \$242,941 | \$243,991 | \$243,991 | \$243,991 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$1,833,074 | \$1,901,836 | \$1,700,105 | \$1,779,192 |
| | | | | |
| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 3.000 | 3.000 | 3.000 | 3.000 |
| Personal Services | \$365,073 | \$375,481 | \$406,058 | \$434,287 |
| All Other | \$646,173 | \$896,173 | \$896,173 | \$896,173 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$1,011,246 | \$1,271,654 | \$1,302,231 | \$1,330,460 |
| | | | | |
| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Personal Services | \$127,478 | \$129,356 | \$145,427 | \$151,564 |
| All Other | \$89,220 | \$89,220 | \$89,220 | \$89,220 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$216,698 | \$218,576 | \$234,647 | \$240,784 |

Justification:

1) The Maine Geological Survey will map, inventory, assess, and interpret Maine's geology. Continue and enhance the development of geologic (bedrock, surficial, sand & gravel aquifer, coastal marine, and mineral resource) mapping and update hazards, economic resources, and digital natural resource databases. Maintain a cooperative agreement with the US Geological Survey, including geologic mapping, groundwater monitoring, and snow surveys. Improve groundwater characterization, water resources planning, and management efforts. Map landslide hazards and eroding coastal bluffs and provide this information to assist in planning and development. 2) The Municipal Assistance Program guides local and regional land-use planning efforts by implementing Maine's Land Use Planning and Regulation Act and providing technical and financial assistance to local and regional planning organizations. The Program provides model ordinances and technical guidance documents, workshops and webinars, consultations, town-specific comprehensive planning data packages, land-use training for local code enforcement officers, and research on emerging issues. 3) The Maine Floodplain Management Program undertakes activities through the administration and enforcement of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that serve to (a) reduce the risk to improved property and loss of life during flood events, (b) reduce the amount of disaster assistance paid out for flooding events, (c) make flood insurance available to those at risk, and (d) require development standards for building or improving in flood-prone areas to break the cycle of repeat flood damages. Participation in the NFIP is the mechanism that allows federally backed flood insurance to be sold in Maine communities.

Geology and Resource Information Z237

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Senior Planner position previously established by Public Law 2021, chapter 635 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 482
 Ref # 333 & 334 p.21

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Personal Services | \$117,476 | \$126,253 |
| All Other | \$3,500 | \$3,500 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$120,976 | \$129,753 |

Justification:

This position in the Municipal Planning Assistance Program provides critical research skills, technical assistance, and GIS applications to track development and evaluate the effectiveness of municipal comprehensive plans to direct growth to desired locations. This position supports the bureau director, program director and program staff on policy and program development, Legislative priorities and Rulemaking, and interaction with key stakeholders.

Geology and Resource Information Z237

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Planner II position previously established by Public Law 2021, chapter 635 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 483
 Ref # 335 & 336 p.21

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Personal Services | \$98,895 | \$106,713 |
| All Other | \$3,500 | \$3,500 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$102,395 | \$110,213 |

Justification:

This position in the Municipal Planning Assistance Program assembles and provides data to municipalities via new web-based tools as required by Title 30-A§ 4326, provides administrative support for the Coastal Community Grant program to support local/municipal climate resilience, and for the Regional Council contracts that support housing and land use technical assistance to municipalities. This position plays an essential role in developing GIS tools in support of the program.

Geology and Resource Information Z237

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Senior Planner position in the Geology and Resource Information program previously established by Public Law 2021, chapter 635 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 484
 Ref # 337 & 338 p.22

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Personal Services | \$117,476 | \$126,253 |
| All Other | \$3,500 | \$3,500 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$120,976 | \$129,753 |

Justification:

This makes permanent one Senior Planner position to implement the state climate action plan, support inter-agency collaboration and secure federal funds for climate initiatives. Incumbent supports multiple programs within the Bureau and Agency providing research and community outreach materials on inland flood modeling, wildfire risk assessment and mitigation, natural and working lands conservation, and community resilience.

Geology and Resource Information Z237

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Secretary Associate position previously established by Public Law 2021, chapter 635 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 485
Ref # 339 & 340 p.22

Committee Vote: IN 9-0 AFA Vote: _____

| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Personal Services | \$86,270 | \$93,022 |
| All Other | \$3,500 | \$3,500 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$89,770 | \$96,522 |

Justification:

This makes permanent a limited-period Bureau-wide Administrative support position that has significantly improved efficiency across multiple programs. The position completes time-consuming but essential administrative tasks for dozens of higher-level staff. Incumbent continues to support digitization of 50 years of records enabling efficient permit records search and land history research.

Geology and Resource Information Z237

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide insurance coverage provided through the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Division of Risk Management based on claims experience, coverage increases, attorney fees on claims and actuarially recommended reserves.

Ref. #: 486
Ref # 377, p.1; Ref # 289 & 290, p.9; Ref # 441, p.28; Ref # 447, p.31;
Ref # 465, p.39; Ref # 510, p.53; Ref # 477, p.64; Ref # 424, p.72; Ref # 403, p.76

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|
| All Other | \$2,044 | \$2,044 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$2,044 | \$2,044 |

Justification:

The Division of Risk Management within DAFS provides high quality insurance, loss control and claims services to all state agencies, the State's higher education institutions and some quasi-state agencies at the lowest possible cost. The rates are applicable to various insurance lines provided by the States self-insurance program and have been calculated in accordance with Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5 section 1733. The 2026-2027 budget includes rate increases in the Tort Policy based on claims experience, coverage increases, attorney fees on claims, and actuarially recommended reserves.

Geology and Resource Information Z237

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Marine Geologist position established by Financial Order 03899 F5 and provides funding to address climate resilience.

Ref. #: 487

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

Ref # 385 p.56
Ref # 407 p.77

| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Personal Services | \$118,234 | \$127,544 |
| All Other | \$685,067 | \$635,476 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$803,301 | \$763,020 |

Justification:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant will fund several initiatives across the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry for the Climate Regional Resilience Challenge. These include a Marine Geologist (Coastal Hazard Specialist) position, designing and implementing a groundwater monitoring network to mitigate saltwater intrusion impacts, curating a website to centralize coastal adaptation resources, placing Shore Corps Stewards in the community to increase the ability of Maine communities to adapt to the changing climate by expanding technical assistance on resilience, developing a resilience plan for the Popham peninsula at the state park, along Route 209, and through a model ordinance for municipalities, updating bluff mapping procedures to consider adjacent habitats when determining bluff setbacks, and creating a pipeline of living shoreline projects.

GEOLOGY AND RESOURCE INFORMATION Z237

PROGRAM SUMMARY

| GENERAL FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 12.000 | 12.000 | 16.000 | 16.000 |
| Personal Services | \$1,590,133 | \$1,657,845 | \$1,876,231 | \$1,987,442 |
| All Other | \$242,941 | \$243,991 | \$260,035 | \$260,035 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$1,833,074 | \$1,901,836 | \$2,136,266 | \$2,247,477 |

| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 3.000 | 3.000 | 4.000 | 4.000 |
| Personal Services | \$365,073 | \$375,481 | \$524,292 | \$561,831 |
| All Other | \$646,173 | \$896,173 | \$1,581,240 | \$1,531,649 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$1,011,246 | \$1,271,654 | \$2,105,532 | \$2,093,480 |

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Personal Services | \$127,478 | \$129,356 | \$145,427 | \$151,564 |
| All Other | \$89,220 | \$89,220 | \$89,220 | \$89,220 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$216,698 | \$218,576 | \$234,647 | \$240,784 |

Harness Racing Commission 0320

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 6.000 | 6.000 | 6.000 | 6.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 2.597 | 2.597 | 2.597 | 2.597 |
| Personal Services | \$784,511 | \$802,692 | \$842,332 | \$887,948 |
| All Other | \$18,238,923 | \$20,580,392 | \$20,580,392 | \$20,580,392 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$19,023,434 | \$21,383,084 | \$21,422,724 | \$21,468,340 |

Justification:

The Harness Racing Commission is responsible for ensuring the integrity of live racing in Maine and the integrity of wagering at the Off-Track Betting and Simulcast facilities in Maine. These responsibilities include providing necessary staff to oversee live racing; licensing participants in the harness racing industry; various testing programs, and disbursing funds as required by statute.

Harness Racing Commission 0320

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align with revenue projections from the December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

Ref. #: 264

Ref # 257, p.66; Ref # 428, p.72

RFC - Revenue Forecasting Committee

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| All Other | \$205,610 | \$369,381 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$205,610 | \$369,381 |

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue allocations with the Revenue Forecast.

Justification:

This initiative aligns allocation with December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

**HARNES RACING COMMISSION 0320
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 6.000 | 6.000 | 6.000 | 6.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 2.597 | 2.597 | 2.597 | 2.597 |
| Personal Services | \$784,511 | \$802,692 | \$842,332 | \$887,948 |
| All Other | \$18,238,923 | \$20,580,392 | \$20,786,002 | \$20,949,773 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$19,023,434 | \$21,383,084 | \$21,628,334 | \$21,837,721 |

Land for Maine's Future Z162

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| GENERAL FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 2.000 | 2.000 | 2.000 | 2.000 |
| Personal Services | \$181,651 | \$190,591 | \$215,911 | \$228,162 |
| All Other | \$34,630 | \$34,630 | \$34,630 | \$34,630 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$216,281 | \$225,221 | \$250,541 | \$262,792 |

| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Personal Services | \$96,601 | \$100,928 | \$111,378 | \$119,325 |
| All Other | \$9,549 | \$19,549 | \$19,549 | \$19,549 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$106,150 | \$120,477 | \$130,927 | \$138,874 |

Justification:

The program is governed by a board appointed by the Governor, consisting of Commissioners of the Departments of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and Marine Resources, along with six public members. The Board administers funds to acquire land and interests in land for conservation, water access, outdoor recreation, fish and wildlife habitat protection, farmland preservation and working waterfronts. Projects to be funded are selected via a competitive selection process. The program requires the state funds to be leveraged by matching contributions from project partners.

Land for Maine's Future Z162

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Office Specialist II position previously established by Public Law 2021, chapter 635 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 389
Ref # 344 & 345 p.23

Committee Vote: IN 9-0 AFA Vote: _____

| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Personal Services | \$107,438 | \$111,994 |
| All Other | \$3,500 | \$3,500 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$110,938 | \$115,494 |

Justification:

This position is necessary to efficiently support the work of senior staff to complete active projects across all acquisition categories, conservation & recreation, farmland, working waterfront, and water access. There are 41 active projects; current closing rates (up to 24 closings per year) require significant contract support supplied by this position. Furthermore, each closed project becomes eligible for auxiliary grants - and these auxiliary grants can all be handled by this position, freeing up senior staff to more efficiently administer the acquisitions.

Land for Maine's Future Z162

* Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Senior Planner position previously established by Public Law 2021, chapter 635 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 390
Ref # 333 & 334, p.21

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Personal Services | \$105,933 | \$114,192 |
| All Other | \$3,500 | \$3,500 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$109,433 | \$117,692 |

Justification:

This position adds capacity at LMF to address the significant volume of active projects (currently at 41). Without this position, LMF had staff capacity to close 7-10 projects/year depending on due diligence submissions and capacity for legal review. Over the past year, with this position fully in place, LMF closed 24 projects over the same time frame. This position also supports future land acquisitions to implement the climate action plan.

Land for Maine's Future Z162

Initiative: Establishes baseline allocation in the Sears Island Consent Decree Other Special Revenue Funds account.

Ref. #: 391

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| All Other | \$500 | \$500 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$500 | \$500 |

Justification:

This initiative would establish a baseline allocation in the Sears Island Consent Decree Other Special Revenue Funds account.

**LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE Z162
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| GENERAL FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 2.000 | 2.000 | 4.000 | 4.000 |
| Personal Services | \$181,651 | \$190,591 | \$429,282 | \$454,348 |
| All Other | \$34,630 | \$34,630 | \$41,630 | \$41,630 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$216,281 | \$225,221 | \$470,912 | \$495,978 |
| | | | | |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Personal Services | \$96,601 | \$100,928 | \$111,378 | \$119,325 |
| All Other | \$9,549 | \$19,549 | \$19,549 | \$19,549 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$106,150 | \$120,477 | \$130,927 | \$138,874 |
| | | | | |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$0 | \$0 | \$500 | \$500 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$0 | \$0 | \$500 | \$500 |

Land For Maine's Future Trust Fund Z377

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| All Other | \$37,663,659 | \$20,049,560 | \$49,560 | \$49,560 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$0 | \$10,000,000 | \$0 | \$0 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$37,663,659 | \$30,049,560 | \$49,560 | \$49,560 |

Justification:

The Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund was established to enable it to accept private donations while earning interest on its funds. Historically, the Land for Maine's Future Program has been funded through bonds submitted by the legislature and approved by voters. The Land for Maine's Future - Community Conservation Projects program (Program Z307) was established to facilitate a \$40 million allocation from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Land for Maine's Future Program. All remaining funds from the Land for Maine's Future - Community Conservation Project were moved into this program at the beginning of fiscal year 2024.

Land For Maine's Future Trust Fund Z377

Initiative: Provides one-time allocation for land acquisitions in the Land For Maine's Future Trust Fund.

Ref. #: 535 One Time Committee Vote: IN 8-0 AFA Vote: _____

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|--------------------|------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | |
| Capital Expenditures | \$8,105,445 | \$0 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$8,105,445 | \$0 |

Justification:

This initiative will provide Capital Expenditures allocation for land acquisitions based on funds made available to the Land for Maine's Future in previous budgets.

LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE TRUST FUND Z377

PROGRAM SUMMARY

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| All Other | \$37,663,659 | \$20,049,560 | \$49,560 | \$49,560 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$0 | \$10,000,000 | \$8,105,445 | \$0 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$37,663,659 | \$30,049,560 | \$8,155,005 | \$49,560 |

Land Management and Planning Z239

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | | | | |
| All Other | \$90,000 | \$590,000 | \$590,000 | \$590,000 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$90,000 | \$590,000 | \$590,000 | \$590,000 |
| | | | | |
| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 41.000 | 43.000 | 43.000 | 43.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 1.808 | 1.808 | 1.808 | 1.808 |
| Personal Services | \$4,244,036 | \$4,473,168 | \$4,944,981 | \$5,214,857 |
| All Other | \$14,596,212 | \$14,630,332 | \$14,630,332 | \$14,630,332 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$3,000,000 | \$3,000,000 | \$0 | \$0 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$21,840,248 | \$22,103,500 | \$19,575,313 | \$19,845,189 |

Justification:

The land management group manages more than 600,000 acres of Public Reserved and Non-reserved land, and certain other publicly owned lands, for multiple uses including recreation (camping, hiking, hunting fishing, motorized recreation), wildlife, ecological protection (including Ecological Reserves), and timber management. The program generates self-sustaining income through forest management and leasing activities to support these programs. Forest management also supports state and local timber economies. The program manages land under principles of multiple use to produce a sustainable yield of products and services for Maine citizens.

Land Management and Planning Z239

Initiative: Provides funding for capital construction materials, capital improvements to bridges and roads and other improvements to recreational trails and sites used by the public.

Ref. #: 508 One Time Committee Vote: IN 8-0 AFA Vote: _____

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | |
| Capital Expenditures | \$3,000,000 | \$3,000,000 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$3,000,000 | \$3,000,000 |

Justification:

This increase in capital allocation will allow for the purchase of capital construction materials and the improvement to bridges and structures on Public Lands needed to support the maintenance of recreational trails and sites used by the public and support timber harvesting operations. This supports the Public Reserved Lands mission of maintaining multiple use and sustainable yield.

Land Management and Planning Z239

Initiative: Provides funding for Forest Climate Planning Response - Resilient Roads for public recreation and sustainable timber management, and for culvert replacement and upsizing to protect access for the public and protect the resource.

Ref. #: 509

One Time

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

Capital Expenditures

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| \$400,000 | \$400,000 |

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| \$400,000 | \$400,000 |
|-----------|-----------|

Justification:

Access to Public Lands often requires maintenance of safe and sustainable Public Lands' roads. This funding will provide for necessary culvert replacement/upsizing that will enhance resiliency, maintain public access and safeguard adjacent lands and waters.

Land Management and Planning Z239

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide insurance coverage provided through the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Division of Risk Management based on claims experience, coverage increases, attorney fees on claims and actuarially recommended reserves.

Ref. #: 510
Ref # 377, p.1; Ref # 289 & 290, p.9; Ref # 441, p.28; Ref # 447, p.31;
Ref # 465, p.39; Ref # 486, p.44; Ref # 477, p.64; Ref # 424, p.72; Ref # 403, p.76

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

All Other

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| \$5,180 | \$5,180 |

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

| | |
|---------|---------|
| \$5,180 | \$5,180 |
|---------|---------|

Justification:

The Division of Risk Management within DAFS provides high quality insurance, loss control and claims services to all state agencies, the State's higher education institutions and some quasi-state agencies at the lowest possible cost. The rates are applicable to various insurance lines provided by the States self-insurance program and have been calculated in accordance with Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5 section 1733. The 2026-2027 budget includes rate increases in the Tort Policy based on claims experience, coverage increases, attorney fees on claims, and actuarially recommended reserves.

Land Management and Planning Z239

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide central fleet management services provided by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Ref. #: 511
Ref # 378, p.1-2; Ref # 291 & 292 & 293, p.9; Ref # 448, p.31;
Ref # 466 & 467, p.39; Ref # 404 & 405 & 406, p.76

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

All Other

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| \$56,834 | \$72,735 |

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

| | |
|----------|----------|
| \$56,834 | \$72,735 |
|----------|----------|

Justification:

Central Fleet Management within DAFS centrally procures, distributes and disposes of passenger and light truck vehicles. CFM handles many aspects of vehicle services including writing vehicle specifications, ordering vehicles, providing drivers with maintenance schedules, service assistance, fueling resources, insurance protection and accident information processing. Central Fleet is established as an internal service fund intended to recoup their costs through daily and long

term rental billings to departments and agencies. CFM expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs, including fuel and vehicle purchase price. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

**LAND MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING Z239
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| GENERAL FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Capital Expenditures | \$0 | \$0 | \$400,000 | \$400,000 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$0 | \$0 | \$400,000 | \$400,000 |
| | | | | |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$90,000 | \$590,000 | \$590,000 | \$590,000 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$90,000 | \$590,000 | \$590,000 | \$590,000 |
| | | | | |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 41.000 | 43.000 | 43.000 | 43.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 1.808 | 1.808 | 1.808 | 1.808 |
| Personal Services | \$4,244,036 | \$4,473,168 | \$4,944,981 | \$5,214,857 |
| All Other | \$14,596,212 | \$14,630,332 | \$14,692,346 | \$14,708,247 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$3,000,000 | \$3,000,000 | \$3,000,000 | \$3,000,000 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$21,840,248 | \$22,103,500 | \$22,637,327 | \$22,923,104 |

Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund Z384

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Public Service Coordinator I position previously established by Financial Order 003897 F5 to manage financial and technical assistance in the agricultural resource development division. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs and establishes baseline allocation in the Maine Agriculture,

Food and Forest Products Investment Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account.

Ref. #: 537

Committee Vote: IN 7-0

AFA Vote: _____

Ref # 318 p.17

| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Personal Services | \$127,075 | \$137,568 |
| All Other | \$9,004 | \$9,436 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$136,079 | \$147,004 |

Ref. #: 538

Committee Vote: IN 7-0

AFA Vote: _____

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| All Other | \$500 | \$500 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$500 | \$500 |

Justification:

Oversees the Maine Agriculture, Food, and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment Fund and staff the fund's legislatively mandated Advisory Group. Provide strategic oversight to all of the State's ongoing and one-time grant and loan programs to ensure maximum access and impact. Programs overseen include ADG, AMLF, DIF, SCBG, RFSI, and AIP.

MAINE AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FOREST PRODUCTS INVESTMENT FUND Z384

PROGRAM SUMMARY

| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 0.000 | 0.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Personal Services | \$0 | \$0 | \$127,075 | \$137,568 |
| All Other | \$0 | \$0 | \$9,004 | \$9,436 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$0 | \$0 | \$136,079 | \$147,004 |

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| All Other | \$0 | \$0 | \$500 | \$500 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$0 | \$0 | \$500 | \$500 |

Maine Conservation Corps Z149

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Personal Services | \$218,620 | \$226,846 | \$258,445 | \$271,181 |
| All Other | \$163,096 | \$163,096 | \$163,096 | \$163,096 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$381,716 | \$389,942 | \$421,541 | \$434,277 |
| | | | | |
| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | | | | |
| Personal Services | \$13,368 | \$13,552 | \$15,389 | \$16,033 |
| All Other | \$983,092 | \$1,008,973 | \$1,008,973 | \$1,008,973 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$996,460 | \$1,022,525 | \$1,024,362 | \$1,025,006 |
| | | | | |
| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Personal Services | \$122,620 | \$125,820 | \$134,383 | \$141,993 |
| All Other | \$682,544 | \$684,125 | \$684,125 | \$684,125 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$805,164 | \$809,945 | \$818,508 | \$826,118 |

Justification:

The Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) provides job training, education, and work opportunities for the economically disadvantaged, improves public property for the increased use and enjoyment of the public, provides conservation education, promotes and manages volunteer opportunities related to natural resources and assists public and nonprofit organizations with projects that serve a valid public purpose. Maine Conservation Corps funding comes from the federal AmeriCorps program and contributions made by state and local conservation agencies.

Maine Conservation Corps Z149

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Marine Geologist position established by Financial Order 03899 F5 and provides funding to address climate resilience.

Ref. #: 385

Ref # 487 p.45

Ref # 407 p.77

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | | |
| Personal Services | \$13,762 | \$14,169 |
| All Other | \$260,950 | \$273,082 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$274,712 | \$287,251 |

Justification:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant will fund several initiatives across the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry for the Climate Regional Resilience Challenge. These include a Marine Geologist (Coastal Hazard Specialist) position, designing and implementing a groundwater monitoring network to mitigate saltwater intrusion impacts, curating a website to centralize coastal adaptation resources, placing Shore Corps Stewards in the community to increase the ability of Maine communities to adapt to the changing climate by expanding technical assistance on resilience, developing a resilience plan for the Popham peninsula at the state park, along Route 209, and through a model ordinance for municipalities, updating bluff mapping procedures to consider adjacent habitats when determining bluff setbacks, and creating a pipeline of living shoreline projects.

**MAINE CONSERVATION CORPS Z149
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Personal Services | \$218,620 | \$226,846 | \$258,445 | \$271,181 |
| All Other | \$163,096 | \$163,096 | \$163,096 | \$163,096 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$381,716 | \$389,942 | \$421,541 | \$434,277 |
| | | | | |
| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | | | | |
| Personal Services | \$13,368 | \$13,552 | \$29,151 | \$30,202 |
| All Other | \$983,092 | \$1,008,973 | \$1,269,923 | \$1,282,055 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$996,460 | \$1,022,525 | \$1,299,074 | \$1,312,257 |
| | | | | |
| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Personal Services | \$122,620 | \$125,820 | \$134,383 | \$141,993 |
| All Other | \$682,544 | \$684,125 | \$684,125 | \$684,125 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$805,164 | \$809,945 | \$818,508 | \$826,118 |

Maine Farms for the Future Program 0925

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| All Other | \$142,589 | \$142,589 | \$142,589 | \$142,589 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$142,589 | \$142,589 | \$142,589 | \$142,589 |

Justification:

The Maine Farms for the Future Program provides farms with technical assistance, through grants and implementation funds, to develop and implement business plans to make farms more viable and profitable.

**MAINE FARMS FOR THE FUTURE PROGRAM 0925
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| All Other | \$142,589 | \$142,589 | \$142,589 | \$142,589 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$142,589 | \$142,589 | \$142,589 | \$142,589 |

Maine Forestry Operations Cleanup and Response Fund Z327

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| All Other | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$20,000 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$20,000 |

Justification:

Maine's Forestry Operations and Cleanup Response Fund is established as a non-lapsing, revolving fund. The balance in the fund is limited to \$20,000. To this fund are credited permit fees, civil penalties, and other fees and charges related to forest practices rule administration. To this fund are charged expenses of the bureau incurred to mitigate and remediate damages or potential damages to waters of the state created by forest practices violations, including but not limited to costs of cleanup of discharges of pollutants to waters of the state and the restoration of water supplies.

MAINE FORESTRY OPERATIONS CLEANUP AND RESPONSE FUND Z327

PROGRAM SUMMARY

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| All Other | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$20,000 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | \$20,000 |

Maine Healthy Soils Fund Z328

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| GENERAL FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| All Other | \$0 | \$500,000 | \$500,000 | \$500,000 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$0 | \$500,000 | \$500,000 | \$500,000 |
| | | | | |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$3,000,500 | \$1,500,500 | \$500 | \$500 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$3,000,500 | \$1,500,500 | \$500 | \$500 |

Justification:

The Maine Healthy Soils Program was established to improve the health, yield, and profitability of the state's diverse agricultural soils and commodities by expanding the use of best practices among farmers and farmland owners in Maine. In doing so, the Program can also help protect native biological and microbiological diversity and increase the greenhouse gas drawdown by agricultural soils. The Program provides information to educate producers, and provides technical, financial, and research assistance to those engaging in healthy soil activities.

Maine Healthy Soils Fund Z328

Initiative: Provides funding to establish a baseline allocation in the Maine Healthy Soils program.

Ref. #: 522

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| All Other | \$100,000 | \$100,000 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$100,000 | \$100,000 |

Justification:

This will establish a baseline allocation in the program.

**MAINE HEALTHY SOILS FUND Z328
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| GENERAL FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| All Other | \$0 | \$500,000 | \$500,000 | \$500,000 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$0 | \$500,000 | \$500,000 | \$500,000 |
| | | | | |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$3,000,500 | \$1,500,500 | \$100,500 | \$100,500 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$3,000,500 | \$1,500,500 | \$100,500 | \$100,500 |

Maine Land Use Planning Commission Z236

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 23.000 | 23.000 | 23.000 | 23.000 |
| Personal Services | \$2,368,243 | \$2,585,754 | \$2,641,288 | \$2,811,283 |
| All Other | \$221,687 | \$227,493 | \$223,993 | \$223,993 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$2,589,930 | \$2,813,247 | \$2,865,281 | \$3,035,276 |
| | | | | |
| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| Personal Services | \$3,300 | \$3,300 | \$3,300 | \$3,300 |
| All Other | \$108,178 | \$108,178 | \$108,178 | \$108,178 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$111,478 | \$111,478 | \$111,478 | \$111,478 |

Justification:

The Maine Land Use Planning Commission serves as the planning and zoning authority for the unorganized and deorganized areas of the State, which includes 10.4 million acres consisting of 425 unorganized townships, 27 plantations, and 7 organized towns. These areas either have no local government or have chosen not to administer land use controls at the local level. The commission is funded through an appropriation from the General Fund. The commission is governed by a nine-member, independent decision-making body, with eight members nominated and appointed by each of the eight respective counties with the most acreage in the unorganized and deorganized areas and one member nominated and appointed by the Governor. The primary functions of the commission follow: designate land use districts and develop land use standards for these districts; educate the public about these standards; enforce applicable land use standards; review applications for development and issue permits and certifications for development meeting applicable standards; prepare a comprehensive land use plan for the unorganized and deorganized areas of Maine; and provide staff support to the commission.

* **Maine Land Use Planning Commission Z236**

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Senior Planner position previously established by Public Law 2021, chapter 635 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 472

Ref # 333 & 334, p.21

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Personal Services | \$114,002 | \$122,519 |
| All Other | \$3,500 | \$3,500 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$117,502 | \$126,019 |

Justification:

This position will improve LUPC's regional focus, collaboration with regional stakeholders, and ability to customize zoning and standards responsive to regional differences. It will assist in the preparation of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan update, including grant writing to support plan development and broad-based stakeholder engagement to identify

regional needs and concerns.

Maine Land Use Planning Commission Z236

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Mapping and Graphic Arts Specialist II position previously established by Public Law 2021, chapter 635 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 473 Committee Vote: IN 9-0 AFA Vote: _____
Ref # 342 & 343 p.23

| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Personal Services | \$98,854 | \$106,274 |
| All Other | \$3,500 | \$3,500 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$102,354 | \$109,774 |

Justification:

This position provides maps, graphics, and spatial analysis to support a variety of planning and educational initiatives within LUPC and in support of other Department programs. It creates visual displays of data and information used to communicate with a wide variety of stakeholders efficiently and effectively through mailings, brochures, presentations, and dynamic web content.

Maine Land Use Planning Commission Z236

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of 6 Environmental Specialist II positions to Environmental Licensing Specialist I positions.

Ref. #: 474 Committee Vote: IN 9-0 AFA Vote: _____

| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Personal Services | \$32,200 | \$33,853 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$32,200 | \$33,853 |

Notes:

Not Part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

Justification:

This initiative funds a reclassification to align work functions with the appropriate classification.

Maine Land Use Planning Commission Z236

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of 4 Environmental Specialist III positions to Environmental Licensing Specialist II positions.

Ref. #: 475 Committee Vote: IN 9-0 AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| Personal Services | \$34,197 | \$36,871 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <u>\$34,197</u> | <u>\$36,871</u> |

Notes:

Not Part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

Justification:

This employee-initiated reclassification was approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on December 10, 2024.

Maine Land Use Planning Commission Z236

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of 2 Environmental Specialist IV positions to Environmental Licensing Supervisor positions.

Ref. #: 476

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| Personal Services | \$16,113 | \$16,975 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <u>\$16,113</u> | <u>\$16,975</u> |

Notes:

Not Part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

Justification:

Provides funding for the reclassification approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on July 31, 2024.

Maine Land Use Planning Commission Z236

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide insurance coverage provided through the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Division of Risk Management based on claims experience, coverage increases, attorney fees on claims and actuarially recommended reserves.

Ref. #: 477

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

Ref # 377, p.1; Ref # 289 & 290, p.9; Ref # 441, p.28; Ref # 447, p.31;
 Ref # 465, p.39; Ref # 486, p.44; Ref # 510, p.53; Ref # 424, p.72; Ref # 403, p.76

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$2,667 | \$2,667 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <u>\$2,667</u> | <u>\$2,667</u> |

Justification:

The Division of Risk Management within DAFS provides high quality insurance, loss control and claims services to all state agencies, the State's higher education institutions and some quasi-state agencies at the lowest possible cost. The rates are applicable to various insurance lines provided by the States self-insurance program and have been calculated in accordance with Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5 section 1733. The 2026-2027 budget includes rate increases in the Tort Policy based on claims experience, coverage increases, attorney fees on claims, and actuarially recommended reserves.

**MAINE LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION Z236
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| GENERAL FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 23.000 | 23.000 | 25.000 | 25.000 |
| Personal Services | \$2,368,243 | \$2,585,754 | \$2,936,654 | \$3,127,775 |
| All Other | \$221,687 | \$227,493 | \$233,660 | \$233,660 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$2,589,930 | \$2,813,247 | \$3,170,314 | \$3,361,435 |
| | | | | |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| Personal Services | \$3,300 | \$3,300 | \$3,300 | \$3,300 |
| All Other | \$108,178 | \$108,178 | \$108,178 | \$108,178 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$111,478 | \$111,478 | \$111,478 | \$111,478 |

Milk Commission 0188

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Personal Services | \$125,253 | \$126,862 | \$142,468 | \$148,346 |
| All Other | \$13,210,573 | \$45,994,324 | \$42,994,324 | \$42,994,324 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$13,335,826 | \$46,121,186 | \$43,136,792 | \$43,142,670 |

Justification:

The Maine Milk Commission was established to ensure stability in the purchasing, distribution, and sale of milk within the State, while considering public health and welfare and maintaining an adequate supply of milk.

Milk Commission 0188

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align with revenue projections from the December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

Ref. #: 257
 Ref # 264, p.46; Ref # 428, p.72
 RFC - Revenue Forecasting Committee

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | |
| All Other | (\$12,103,242) | (\$904,069) |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | (\$12,103,242) | (\$904,069) |

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue allocations with the Revenue Forecast.

Justification:

This initiative aligns allocation with December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

**MILK COMMISSION 0188
 PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| Personal Services | \$125,253 | \$126,862 | \$142,468 | \$148,346 |
| All Other | \$13,210,573 | \$45,994,324 | \$30,891,082 | \$42,090,255 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$13,335,826 | \$46,121,186 | \$31,033,550 | \$42,238,601 |

Natural Areas Program Z821

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 3.000 | 3.000 | 3.000 | 3.000 |
| Personal Services | \$342,526 | \$409,530 | \$411,728 | \$434,598 |
| All Other | \$66,242 | \$66,242 | \$66,242 | \$66,242 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$408,768 | \$475,772 | \$477,970 | \$500,840 |
| | | | | |
| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | | | | |
| Personal Services | \$162,340 | \$175,346 | \$166,136 | \$179,238 |
| All Other | \$132,578 | \$133,595 | \$133,082 | \$133,082 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$294,918 | \$308,941 | \$299,218 | \$312,320 |
| | | | | |
| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 4.000 | 4.000 | 4.000 | 4.000 |
| Personal Services | \$276,695 | \$293,519 | \$280,134 | \$302,202 |
| All Other | \$604,490 | \$606,212 | \$605,699 | \$605,699 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$881,185 | \$899,731 | \$885,833 | \$907,901 |

Justification:

The Natural Areas Program is a science-based source of information on important natural areas including lands that support rare and endangered plants and wildlife habitats. The program influences forest management, prioritizes lands for acquisition, facilitates economic development opportunities, and assists communities in their local land-use planning efforts. The program also develops voluntary protection strategies for natural areas, develops management plans for public and private cooperating landowners, monitors and manages invasive plant species, and conducts long-term monitoring of Maine's ecological reserves.

Natural Areas Program Z821

Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Manager II position, one Resource Management Coordinator position and 5 Biologist II positions from the Natural Areas program within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Resource Management Services - IF & W program within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. This initiative also transfers All Other for the Natural Areas program from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Ref. #: 544

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | (3.000) | (3.000) |
| Personal Services | (\$411,728) | (\$434,598) |
| All Other | (\$66,242) | (\$66,242) |

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

(\$477,970) (\$500,840)

Ref. #: 545

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Personal Services | (\$166,136) | (\$179,238) |
| All Other | (\$133,082) | (\$133,082) |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | <u>(\$299,218)</u> | <u>(\$312,320)</u> |

Ref. #: 546

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | (4,000) | (4,000) |
| Personal Services | (\$280,134) | (\$302,202) |
| All Other | (\$605,699) | (\$605,699) |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | <u>(\$885,833)</u> | <u>(\$907,901)</u> |

Notes:

Accompanying language portion in LD 402

Justification:

This initiative transfers 7 positions from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to reflect the Natural Areas program being shifted between departments. This initiative relates to INL C-A-80.

**NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM Z821
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 3.000 | 3.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Personal Services | \$342,526 | \$409,530 | \$0 | \$0 |
| All Other | \$66,242 | \$66,242 | \$0 | \$0 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$408,768 | \$475,772 | \$0 | \$0 |
| | | | | |
| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | | | | |
| Personal Services | \$162,340 | \$175,346 | \$0 | \$0 |
| All Other | \$132,578 | \$133,595 | \$0 | \$0 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$294,918 | \$308,941 | \$0 | \$0 |
| | | | | |
| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 4.000 | 4.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Personal Services | \$276,695 | \$293,519 | \$0 | \$0 |
| All Other | \$604,490 | \$606,212 | \$0 | \$0 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$881,185 | \$899,731 | \$0 | \$0 |

Off-Road Recreational Vehicles Program Z224

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 17.000 | 19.000 | 19.000 | 19.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 5.731 | 5.731 | 5.731 | 5.731 |
| Personal Services | \$2,026,041 | \$2,225,806 | \$2,492,861 | \$2,638,687 |
| All Other | \$11,938,208 | \$12,656,339 | \$12,656,339 | \$12,656,339 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$1,040,000 | \$1,040,000 | \$0 | \$0 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$15,004,249 | \$15,922,145 | \$15,149,200 | \$15,295,026 |

Justification:

The Off-Road Vehicle Office is funded by dedicated revenue from snowmobile and ATV registration fees, and a small portion of the gasoline tax from snowmobiles, ATVs, and boats. The program plans, develops, and maintains thousands of miles of snowmobile/ATV trails directly or through grants-in-aid to clubs and municipalities. The program also develops and distributes information/education materials and provides technical assistance to clubs, municipalities, and landowners in managing the recreational use of snowmobiles and ATVs. The grant-in-aid programs currently pay a portion of the cost of trail development and maintenance for snowmobile club projects and municipal snowmobile projects. Additionally, the Public Facility for Boats Act provided that the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands acquire, construct, and maintain, within funds available, public facilities for boats in the waters of the State and provide a standardized state navigational marking system on the waters of the state.

Off-Road Recreational Vehicles Program Z224

Initiative: Reorganizes 2 26-week Navigational Aides Assistant positions to one full-time Navigational Aides Assistant position.

Ref. #: 416

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | (1.000) | (1.000) |
| Personal Services | (\$10,019) | (\$13,477) |
| All Other | (\$967) | (\$1,309) |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | (\$10,986) | (\$14,786) |

Justification:

This initiative will combine 2 seasonal positions into one year-round position to best meet operational needs and improve recruitment and retention within the Boating Navigational Aides program.

Off-Road Recreational Vehicles Program Z224

Initiative: Reorganizes 2 26-week Recreation Trails Coordinator positions to one full-time Recreation Trails Coordinator position and reallocates the cost of the reorganized position between Other Special Revenue Funds accounts within the same program.

Ref. #: 418

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | (1.000) | (1.000) |
| Personal Services | (\$10,328) | (\$13,031) |
| All Other | (\$992) | (\$1,256) |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | (\$11,320) | (\$14,287) |

Justification:

This initiative will combine 2 seasonal positions into one year-round position to best meet operational needs within the Off-Road Recreational Vehicle Program.

Off-Road Recreational Vehicles Program Z224

Initiative: Reorganizes one seasonal Recreation Trails Coordinator position to a year-round position using savings from eliminating one Heavy Equipment Operator position. This initiative also reallocates the cost of the Recreation Trails Coordinator position between Other Special Revenue Funds accounts within the same program.

Ref. #: 419

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 1.000 | 1.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | (1.154) | (1.154) |
| Personal Services | (\$6,283) | (\$6,979) |
| All Other | (\$601) | (\$665) |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | (\$6,884) | (\$7,644) |

Justification:

This initiative will combine 2 seasonal positions into one year-round position to best meet operational needs within the Off-Road Recreational Vehicle Program.

Off-Road Recreational Vehicles Program Z224

Initiative: Provides funding to construct new and renovate existing recreational boating facilities.

Ref. #: 421

One Time

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Capital Expenditures | \$500,000 | \$500,000 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$500,000 | \$500,000 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|

Justification:

Maintains infrastructure to enable public access to recreational boating facilities.

Off-Road Recreational Vehicles Program Z224

Initiative: Provides funding to replace one tractor, 2 all-terrain vehicles, and 2 snowmobiles in the Off-Road Recreational Vehicles program.

| | | | |
|-------------|----------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Ref. #: 422 | One Time | Committee Vote: <u>IN 10-0</u> | AFA Vote: _____ |
|-------------|----------|--------------------------------|-----------------|

| | | |
|--|------------------|-----------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$120,000 | \$50,000 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$120,000 | \$50,000 |

Justification:

Needed to replace a tractor, 2 ATVs, and 2 snowmobiles for use in the Off-road Recreational Vehicle program.

Off-Road Recreational Vehicles Program Z224

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide insurance coverage provided through the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Division of Risk Management based on claims experience, coverage increases, attorney fees on claims and actuarially recommended reserves.

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Ref. #: 424 | Committee Vote: <u>IN 10-0</u> | AFA Vote: _____ |
| <small>Ref # 377, p.1; Ref # 289 & 290, p.9; Ref # 441, p.28; Ref # 447, p.31; Ref # 465, p.39; Ref # 486, p.44; Ref # 510, p.53; Ref # 477, p.64; Ref # 403, p.76</small> | | |

| | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$3,179 | \$3,179 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$3,179 | \$3,179 |

Justification:

The Division of Risk Management within DAFS provides high quality insurance, loss control and claims services to all state agencies, the State's higher education institutions and some quasi-state agencies at the lowest possible cost. The rates are applicable to various insurance lines provided by the States self-insurance program and have been calculated in accordance with Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5 section 1733. The 2026-2027 budget includes rate increases in the Tort Policy based on claims experience, coverage increases, attorney fees on claims, and actuarially recommended reserves.

Off-Road Recreational Vehicles Program Z224

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align with revenue projections from the December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Ref. #: 428 | Committee Vote: <u>IN 10-0</u> | AFA Vote: _____ |
| <small>Ref # 264, p.46; Ref # 257, p.66 RFC-Revenue Forecasting Committee</small> | | |

| | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | (\$490,528) | (\$450,557) |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | (\$490,528) | (\$450,557) |

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue allocations with the Revenue Forecast.

Justification:

This initiative aligns allocation with December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

**OFF-ROAD RECREATIONAL VEHICLES PROGRAM Z224
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 17.000 | 19.000 | 22.000 | 22.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 5.731 | 5.731 | 2.577 | 2.577 |
| Personal Services | \$2,026,041 | \$2,225,806 | \$2,466,231 | \$2,605,200 |
| All Other | \$11,938,208 | \$12,656,339 | \$12,166,430 | \$12,205,731 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$1,040,000 | \$1,040,000 | \$620,000 | \$550,000 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$15,004,249 | \$15,922,145 | \$15,252,661 | \$15,360,931 |

Parks - General Operations Z221

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| GENERAL FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 49.000 | 49.000 | 49.000 | 49.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 77.407 | 77.407 | 80.579 | 80.579 |
| Personal Services | \$9,041,129 | \$3,436,602 | \$10,362,157 | \$11,164,869 |
| All Other | \$1,696,912 | \$1,709,525 | \$1,709,525 | \$1,709,525 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$10,738,041 | \$5,146,127 | \$12,071,682 | \$12,874,394 |

| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 0.000 | 2.000 | 2.000 | 2.000 |
| Personal Services | \$57,162 | \$241,234 | \$251,974 | \$264,689 |
| All Other | \$1,786,975 | \$6,799,304 | \$6,799,139 | \$6,799,139 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$1,844,137 | \$7,040,538 | \$7,051,113 | \$7,063,828 |

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 2.000 | 2.000 | 2.000 | 2.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 6.000 | 6.000 | 6.000 | 6.000 |
| Personal Services | \$556,656 | \$570,579 | \$638,421 | \$686,612 |
| All Other | \$2,394,718 | \$4,410,440 | \$2,410,440 | \$2,410,440 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$730,000 | \$7,530,000 | \$0 | \$0 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$3,681,374 | \$12,511,019 | \$3,048,861 | \$3,097,052 |

| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Personal Services | \$188,037 | \$6,000,000 | \$0 | \$0 |
| All Other | \$29,399,243 | \$412,720 | \$412,720 | \$412,720 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL | \$29,587,280 | \$6,412,720 | \$412,720 | \$412,720 |

Justification:

The Parks program provides various quality recreational and educational opportunities and natural resource conservation and management benefits to Maine citizens and visitors. The program funds four significant functions: 1) State Parks Operations and Maintenance: Administers 100,000 acres of state parks and historic sites, including 48 state parks and historic sites, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, and the Penobscot River Corridor; conducts repairs and capital improvements on the state parks system infrastructure; provides public information and education programs; operates the campsite reservation system. Employees serve over 3 million visitors annually. 2) Planning and Research: Collects data relating to recreational needs and resources; prepares the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreational Plan; conducts research and analysis on public use and resource management issues. 3) Grants and Community Recreation: Administers federal Land and Water Conservation Fund monies for acquisition and development of recreation areas and facilities; administers the National Recreation Trails Program for development and maintenance of recreational trails; assists

| | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Capital Expenditures | \$400,000 | \$400,000 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$400,000 | \$400,000 |

Justification:

Capital improvement and repair projects are necessary to maintain and improve existing infrastructure and ensure safety for public recreation. New storage buildings and restoration of the Boarding House and campsite repairs are priorities. Some of the campsite repairs are necessary due to increasing storm intensity.

Parks - General Operations Z221

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide insurance coverage provided through the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Division of Risk Management based on claims experience, coverage increases, attorney fees on claims and actuarially recommended reserves.

Ref. #: 403
 Ref # 377, p.1; Ref # 289 & 290, p.9; Ref # 441, p.28; Ref # 447, p.31;
 Ref # 465, p.39; Ref # 486, p.44; Ref # 510, p.53; Ref # 477, p.64; Ref # 424, p.72

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$27,776 | \$27,776 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$27,776 | \$27,776 |

Justification:

The Division of Risk Management within DAFS provides high quality insurance, loss control and claims services to all state agencies, the State's higher education institutions and some quasi-state agencies at the lowest possible cost. The rates are applicable to various insurance lines provided by the States self-insurance program and have been calculated in accordance with Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5 section 1733. The 2026-2027 budget includes rate increases in the Tort Policy based on claims experience, coverage increases, attorney fees on claims, and actuarially recommended reserves.

Parks - General Operations Z221

Initiative: Provides funding for statewide central fleet management services provided by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Ref. #: 404
 Ref # 378, p.1-2; Ref # 291 & 292 & 293, p.9; Ref # 448, p.31;
 Ref # 466 & 467, p.39; Ref # 511, p.53

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$9,052 | \$24,136 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$9,052 | \$24,136 |

Ref. #: 405 Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$148 | \$392 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$148 | \$392 |

Ref. #: 406 Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$13,965 | \$13,503 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$13,965 | \$13,503 |

Justification:

Central Fleet Management within DAFS centrally procures, distributes and disposes of passenger and light truck vehicles. CFM handles many aspects of vehicle services including writing vehicle specifications, ordering vehicles, providing drivers with maintenance schedules, service assistance, fueling resources, insurance protection and accident information processing. Central Fleet is established as an internal service fund intended to recoup their costs through daily and long term rental billings to departments and agencies. CFM expenses are higher due to negotiated and benefit changes to Personal Services as well as increases in operational costs, including fuel and vehicle purchase price. This recoupment process results in increased billing rates to departments and agencies.

Parks - General Operations Z221

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Marine Geologist position established by Financial Order 03899 F5 and provides funding to address climate resilience.

Ref. #: 407
 Ref # 487 p.45
 Ref # 385 p.56

Committee Vote: IN 9-0 AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | \$175,959 | \$175,959 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$175,959 | \$175,959 |

Justification:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant will fund several initiatives across the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry for the Climate Regional Resilience Challenge. These include a Marine Geologist (Coastal Hazard Specialist) position, designing and implementing a groundwater monitoring network to mitigate saltwater intrusion impacts, curating a website to centralize coastal adaptation resources, placing Shore Corps Stewards in the community to increase the ability of Maine communities to adapt to the changing climate by expanding technical assistance on resilience, developing a resilience plan for the Popham peninsula at the state park, along Route 209, and through a model ordinance for municipalities, updating bluff mapping procedures to consider adjacent habitats when determining bluff setbacks, and creating a pipeline of living shoreline projects.

Parks - General Operations Z221

Initiative: Continues one Limited Period Senior Planner position established by Financial Order AGR00-0031 through June 18, 2027 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 408 One Time
 Ref # 359 & 360 p.25

Committee Vote: IN 9-0 AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| Personal Services | \$106,437 | \$114,800 |
| All Other | \$10,928 | \$11,420 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$117,365 | \$126,220 |

Justification:

This position would support the General Fund Bond to Promote the Design, Development and Maintenance of Trails for Outdoor Recreation and Active Transportation approved by voters in November 2024 within the Bureau of Parks and Lands. It will administer a competitive grant process to award funds to organizations fulfilling the requirements for the design, development, and maintenance of non-motorized, motorized, and multi-use trails, trailheads, and trailside amenities statewide. The administration will involve designing the program, reviewing grant applications, facilitating a grant review committee, providing technical assistance, making awards, monitoring grant compliance, and ensuring fiscal accountabilities for all funds awarded.

**PARKS - GENERAL OPERATIONS Z221
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| GENERAL FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 49.000 | 49.000 | 50.000 | 50.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 77.407 | 77.407 | 80.579 | 80.579 |
| Personal Services | \$9,041,129 | \$3,436,602 | \$10,575,031 | \$11,394,469 |
| All Other | \$1,696,912 | \$1,709,525 | \$1,760,781 | \$1,776,357 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$10,738,041 | \$5,146,127 | \$12,335,812 | \$13,170,826 |
| | | | | |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 0.000 | 2.000 | 2.000 | 2.000 |
| Personal Services | \$57,162 | \$241,234 | \$251,974 | \$264,689 |
| All Other | \$1,786,975 | \$6,799,304 | \$6,975,246 | \$6,975,490 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$1,844,137 | \$7,040,538 | \$7,227,220 | \$7,240,179 |
| | | | | |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 2.000 | 2.000 | 2.000 | 2.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 6.000 | 6.000 | 6.000 | 6.000 |
| Personal Services | \$556,656 | \$570,579 | \$638,421 | \$686,612 |
| All Other | \$2,394,718 | \$4,410,440 | \$2,424,405 | \$2,423,943 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$730,000 | \$7,530,000 | \$830,000 | \$830,000 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$3,681,374 | \$12,511,019 | \$3,892,826 | \$3,940,555 |
| | | | | |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| Personal Services | \$188,037 | \$6,000,000 | \$0 | \$0 |
| All Other | \$29,399,243 | \$412,720 | \$412,720 | \$412,720 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL | \$29,587,280 | \$6,412,720 | \$412,720 | \$412,720 |

Pesticides Control - Board of 0287

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 2.000 | 2.000 | 2.000 | 2.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 2.018 | 2.018 | 2.018 | 2.018 |
| Personal Services | \$278,340 | \$284,569 | \$321,453 | \$340,356 |
| All Other | \$216,844 | \$218,007 | \$218,007 | \$218,007 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$495,184 | \$502,576 | \$539,460 | \$558,363 |

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 10.500 | 10.500 | 10.500 | 10.500 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 2.893 | 2.893 | 2.893 | 2.893 |
| Personal Services | \$1,297,224 | \$1,342,820 | \$1,381,767 | \$1,472,673 |
| All Other | \$1,383,466 | \$1,394,864 | \$1,394,864 | \$1,394,864 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$2,680,690 | \$2,737,684 | \$2,776,631 | \$2,867,537 |

Justification:

The Board of Pesticides Control protects public health and safety and public interest in the soils, water, forests, wildlife, agricultural, and other state resources by assuring the scientific and proper use of chemical pesticides. It operates four major programs, including pesticide product registration, certification and licensing of applicators and dealers, monitoring and compliance, and public education.

Pesticides Control - Board of 0287

Initiative: Provides funding for increased information technology system costs related to pesticides licensing.

Ref. #: 261

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | |
| All Other | \$15,054 | \$28,295 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$15,054 | \$28,295 |

Justification:

This will fund the ongoing costs of the system used for licensing pesticides.

**PESTICIDES CONTROL - BOARD OF 0287
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 2.000 | 2.000 | 2.000 | 2.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 2.018 | 2.018 | 2.018 | 2.018 |
| Personal Services | \$278,340 | \$284,569 | \$321,453 | \$340,356 |
| All Other | \$216,844 | \$218,007 | \$218,007 | \$218,007 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | \$495,184 | \$502,576 | \$539,460 | \$558,363 |
| | | | | |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 10.500 | 10.500 | 10.500 | 10.500 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 2.893 | 2.893 | 2.893 | 2.893 |
| Personal Services | \$1,297,224 | \$1,342,820 | \$1,381,767 | \$1,472,673 |
| All Other | \$1,383,466 | \$1,394,864 | \$1,409,918 | \$1,423,159 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$2,680,690 | \$2,737,684 | \$2,791,685 | \$2,895,832 |

Statewide Hunger Relief Program Z288

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| All Other | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 |

Justification:

The Department provides ongoing funds to contract with a nonprofit organization that provides statewide hunger relief services. This allows the organization to engage in statewide hunger relief services, including, but not limited to, purchasing food from Maine food producers and processors, providing grants to local hunger relief programs, and paying the organization's operational and distribution expenses.

**STATEWIDE HUNGER RELIEF PROGRAM Z288
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| All Other | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 |

Submerged Lands and Island Registry Z241

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 3.000 | 3.000 | 3.000 | 3.000 |
| Personal Services | \$299,614 | \$309,787 | \$360,019 | \$379,487 |
| All Other | \$713,753 | \$713,753 | \$713,753 | \$713,753 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$1,013,367 | \$1,023,540 | \$1,073,772 | \$1,093,240 |

Justification:

The Maine Submerged Lands Program administers the Submerged Lands Leasing Program, and multiple grant programs related to municipal harbor planning and public access. The Coastal Island Registry clarifies the title to the 3,165 islands in Maine's coastal waters by establishing and registering ownership. The Bureau of Parks and Lands maintains the registry and reviews periodic requests to register an island or amend a current registration. The Bureau also responds to requests for ownership information. Of the approximately 1,330 islands owned or held in trust by the State, the Bureau has identified 40 islands suitable for recreational use. It works in partnership with the Maine Island Trail Association to manage these islands as part of the Maine Island Trail.

SUBMERGED LANDS AND ISLAND REGISTRY Z241

PROGRAM SUMMARY

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 3.000 | 3.000 | 3.000 | 3.000 |
| Personal Services | \$299,614 | \$309,787 | \$360,019 | \$379,487 |
| All Other | \$713,753 | \$713,753 | \$713,753 | \$713,753 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$1,013,367 | \$1,023,540 | \$1,073,772 | \$1,093,240 |

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

| DEPARTMENT TOTALS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | \$60,473,427 | \$63,752,500 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | \$22,098,901 | \$22,310,751 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | \$178,638,463 | \$182,517,715 |
| FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY | \$413,720 | \$413,720 |
| DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS | \$262,624,511 | \$269,994,686 |

Sec. A-6. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

BAXTER STATE PARK AUTHORITY

Baxter State Park Authority 0253

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 25.000 | 25.000 | 25.000 | 25.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 21.909 | 21.909 | 22.370 | 22.370 |
| Personal Services | \$4,029,358 | \$4,160,921 | \$4,459,442 | \$4,763,721 |
| All Other | \$1,563,104 | \$1,566,487 | \$1,566,487 | \$1,566,487 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$340,000 | \$345,000 | \$0 | \$0 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$5,932,462 | \$6,072,408 | \$6,025,929 | \$6,330,208 |

Justification:

It is our mission to carry out the provisions of the Trust created by former Governor Percival P. Baxter; known to the people of Maine as Baxter State Park. The Baxter State Park Authority exists to ensure that the Park shall forever be kept and remain in the Natural Wild State, to provide recreational opportunities to the public in accordance with trust provisions, to operate and maintain the Park for the use and enjoyment of Maine's people. According to the donor's wishes, it shall forever be retained and used as a public park, public recreational area, for the demonstration of exemplary forest management and remain as a sanctuary for beasts and birds and Katahdin in all its glory forever shall remain the mountain of the People of Maine.

Baxter State Park Authority 0253

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for replacements, upgrades and improvements to infrastructure throughout Baxter State Park, including its headquarter building, ranger stations, storage facilities, rental cabins, lean-tos and other capital improvement projects.

Ref. #: 650 One Time Committee Vote: TN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | |
| Capital Expenditures | \$192,800 | \$177,580 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$192,800 | \$177,580 |

Justification:

Baxter State Park has over 300 buildings, many of which suffer from deferred or insufficient maintenance. This funding will replace the security system at the Millinocket Headquarters, continue the roof and lean-to replacement program, and upgrade cabins to improve the visitor experience. The aging roads in the park also need updates to handle extreme participation events, follow best management practices, and maintain connected habitats in the streams.

Baxter State Park Authority 0253

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the replacement of 4 pickup trucks.

Ref. #: 651 One Time Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$119,984 | \$134,560 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$119,984 | \$134,560 |

Justification:

Capital equipment needs reflect the purchase of 4 new pickup trucks. Older pickups will be reassign to in-park use and will be used until the end of its life cycle. Baxter State Park owns and maintains its own fleet.

Baxter State Park Authority 0253

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for 4 snowmobiles.

Ref. #: 652 One Time Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$32,216 | \$32,860 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$32,216 | \$32,860 |

Justification:

The park currently does not have enough snowmobiles to support park operations and winter maintenance needs. The new snowmobile will be used to support park operations and winter maintenance projects.

**BAXTER STATE PARK AUTHORITY 0253
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | 25.000 | 25.000 | 25.000 | 25.000 |
| POSITIONS - FTE COUNT | 21.909 | 21.909 | 22.370 | 22.370 |
| Personal Services | \$4,029,358 | \$4,160,921 | \$4,459,442 | \$4,763,721 |
| All Other | \$1,563,104 | \$1,566,487 | \$1,566,487 | \$1,566,487 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$340,000 | \$345,000 | \$345,000 | \$345,000 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$5,932,462 | \$6,072,408 | \$6,370,929 | \$6,675,208 |

BAXTER STATE PARK AUTHORITY

| DEPARTMENT TOTALS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | \$6,370,929 | \$6,675,208 |
| DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS | \$6,370,929 | \$6,675,208 |

Sec. A-7. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

BLUEBERRY COMMISSION OF MAINE, WILD

Blueberry Commission 0375

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| All Other | \$1,780,000 | \$1,780,000 | \$1,780,000 | \$1,780,000 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$1,780,000 | \$1,780,000 | \$1,780,000 | \$1,780,000 |

Justification:

The mission of the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine is to conserve and promote the prosperity and welfare of this State and of the wild blueberry industry of this State by fostering research and extension programs, by the development of promotional opportunities and other activities related to the wild blueberry industry. These dedicated revenues provided by wild blueberry growers and processors will be used to support research and extension at the University of Maine focused on enhancing Integrated Crop Management (ICM) practices (knowledge based cropping systems), food safety and health benefit research. The majority of the funds will be invested in the promotion of Wild Blueberries locally, nationally and internationally. The commission also works with the University of Maine and the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to apply for research and promotion grants. Resources are also expended on agricultural and food policy at the state and national level for the benefit of Maine's 500 wild blueberry growers and processors.

BLUEBERRY COMMISSION 0375

PROGRAM SUMMARY

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| All Other | \$1,780,000 | \$1,780,000 | \$1,780,000 | \$1,780,000 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$1,780,000 | \$1,780,000 | \$1,780,000 | \$1,780,000 |

BLUEBERRY COMMISSION OF MAINE, WILD

| DEPARTMENT TOTALS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | \$1,780,000 | \$1,780,000 |
| DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS | \$1,780,000 | \$1,780,000 |

Sec. A-28. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE

Dairy Improvement Fund Z143

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| All Other | \$460,431 | \$465,182 | \$465,182 | \$465,182 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$460,431 | \$465,182 | \$465,182 | \$465,182 |

Justification:

The Dairy Improvement Fund provides loans to assist dairy farmers in making capital improvements.

Dairy Improvement Fund Z143

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align with revenue projections from the December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

Ref. #: 1496

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|--|-------------------|------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | |
| All Other | | (\$16,925) | (\$3,477) |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | | (\$16,925) | (\$3,477) |

Notes:

Informational only. Not part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on initiatives that align Other Special Revenue allocations with the Revenue Forecast.

Justification:

This initiative aligns allocation with December 1, 2024 revenue forecast.

**DAIRY IMPROVEMENT FUND Z143
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| All Other | \$460,431 | \$465,182 | \$448,257 | \$461,705 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$460,431 | \$465,182 | \$448,257 | \$461,705 |

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE

| DEPARTMENT TOTALS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | \$448,257 | \$461,705 |
| DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS | \$448,257 | \$461,705 |

Sec. A-60. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

POTATO BOARD, MAINE

Potato Board 0429

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| All Other | \$160,902 | \$160,902 | \$160,902 | \$160,902 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$160,902 | \$160,902 | \$160,902 | \$160,902 |
| | | | | |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| All Other | \$1,586,129 | \$1,586,129 | \$1,586,129 | \$1,586,129 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$1,586,129 | \$1,586,129 | \$1,586,129 | \$1,586,129 |

Justification:

The Maine Potato Board was established as a public instrumentality of the state to provide for the advancement of the Maine potato industry in the public interest and for the public good. The mission of the Maine Potato Board is to provide a competitive environment for out growers, processors and dealers creating both stability and the infrastructure for future growth, while promoting the economic importance to the state and quality of the product.

**POTATO BOARD 0429
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| All Other | \$160,902 | \$160,902 | \$160,902 | \$160,902 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$160,902 | \$160,902 | \$160,902 | \$160,902 |
| | | | | |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| All Other | \$1,586,129 | \$1,586,129 | \$1,586,129 | \$1,586,129 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$1,586,129 | \$1,586,129 | \$1,586,129 | \$1,586,129 |

POTATO BOARD, MAINE

| DEPARTMENT TOTALS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | \$160,902 | \$160,902 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | \$1,586,129 | \$1,586,129 |
| DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS | \$1,747,031 | \$1,747,031 |

Sec. A-75. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE

Tick Laboratory and Pest Management Fund Z290

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| All Other | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 |

Justification:

Provides funding from pesticide container fee revenue to support the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Diagnostic and Research Laboratory and University of Maine System research on emerging pests of statewide significance.

**TICK LABORATORY AND PEST MANAGEMENT FUND Z290
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| All Other | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | \$250,000 |

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Z172

Initiative: BASELINE BUDGET

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| All Other | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 |

Justification:

Provides funds for the development and implementation of integrated pest management programs such as public health-related mosquito monitoring or other pesticide stewardship programs.

**UNIVERSITY OF MAINE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION Z172
PROGRAM SUMMARY**

| | History 2023-24 | History 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | | | | |
| All Other | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 |

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE

| DEPARTMENT TOTALS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | \$250,000 | \$250,000 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | \$200,000 | \$200,000 |
| DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS | \$450,000 | \$450,000 |

Sec. B-1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

Animal Welfare Fund 0946

Initiative: RECLASSIFICATIONS

Ref. #: 379

Committee Vote: TN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Personal Services

2025-26

2026-27

\$5,626

\$6,029

All Other

\$236

\$254

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$5,862

\$6,283

Notes:

Not Part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: RECLASSIFICATIONS

Ref. #: 362

Committee Vote: TN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Personal Services

2025-26

2026-27

\$7,302

\$7,572

All Other

\$1,303

\$1,351

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

\$8,605

\$8,923

Notes:

Not Part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

Forest Resource Management Z233

Initiative: RECLASSIFICATIONS

Ref. #: 468

Committee Vote: TN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

Personal Services

2025-26

2026-27

\$10,361

\$10,761

All Other

\$229

\$238

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL

\$10,590

\$10,999

Notes:

Not Part of the Public Hearing. Policy Committees need not make a recommendation on Reclassification, Reorganization and Range Change initiatives.

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

| DEPARTMENT TOTALS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | \$10,590 | \$10,999 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | \$14,467 | \$15,206 |
| DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS | \$25,057 | \$26,205 |

IN as amended (see attached memo) 8-0
PART S

Sec. S-1. 7 MRSA §164, sub-§5, is enacted to read:

5. Funding. A separate non-lapsing, interest-bearing account, administered by the department, is established in the department to support public-private partnerships to carry out the purposes of the program. The account consists of money appropriated or allocated to it or received from any private or public source.

Within the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

**PART S
SUMMARY**

The part establishes a separate, non-lapsing, interest-bearing account administered by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to support public-private partnerships to carry out the purposes of the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Program. The account consists of money appropriated or allocated to it or received from any private or public source.

IN 8-0

PART T

Sec. T-1. 7 MRSA §2188, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 84, §3, is amended to read:

Fees

An application fee and an examination fee may be established by the department in amounts that are reasonable and necessary for their respective purposes. After an applicant is notified of the applicant's eligibility for a license following examination, the applicant shall submit the annual license fee before a license is issued.

The fee for an original or renewal annual license may not exceed \$75180.

**PART T
SUMMARY**

This part will update the fee for an original or renewal of an annual arborist license to no more than \$180.

IN 10-0

PART U

Sec. U-1. 12 MRSA §685, as amended by PL 2011, c. 682, §9, is further amended to read:

The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall prepare a biennial budget and shall submit to the Legislature requests for appropriations sufficient to carry out its assigned

tasks. The commission may accept contributions of any type from any source to assist it in carrying out its assigned tasks, and make such requirements in respect to the administration of such funds, not inconsistent with this subchapter, as are required as conditions precedent to receiving such funds, federal or otherwise. The commission shall give public notice of all contributions, in the state paper, stating the source, the amount and the purpose of such contributions. The commission may contract with municipal, county, state and federal governments or their agencies to assist in the carrying out of any of its assigned tasks. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, with the consent of a majority of the commission, shall appoint a director who is the principal administrative, operational and executive employee of the commission. The director shall attend all meetings of the commission and is permitted to participate fully but is not a voting member of the commission.

The commission shall establish and maintain at least 2 field offices, one in Greenville and one in Ashland, designed principally to provide assistance to the public on permit applications and to carry out such other functions of the commission as appropriate. These field offices must be established at locations in or close to the commission's jurisdiction and chosen to provide the maximum benefit to the public while minimizing costs. Historic levels of permitting activity, the convenience of access and the availability and cost of office facilities must be considered in choosing the field office locations. Each office must be open on a part-time basis at least 2 days a month or as public demand for the services of such field offices warrants and as resources allow. Whenever practicable, the commission shall make use of existing personnel to staff these field offices. Personnel must receive regular training to address customer service and other needs.

A Dedicated account is established. The account is authorized to accept funding for Commission related activities. This includes surcharges for digital/ online fee payments.

PART U SUMMARY

This part establishes a dedicated account for the Maine Land Use Planning Commission to accept funds including surcharges for digital/online payments.

IN 9-0

PART V

Sec. V-1. Transfer of funds from unencumbered balance forward, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Forest Protection. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall leave \$250,000 of unencumbered balance forward remaining in the Personal Services line category and \$300,000 of unencumbered balance forward remaining in the All Other line category in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Forest Protection, General Fund account at the close of fiscal year 2024-25 and shall transfer all remaining money from the unencumbered balance forward in the Personal Services line category above \$250,000 and in the All Other line category above \$300,000 on or before August 1, 2025, to the Capital Expenditures line category in the

Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Forest Protection, General Fund account to carry out the mission of the Division of Forest Protection.

Sec. V-2. Transfer of funds from unencumbered balance forward, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Forest Protection. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall leave \$250,000 of unencumbered balance forward remaining in the Personal Services line category and \$300,000 of unencumbered balance forward remaining in the All Other line category in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Forest Protection, General Fund account at the close of fiscal year 2025-26 and shall transfer all remaining money from the unencumbered balance forward in the Personal Services line category above \$250,000 and in the All Other line category above \$300,000 on or before August 1, 2026, to the Capital Expenditures line category in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Forest Protection, General Fund account to carry out the mission of the Division of Forest Protection.

PART V SUMMARY

This part authorizes a one-time transfer in each year of the biennium of all funds in excess of \$550,000 from unencumbered balance forward in the Personal Services and All Other line categories in the Division of Forest Protection, General Fund account to the Capital Expenditures line category in the Division of Forest Protection, General Fund account.

IN as amend 6 in favor; PART W (See attached memo for amendment)
2 opposed

Sec. W-1. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; Department of Agriculture, Community-based greenhouse - Bureau of Agriculture. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2026, the State Controller shall transfer \$500,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Other Special Revenue Funds Community-based greenhouse - Bureau of Agriculture for one-time funding for grants for durable (glass, polycarbonate, etc.) greenhouse structures and associated siting and installation costs to schools, community centers, and other eligible public entities as determined by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for shared and educational uses, and to enhance community-based opportunities for food production.

PART W SUMMARY

This Part provides one-time funding for community-based opportunities for food production.

Ref. #: 366

Committee Vote: IN 7-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | (\$910) | (\$910) |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | (\$910) | (\$910) |

Justification:

This initiative transfers All Other funding for the Maine Floodplain Program from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Maine Floodplain Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same respective funds and transfers position related All Other funding from 85% General Fund and 15% Other Special Revenue Funds, DACF Administration program in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to 100% General Fund, Municipal Planning Assistance program in the Maine Office of Community Affairs to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B. The funding associated with the position related All Other costs in the DACF Administration program, Other Special Revenue Funds in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry will not be transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs so additional funding is being requested in the General Fund to cover the position related All Other costs in the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Transfers position related All Other funding from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

Ref. #: 367

Committee Vote: IN 7-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | (\$6,706) | (\$6,706) |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | (\$6,706) | (\$6,706) |

Ref. #: 368

Committee Vote: IN 7-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | (\$1,392) | (\$1,392) |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | (\$1,392) | (\$1,392) |

Justification:

This initiative transfers position related All Other funding from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Municipal Planning Assistance program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund and transfers position related All Other funding from 85% General Fund and 15% Other Special Revenue Funds, DACF Administration program in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to 100% General Fund, Municipal Planning Assistance program in the Maine Office of Community Affairs. This All Other funding is related to one Senior Planner position that is also being transferred from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The funding associated with the costs in the DACF Administration program, Other Special Revenue Funds in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry will not be transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs so additional funding is being requested in the

| | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | (\$49,909) | (\$49,909) |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL | <u>(\$49,909)</u> | <u>(\$49,909)</u> |

Ref. #: 492

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| All Other | (\$500) | (\$500) |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | <u>(\$500)</u> | <u>(\$500)</u> |

Justification:

This initiative transfers All Other funding for the Maine Floodplain Program from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Maine Floodplain Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same respective funds and transfers position related All Other funding from 85% General Fund and 15% Other Special Revenue Funds, DACF Administration program in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to 100% General Fund, Municipal Planning Assistance program in the Maine Office of Community Affairs to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B. The funding associated with the position related All Other costs in the DACF Administration program, Other Special Revenue Funds in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry will not be transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs so additional funding is being requested in the General Fund to cover the position related All Other costs in the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

Geology and Resource Information Z237

Initiative: Transfers one Senior Planner position and one Public Service Manager I position and transfer and reallocates the cost of one Senior Planner position from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Municipal Planning Assistance program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same funds and from the Other Special Revenue Funds to the General Fund respectively. Three authorized positions and any incumbent personnel as of July 1, 2025 in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry are transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. All transferred positions will be classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of positions as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Each employee will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 493

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | (1.000) | (1.000) |
| Personal Services | (\$148,625) | (\$158,183) |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <u>(\$148,625)</u> | <u>(\$158,183)</u> |

Ref. #: 494

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | (1.000) | (1.000) |

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL

(\$126,728) (\$134,712)

Justification:

This initiative transfers one Senior Planner position and one Planner II position from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Maine Floodplain Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same respective funds to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B.

Geology and Resource Information Z237

Initiative: Transfers one Senior Planner position and one Planner II position from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Municipal Planning Assistance program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. Two authorized positions and any incumbent personnel as of July 1, 2025 in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry are transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. All transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, will be classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit will be based on the classification of the position. Those employees will retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

Ref. #: 498

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT | (2,000) | (2,000) |
| Personal Services | (\$216,371) | (\$232,966) |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | (\$216,371) | (\$232,966) |

Justification:

This initiative transfers one Senior Planner position and one Planner II position from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Municipal Planning Assistance program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund to provide coordinated and efficient technical assistance and funding in partnership with communities across Maine. This initiative is necessary to fully implement the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 310-B. These positions are limited-period positions that are being requested to become permanent in part A of the budget.

Geology and Resource Information Z237

Initiative: Transfers position related All Other funding from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

Ref. #: 499

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

| | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| All Other | (\$7,000) | (\$7,000) |
| GENERAL FUND TOTAL | (\$7,000) | (\$7,000) |

Justification:

This initiative transfers position related All Other funding from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Municipal Planning Assistance program, Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund and transfers position related All Other funding from 85% General Fund and 15% Other Special Revenue Funds, DACF Administration program in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to 100% General Fund, Municipal Planning Assistance program in the Maine Office of Community Affairs. This All Other funding is related to one Senior Planner position that is also being transferred from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The funding associated with the costs in the DACF Administration program, Other Special Revenue Funds in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry will not be transferred to the Maine Office of Community Affairs so additional funding is being requested in the General Fund to cover the costs in the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

| DEPARTMENT TOTALS | 2025-26 | 2026-27 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| GENERAL FUND | (\$671,464) | (\$701,760) |
| FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND | (\$860,548) | (\$876,791) |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | (\$124,264) | (\$129,169) |
| DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS | (\$1,656,276) | (\$1,707,720) |

IN 7-0

PART D

Sec. D-1. 5 MRSA §3109, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. OOOO, §1, is repealed.

Sec. D-2. 5 MRSA c. 310-B, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 643, §D2, is amended to read:

CHAPTER 310-B

MAINE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

SUBCHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§3201. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Director. "Director" means the Director of the Maine Office of Community Affairs appointed pursuant to section 3203.

2. Office. "Office" means the Maine Office of Community Affairs established by section 3202.

§3202. Office established; purpose

The Maine Office of Community Affairs is established as ~~an agency in the executive branch~~ to foster communications and partnerships across state agencies and between the State and communities in this State. The office shall engage with municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils to provide coordinated and efficient planning, technical assistance and financial support to better plan for challenges, pursue solutions and create stronger, more resilient communities.

The office is established to partner with communities in this State and regional councils by:

1. Assistance and funding. Providing technical assistance and funding related to planning to municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils that supports a sustainable future for the State's people, communities, natural resources, physical infrastructure, industries, businesses and institutions; and

2. Coordination and communication. Facilitating general coordination and communication between municipalities, tribal governments, regional councils and State Government.

§3203. Director

The Director of the Maine Office of Community Affairs is appointed by the Governor and serves at the pleasure of the Governor. The director must have demonstrated experience and leadership in municipal or regional government and must bring expertise in planning, technical assistance and grant programs for communities.

§3204. Powers and duties

The director shall exercise the powers of the office and is responsible for the execution of the duties of the office.

1. Duties of director. The director shall:

A. Appoint and remove office staff and prescribe staff duties as necessary to implement the duties of the office, including:

(1) Hiring professional staff that have education, training and experience in the fields of planning and development, local and regional government, climate science and resilience, housing, building codes and general policy making; and

(2) Employing additional staff as necessary to support the work of the office.

B. Supervise and administer the affairs of the office and advise the Governor and other officials of State Government on matters of communication and partnerships between the State, municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils in this State;

C. At the request of the Governor, act for the State in the initiation of or participation in any multigovernmental agency program related to the purposes of the office;

D. At the request of the Governor, prepare and submit a budget for the office; and

E. At the request of the Governor, report on the activities of the office and, after consultation with and approval by the Governor, submit recommendations for legislative action as are determined necessary to further the purposes of this chapter.

2. Duties of office. Under the supervision of the director, the office shall:

A. Provide technical assistance and resources to municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils on issues related to planning, climate resilience and development;

B. Collect and collate data and statistics relating to the issues described in paragraph A and provide them to municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils;

C. Assist municipalities, tribal governments and regional councils, as well as the State, in applying for, using and leveraging federal funding resources on issues of importance to communities and the State;

D. Make grants from money appropriated to the office by the Legislature and any funds received by the office for the purposes of the office, including federal funding or private funds; solicit applications for grants; and make grant awards to eligible communities and to service provider organizations as determined by the office, including establishing eligibility requirements and other criteria to consider in awarding grants;

E. Administer contracts with regional councils and regional planning and development districts to provide technical assistance and resources to municipalities and tribal governments on issues related to planning, climate resilience and development, including but not limited to land use

planning, planning for housing and other residential development, climate resilience planning and related infrastructure planning, building codes and other forms of local development assistance to support state, regional and local goals; and

F. Consult with and provide ongoing coordination with state agencies on programs and issues related to planning technical assistance and funding to communities in this State, including but not limited to the Department of Transportation; Department of Environmental Protection; Department of Marine Resources; Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; Department of Economic and Community Development; Department of Health and Human Services; Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency; Department of Public Safety; Maine State Housing Authority; Governor's Energy Office; Efficiency Maine Trust; the Maine Historic Preservation Commission; and the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority.

G. The office may adopt rules as necessary for the proper administration and enforcement of this chapter, pursuant to the Maine Administrative Procedures Act. Unless otherwise specified, rules adopted pursuant to this chapter are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2 A.

§3205. Acceptance and administration of funds

The office may accept, administer and expend funds, including but not limited to funds from the Federal Government or from private sources, for purposes consistent with this chapter. The director shall provide a report of the amount of any outside funding received from private sources and its designated purpose to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over municipal matters on an annual basis.

A. The office may adopt rules to administer grants and other fund disbursements. Rules adopted pursuant to this program are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

B. To maximize the availability of technical and financial assistance programs to all communities, including municipalities and tribes, and to multi-community regions and service providers, financial assistance programs administered competitively by this Office are exempt from rules adopted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services procurement authorities in Title 5, Ch. 155 and any rules promulgated thereto for use in the purchasing of services and the awarding of grants and contracts.

C. The office shall publish a program statement describing its grant programs and advertising its availability to eligible applicants.

D. Grants awarded pursuant to this exemption may be for a period of up to 2 years. Recipients of grant funds through the programs shall cooperate with the office's performance of periodic evaluations. The recipients shall meet the office's specific reporting requirements.

E. The office may adjudicate appeals of grant disbursement decisions made under its authority. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, an adjudicatory hearing on an appeal must be held in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.

§3206. Contracts; agreements

The office may employ expert and professional consultants, contract for services as the director determines necessary within the limits of the funds provided and consistent with the powers and duties of the office and enter into agreements with the Federal Government and other agencies and organizations that promote the objectives of this chapter.

Sec. D-3. 5 MRSA c. 310-B, sub-c. 2 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 2

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

§3207. Community Resilience Partnership Program

1. Definition. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "community" means a municipal government, tribal government, plantation, township or unorganized territory.

2. Program established; administration. The Community Resilience Partnership Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the office to provide direction, assistance and grants to communities in the State to help the communities reduce carbon emissions, transition to clean energy and become more resilient to the effects of climate change. The office shall administer the program to provide technical and financial assistance for local and regional planning and implementation projects consistent with the State's emissions reduction targets under Title 38, section 576 A and the state climate action plan under Title 38, section 577.

3. Grants. The program shall make grants from money appropriated to the program by the Legislature and any funds received by the office for the purposes of the program, including federal funding or private funds.

A. The program may solicit applications for grants and make grant awards through a competitive process to eligible communities and to service provider organizations as determined by the program.

B. The office may establish eligibility requirements and other criteria to consider in awarding grants, as long as the criteria support the goals to help communities reduce carbon emissions, transition to clean energy and become more resilient to the effects of climate change.

4. Other technical assistance. The program may provide other technical assistance and knowledge sharing that may include, but is not limited to, assisting communities with information about available grant opportunities, sharing best practices from jurisdictions inside and outside the State, providing model language for local ordinances and policies and providing information to the general public that may support local and statewide policy changes meant to reduce emissions, encourage the transition to clean energy and increase resiliency to the effects of climate change.

§3208. Coastal zone management program

Implement and manage coastal zone management program. The office, under direction of the director, shall manage and coordinate implementation and ongoing development and improvement of a state coastal zone management program in accordance with and in furtherance of the requirements of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, 16 United States Code, Sections 1451 to 1466 (2012) and the State's coastal management policies established in Title 38, section 1801. The office may:

- A. Implement aspects of the state coastal zone management program and be the lead state agency for purposes of federal consistency review under the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, 16 United States Code, Section 1456 (2012);
- B. Receive and administer funds from public or private sources for implementation of the state coastal zone management program; and
- C. Act as the coordinating agency among the several officers, authorities, boards, commissions, departments and political subdivisions of the State on matters relative to management of coastal resources and related human uses in the coastal area.

§ 3209. Floodplain management

The floodplain management program is established within the office. The office shall serve as the state coordinating agency for the National Flood Insurance Program pursuant to 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 60 and in that capacity shall oversee delivery of technical assistance and resources to municipalities for the purpose of floodplain management activities and shall administer the State Floodplain Mapping Fund under Title 5, section 3210.

§ 3210. State Floodplain Mapping Fund

1. Fund established. The State Floodplain Mapping Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a dedicated, nonlapsing fund administered by the office for the purpose of providing funds for the mapping of floodplains in the State using light detection and ranging technology.

2. Sources of funding. The fund consists of any money received from the following sources:

- A. Contributions from private sources;
- B. Federal funds and awards;
- C. The proceeds of any bonds issued for the purposes for which the fund is established; and
- D. Any other funds received in support of the purposes for which the fund is established.

3. Disbursements from the fund. The office shall apply the money in the fund toward the support of floodplain mapping in the State, including, but not limited to, the acquisition of light detection and ranging elevation data and the processing and production of floodplain maps.

Sec. D-4. 5 MRSA c. 310-B, sub-c. 3 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 3

MUNICIPAL PLANNING ASSISTANCE

§3211. Municipal planning assistance program; purpose, administration

Under the provisions of this program, a municipality or multimunicipal region may request financial or technical assistance from the office for the purpose of planning and implementing a growth management program. A municipality or multimunicipal region that requests and receives a financial assistance grant shall develop and implement its growth management program in cooperation with the office and in a manner consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in this subchapter and in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2.

To accomplish the purposes of this subchapter, the office shall develop and administer a technical and financial assistance program for municipalities or multimunicipal regions. The program must include direct financial assistance for planning and implementation of growth management programs, standards governing the review of growth management programs by the office, technical assistance to municipalities or multimunicipal regions and a voluntary certification program for growth management programs.

§ 3211-A. Municipal planning assistance program; technical and financial assistance

The technical and financial assistance program for municipalities, regional councils and multimunicipal regions is established to encourage and facilitate the adoption and implementation of local, regional and statewide growth management programs.

The office may enter into financial assistance grants only to the extent that funds are available. In making grants, the office shall consider the need for planning in a municipality or multimunicipal region, the proximity of the municipality or multimunicipal region to other areas that are conducting or have completed the planning process and the economic and geographic role of the municipality or multimunicipal region within a regional context. The office shall give priority in making grants to any municipality or multimunicipal region that has adopted a local climate action plan and, if the municipality or multimunicipal region has adopted a comprehensive plan or growth management program, prepared a climate vulnerability assessment pursuant to Title 30-A, section 4326, subsection 1, paragraph L. The office may consider other criteria in making grants, as long as the criteria support the goal of encouraging and facilitating the adoption and implementation of local and multimunicipal growth management programs consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in this subchapter.

1. Planning assistance grants.

2. Implementation assistance grants.

2-A. Financial assistance grants. A contract for a financial assistance grant must:

A. Provide for the payment of a specific amount for the purposes of planning and preparing a comprehensive plan;

B. Provide for the payment of a specific amount for the purposes of implementing that plan; and

C. Include specific timetables governing the preparation and submission of products by the municipality or multimunicipal region.

The office may not require a municipality or multimunicipal region to provide matching funds in excess of 25% of the value of that municipality's or multimunicipal region's financial assistance contract for its first planning assistance grant and implementation assistance grant. The office may require a higher match for other grants, including, but not limited to, grants for the purpose of updating comprehensive plans. This match limitation does not apply to distribution of federal funds that the office may administer.

2-B. Use of funds. A municipality or multimunicipal region may expend financial assistance grants for:

A. The conduct of surveys, inventories and other data-gathering activities;

B. The hiring of planning and other technical staff;

C. The retention of planning consultants;

D. Contracts with regional councils for planning and related services;

E. Assistance in the development of ordinances;

F. Retention of technical and legal expertise;

G. The updating of growth management programs or components of a program;

G-1. Evaluation of growth management programs; and

H. Any other purpose agreed to by the office and the municipality or multimunicipal region that is directly related to the preparation of a comprehensive plan or the implementation of a comprehensive plan adopted in accordance with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in this subchapter.

2-C. Program evaluation. Any recipient of a financial assistance grant shall cooperate with the office in performing program evaluations required under Title 30-A, section 4331.

2-D. Encumbered balances at year-end. Notwithstanding Title 5, section 1589, at the end of each fiscal year, all encumbered balances accounts for financial assistance and regional planning grants may be carried forward for 2 years beyond the year in which those balances are encumbered.

3. Technical assistance. Using its own staff, the staff of other state agencies, contractors and the resources of the regional councils, the office shall provide technical assistance to municipalities or multimunicipal regions in the development, administration and enforcement of growth management programs. The technical assistance component of the program must include a set of model land use ordinances or other implementation strategies developed by the office that are consistent with this subchapter.

4. Regional council assistance. As part of the technical and financial assistance program, the office may develop and administer a program to develop regional education and training programs, regional policies to address state goals and regional assessments. Regional assessments may include, but are not limited to, public infrastructure, inventories of agricultural and commercial forest lands, housing needs, recreation and open space needs, and projections of regional growth and economic development. The program may include guidelines to ensure methodological consistency among the State's regional councils. To implement this program, the office may contract with regional councils to assist the office in reviewing growth management programs, to develop necessary planning information at a regional level or to provide support for local planning efforts.

5. Coordination. State agencies with regulatory or other authority affecting the goals established in this subchapter shall conduct their respective activities in a manner consistent with the goals established under this subchapter, including, but not limited to, coordinating with municipalities, regional councils and other state agencies in meeting the state goals; providing available information to regions and municipalities as described in Title 30-A, section 4326, subsection 1; cooperating with efforts to integrate and provide access to geographic information system data; making state investments and awarding grant money as described in section Title 5, section 3211-C; and conducting reviews of growth management programs as provided in Title 5, section 3211-B, subsection 3, paragraph A. Without limiting the application of this section to other state agencies, the following agencies shall comply with this subchapter:

- A. Department of Economic and Community Development;
- B. Department of Environmental Protection;
- C. Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry;
- D. Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife;
- E. Department of Marine Resources;
- F. Department of Transportation;
- G. Department of Health and Human Services;
- H. Finance Authority of Maine; and
- I. Maine State Housing Authority.

§3211-B. Municipal planning assistance program; review of programs

1. Comprehensive plans. A municipality or multimunicipal region that chooses to prepare a growth management program and receives a planning grant under Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 shall submit its comprehensive plan to the office for review. A municipality or multimunicipal region that chooses to prepare a growth management program without receiving a planning grant under this subchapter may submit its comprehensive plan to the office for review. The office shall review plans for consistency with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2. A contract for a planning assistance grant must include

specific timetables governing the review of the comprehensive plan by the office. A comprehensive plan submitted for review more than 12 months following a contract end date may be required to contain data, projections and other time-sensitive portions of the plan or program that are in compliance with the office's most current review standards.

2. Growth management programs. A municipality or multimunicipal region may at any time request a certificate of consistency for its growth management program.

A. Upon a request for review under this section, the office shall review the program and determine whether the program is consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2.

B. Certification by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or the office of a municipality's or multimunicipal region's growth management program under Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 is valid for 10 years. To maintain certification, a municipality or multimunicipal region shall periodically review its growth management program and submit to the office in a timely manner any revisions necessary to account for changes, including changes caused by growth and development. Certification does not lapse in any year in which the Legislature does not appropriate funds to the office for the purposes of reviewing programs for recertification.

C. Upon a request for review under this section, the office may review rate of growth, impact fee and zoning ordinances to determine whether the ordinances are consistent with a comprehensive plan that has been found consistent under this section without requiring submission of all elements of a growth management program. An affirmative finding of consistency by the office is required for a municipality or multimunicipal region to assert jurisdiction as provided in section Title 4, section 3211-C.

3. Review of growth management program. In reviewing a growth management program, the office shall:

A. Solicit written comments on any proposed growth management program from regional councils, state agencies, all municipalities contiguous to the municipality or multimunicipal region submitting a growth management program and any interested residents of the municipality or multimunicipal region or of contiguous municipalities. The comment period extends for 45 days after the office receives the growth management program.

(1) Each state agency reviewing the proposal shall designate a person or persons responsible for coordinating the agency's review of the growth management program.

(2) Any regional council commenting on a growth management program shall determine whether the program is compatible with the programs of other municipalities that may be affected by the program and with regional policies or needs identified by the regional council;

B. Prepare all written comments from all sources in a form to be forwarded to the municipality or multimunicipal region;

C. Within 90 days after receiving the growth management program, send all written comments on the growth management program to the municipality or multimunicipal region and any applicable regional council. If warranted, the office shall issue findings specifically describing how the submitted growth management program is not consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 and the recommended measures for remedying the deficiencies.

(1) In its findings, the office shall clearly indicate its position on any point on which there are significant conflicts among the written comments submitted to the office.

(2) If the office finds that the growth management program was adopted in accordance with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2, the office shall issue a certificate of consistency for the growth management program.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph D, if a municipality or multimunicipal region requests a certificate of consistency for its growth management program, any unmodified component of that program that has previously been reviewed by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and has received a finding of consistency will retain that finding during program certification review by the office as long as the finding of consistency is current as defined in rules adopted by the office;

D. Provide ample opportunity for the municipality or multimunicipal region submitting a growth management program to respond to and correct any identified deficiencies in the program. A finding of inconsistency for a growth management program may be addressed within 24 months of the date of the finding without addressing any new review standards that are created during that time interval. After 24 months, the program must be resubmitted in its entirety for state review under the office's most current review standards; and

E. Provide an expedited review and certification procedure for those submissions that represent minor amendments to certified growth management programs.

The office's decision on consistency of a growth management program constitutes final agency action.

3-A. Review of comprehensive plan. In reviewing a comprehensive plan, the office shall:

A. Solicit written comments on any proposed comprehensive plan from regional councils, state agencies, all municipalities contiguous to the municipality or multimunicipal region submitting a comprehensive plan and any interested residents of the municipality or multimunicipal region or of contiguous municipalities. The comment period extends for 25 business days after the office receives the comprehensive plan. Each state agency reviewing the proposal shall designate a person or persons responsible for coordinating the agency's review of the comprehensive plan;

B. Prepare all written comments from all sources in a form to be forwarded to the municipality or multimunicipal region;

C. Within 35 business days after receiving the comprehensive plan, notify the municipality or multimunicipal region if the plan is complete for purposes of review. If the office notifies the municipality or multimunicipal region that the plan is not complete for purposes of review, the office shall indicate in its notice necessary additional data or information;

D. Within 10 business days of issuing notification that a comprehensive plan is complete for purposes of review, issue findings specifically describing whether the submitted plan is consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 and identify which inconsistencies in the plan, if any, may directly affect rate of growth, zoning or impact fee ordinances.

(1) In its findings, the office shall clearly indicate its position on any point on which there are significant conflicts among the written comments submitted to the office.

(2) If the office finds that the comprehensive plan was developed in accordance with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2, the office shall issue a finding of consistency for the comprehensive plan.

(3) A finding of inconsistency must identify the goals under Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 not adequately addressed, specific sections of the rules relating to comprehensive plan review adopted by the office not adequately addressed and recommendations for resolving the inconsistency;

E. Send all written findings and comments on the comprehensive plan to the municipality or multimunicipal region and any applicable regional council; and

F. Provide ample opportunity for the municipality or multimunicipal region submitting a comprehensive plan to respond to and correct any identified deficiencies in the plan. A finding of inconsistency for a comprehensive plan may be addressed within 24 months of the date of the finding without addressing any new review standards that are created during that time interval. After 24 months, the plan must be resubmitted in its entirety for state review under the office's most current review standards.

If the office finds that a plan is not consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2, the municipality or multimunicipal district that submitted the plan may appeal that finding to the office within 20 business days of receipt of the finding in accordance with rules adopted by the office, which are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2 A.

The office's decision on consistency of a comprehensive plan constitutes final agency action.

A finding by the office pursuant to paragraph D that a comprehensive plan is consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 is valid for 12 years from the date of its issuance. For purposes of Title 30-A, section 4314, subsection 3 and Title 30-A, section 4352, subsection 2, expiration of a finding of consistency pursuant to this subsection does not itself make a comprehensive plan inconsistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in this subchapter.

4. Updates and amendments. A municipality or multimunicipal region may submit proposed amendments to a comprehensive plan or growth management program to the office for review in the same manner as provided for the review of new plans and programs. Subsequent to voluntary certification under Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2, the municipality or multimunicipal region shall file a copy of an amendment to a growth management program with the office within 30 days after adopting the amendment and at least 60 days prior to applying for any state grant program that offers a preference for consistency or certification.

5. Regional councils. Subject to the availability of funding and pursuant to the conditions of a contract, each regional council shall review and submit written comments on the comprehensive plan or growth management program of any municipality or multimunicipal region within its planning region. The comments must be submitted to the office and contain an analysis of:

A. Whether the comprehensive plan or growth management program is compatible with identified regional policies and needs; and

B. Whether the comprehensive plan or growth management program is compatible with plans or programs of municipalities or multimunicipal regions that may be affected by the proposal.

§3211-C. Municipal planning assistance program; state capital investments

1. Growth-related capital investments. The State may make growth-related capital investments only in:

A. A locally designated growth area, as identified in a comprehensive plan adopted pursuant to and consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines of Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 or as identified in a growth management program certified under section 3211-B.

B. In the absence of a consistent comprehensive plan, an area served by a public sewer system that has the capacity for the growth-related project, an area identified in the latest Federal Decennial Census as a census-designated place or a compact area of an urban compact municipality as defined by Title 23, section 754; or

C. Areas other than those described in paragraph A or B for the following projects:

(1) A project related to a commercial or industrial activity that, due to its operational or physical characteristics, typically is located away from other development, such as an activity that relies on a particular natural resource for its operation;

(2) An airport, port or railroad or industry that must be proximate to an airport, a port or a railroad line or terminal;

(3) A pollution control facility;

(4) A project that maintains, expands or promotes a tourist or cultural facility that is required to be proximate to a specific historic, natural or cultural resource or a building or improvement that is related to and required to be proximate to land acquired for a park, conservation, open space or public access or to an agricultural, conservation or historic easement;

(5) A project located in a municipality that has none of the geographic areas described in paragraph A or B and that prior to January 1, 2000 formally requested but had not received from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry funds to assist with the preparation of a comprehensive plan or that received funds from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to assist with the preparation of a comprehensive plan within the previous 2 years. This exception expires for a municipality 2 years after such funds are received; or

(6) A housing project serving the following: individuals with mental illness, developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, brain injuries, substance use disorder or a human immunodeficiency virus; homeless individuals; victims of domestic violence; foster children; children or adults in the custody of the State; or individuals with a household income of no more than 80% of the area median income if the project has 18 or fewer units and receives funding through a program administered by the Maine State Housing Authority. A nursing home is not considered a housing project under this paragraph.

2. State facilities. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services shall develop site selection criteria for state office buildings, state courts, hospitals and other quasi-public facilities and other civic buildings that serve public clients and customers, whether owned or leased by the State, that give preference to the priority locations identified in this subsection while ensuring safe, healthy, appropriate work space for employees and clients and accounting for agency requirements. On-site parking may only be required if it is necessary to meet critical program needs and to ensure reasonable access for agency clients and persons with disabilities. Employee parking that is within reasonable walking distance may be located off site. If there is a change in employee parking from on-site parking to off-site parking, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services must consult with the duly authorized bargaining agent or agents of the employees. Preference must be given to priority locations in the following order: service center downtowns, service center growth areas and downtowns and growth areas in other than service center communities. If no suitable priority location exists or if the priority location would impose an undue financial hardship on the occupant or is not within a reasonable distance of the clients and customers served, the facility must be located in accordance with subsection 1. The following state facilities are exempt from this subsection: a lease of less than 500 square feet; and a lease with a tenure of less than one year, including renewals.

2-A. State's role in implementation of growth management programs. All state agencies, as partners in local and regional growth management efforts, shall contribute to the successful implementation of comprehensive plans and growth management programs adopted under this subchapter by making investments, delivering programs and awarding grants in a manner that reinforces the policies and strategies within the plans or programs. Assistance must be provided within the confines of agency policies, available resources and considerations related to overriding state interest.

3. Preference for other state grants and investments.

3-A. Preference for other state grants and investments. Preference for other state grants and investments is governed by this subsection.

A. When awarding a grant or making a discretionary investment under any of the programs under paragraph B, subparagraphs (1) and (2) or when undertaking its own capital investment programs other than for projects identified in Title 30-A section 4301, subsection 5 B, a state agency shall respect the primary purpose of its grant or investment program and, to the extent feasible, give preference:

(1) First, to a municipality that has received a certificate of consistency for its growth management program under section 3211-B.

(2) Second, to a municipality that has adopted a comprehensive plan that the former State Planning Office, the Municipal Planning Assistance Program at the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, or the office has determined is consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines of Title 30-A, Chapter 187, subchapter 2 and has adopted zoning ordinances that the former State Planning Office, the Municipal Planning Assistance Program at the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, or the office has determined are consistent with the comprehensive plan; and

(3) Third, to a municipality that has adopted a comprehensive plan that the former State Planning Office, the Municipal Planning Assistance Program at the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, or the office has determined is consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines of this subchapter.

If a municipality has submitted a comprehensive plan, zoning ordinance or growth management program to the former State Planning Office, the Municipal Planning Assistance Program at the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, or the office for review, the time for response as established in section 3211-B has expired and comments or findings have not been provided to the municipality, a state agency when awarding a grant or making a discretionary investment under this subsection may not give preference over the municipality to another municipality.

B. This subsection applies to:

(1) Programs that assist in the acquisition of land for conservation, natural resource protection, open space or recreational facilities under Title 5, chapter 353; and

(2) Programs intended to:

(a) Accommodate or encourage additional growth and development;

(b) Improve, expand or construct public facilities; or

(c) Acquire land for conservation or management of specific economic and natural resource concerns.

C. This subsection does not apply to state grants or other assistance for sewage treatment facilities, public health programs or education.

D. The office shall work with state agencies to prepare mechanisms for establishing preferences in specific investment and grant programs as described in paragraph B.

4. Application. Subsections 1 and 2 apply to a state capital investment for which an application is accepted as complete by the state agency funding the project after January 1, 2001 or which is initiated with the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services by a state agency after January 1, 2001.

§3211-D: Development Ready Advisory Committee

The Development Ready Advisory Committee, referred to in this section as "the committee," is established pursuant to Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 6-J to develop and maintain best practices for municipalities in infrastructure, land use, housing, economic development, conservation and historic preservation policy. The committee will provide coordination and subject matter expertise to municipalities to advance the likelihood of success across the community development lifecycle.

1. Membership. The members of the committee are as follows:

A. Director of the office;

B. The Executive Director of the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority or the executive director's designee;

C. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the commissioner's designer;

D. The Commissioner of Transportation or the commissioner's designee;

E. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection or the commissioner's designee;

F. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or the commissioner's designee;

H. The Director of the Maine State Housing Authority or the director's designee;

G. The Director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission or the director's designee; and

H. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries And Wildlife or the commissioner's designee;

I. The following members, selected by and serving at the pleasure of the director:

(1) Three representatives of Maine municipalities;

(2) Five representatives from the regional councils selected for geographic diversity and subject matter expertise;

(3) a representative of an organization that develops or funds affordable housing projects;

(4) a representative of a local or statewide organization promoting civil rights that has racial justice or racial equity as its primary mission;

(5) a representative of an organization that advocates for conservation of Maine's natural resources, and

(6) a representative of a regional or statewide economic development organization.

2. Duties. The committee shall develop best practices for community development intended to support the following goals:

A. Assisting communities in preparing for sustainable growth and in a way that maximizes financial return for state and local economies, improve quality of life for local residents, address housing needs for households of all income levels and advance environmental protection and transportation goals and specific locally identified priority needs;

B. Providing technical assistance and coordination to communities to facilitate the adoption of best practices for growth across the following sectors:

1. Transportation and infrastructure;

2. Housing creation and preservation;

3. Economic development;

4. Conservation; and

5. Historic preservation.

C. Assisting communities in designating priority investment areas in consultation with regional planning organizations, including but not limited to village centers, downtowns and adjacent neighborhoods, rural crossroads, high-impact corridors, working waterfronts and rural farmsteads;

D. Ensuring that development efforts are achievable by communities and based on the appropriateness of the location for development and the overall merit of the development project and community's commitment to the development project based on the community's stated goals; and

E. Providing resources and education for municipalities to improve capacity to access funding sources for community development project implementation.

3. Chair and officers. The director of the office shall serve as chair of the committee. The members of the committee shall annually elect one of its members as vice-chair and one of its members as secretary to set the agenda and schedule meetings. The committee may elect other officers, create subcommittees and designate their duties.

4. Voting rights. Each member of the committee has a vote.

5. Meetings. The committee shall meet at least twice a year.

6. Quorum. A majority of the members of the committee constitutes a quorum.

7. Staff support. The office shall provide staff support to the committee to carry out the purposes of this section.

Sec. D-5. 5 MRSA c. 310-B, sub-c. 4 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 4

Housing Planning

§3212. Housing Opportunity Program

1. Program established; administration. The Housing Opportunity Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the office to encourage and support the development of additional housing units in the State, including housing units that are affordable for low-income and moderate-income individuals and housing units targeted to community workforce housing needs. The office shall administer the program and provide technical and financial assistance to support communities implementing zoning and land use-related policies necessary to support increased housing development. The program must support regional approaches and municipal model ordinance development and encourage policies that support increased housing density, where feasible, to protect working lands and natural lands.

2. Housing Opportunity Fund. The Housing Opportunity Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a fund within the office for the purpose of providing funds for the program. The fund consists of money appropriated to the fund by the Legislature and any funds received by the office for the purposes of the program.

A. The office shall solicit applications for grants from the fund through a competitive application process. Grants may be awarded to experienced service providers and municipalities to support municipal ordinance development, provide technical assistance and encourage public participation and community engagement in the process of increasing housing opportunities. Programs receiving grants under this paragraph may encourage regional coordination between municipalities.

B. The office shall solicit applications for and shall award through a competitive application process grants for the following:

(1) Community housing planning services to municipalities to support the creation of housing development plans, including municipal ordinances, and policy amendments to support those plans. Grants awarded must be for a period of up to 3 years, with required progress reports each year; and

(2) Community housing implementation services.

C. The office shall provide technical assistance, housing policy development and guidance directly to regional groups, municipalities and other housing stakeholders, to the extent feasible with available resources. This may include, but is not limited to, assisting municipalities with information about available grant opportunities, sharing best practices from jurisdictions inside and outside of the State, providing model language for local ordinances and policies and

providing information to the general public, which may support local and statewide policy changes meant to increase the supply of housing.

3. Program evaluation. A recipient of grant funds through the program shall cooperate with the office in performing evaluations and specific reporting requirements.

4. Rulemaking. The office shall establish by rule the criteria for eligibility for grants from the program and the process of application. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2 A.

§3213: Code Enforcement

The office shall administer the programs related to municipal code enforcement and Maine building codes as directed in relevant statutes found in Titles 10, 25 and 30-A, formerly administered by the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Sec. D-6. 5 MRSA c. 310-B, sub-c.5 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 5

VOLUNTEER MAINE

§3214. Commission established

There is established the Maine Commission for Community Service, referred to in this subchapter as "the commission," to foster the State's ethic of community service; encourage community service and volunteerism as a means of meeting critical human, environmental, educational and public safety needs throughout the State; address climate challenges through community service and volunteerism; serve as the State's liaison regarding national and community service and volunteer activities; foster collaboration among service agencies; and receive gifts and grants, implement statewide service programs and make subgrants to state and local entities in accordance with the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, 42 United States Code, Sections 12501 to 12682 (1994).

§3214-A. Membership; terms

1. Membership; qualifications. The commission consists of no fewer than 15 and no more than 25 voting members appointed by the Governor and subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters. The commission must include the following:

- A. A representative of a community-based agency or organization;
- B. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;
- C. A representative of local government;
- D. A representative of a local labor organization;
- E. A representative of business;

F. An individual who is at least 16 years of age but no more than 25 years of age and who is a participant in or supervisor of a service program for youth or a campus-based or national service program;

G. A representative of a national service program;

H. An individual with expertise in the education, training and development needs of youth, particularly disadvantaged youth;

I. An individual with experience in promoting the involvement of adults aged 55 and older in national service and volunteerism; and

J. A representative of the State's volunteer community.

A member may fulfill the representation requirement for more than one category in this subsection.

The appointments may also include educators, including representatives from institutions of higher education and local education agencies; experts in the delivery of human, educational, environmental or public safety services to communities and persons; representatives of Native American tribes and nations; out-of-school or at-risk youth; and representatives of programs that are administered or receive assistance under the federal Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, 42 United States Code, Section 4951, et seq. (1973). The commission also must include a nonvoting liaison designated by the federal Corporation for National and Community Service. The appointments must reflect diversity with respect to geography, race, ethnicity, age, gender, disability characteristics and political affiliation. Not more than 50% plus one member may be from the same political party. The number of voting members who are officers or employees of the State may not exceed 25% of the total membership.

The chair must be an appointed voting member of the commission, selected by the voting members. Members may not vote on issues affecting organizations they have served in a staff or volunteer capacity at any time during the preceding 12 months.

2. Terms of office. The appointed members serve 3-year staggered terms. Terms expire on September 1st. The Governor shall appoint members to vacancies on the commission as they occur or upon expiration of terms. Any vacancy must be filled for the unexpired portion of the term in which the vacancy occurs.

3. Reimbursement. Members are entitled to compensation for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties on the commission in the same manner as state employees.

§3214-B. Duties

The commission shall:

1. Vision. Develop a state vision statement for national, state and community service;

2. Ethic of service. Demonstrate an ethic of service through its activities, policies, and procedures and annually evaluate how effectively these are fostering the state vision and service ethic;

3. National and community service plan. Develop a 3-year comprehensive national and community service plan and update the plan annually. The commission shall ensure an open and inclusive process for maximum participation in development of the plan and determination of state priorities;

4. Preselect programs and prepare applications. Preselect national service programs as defined in the National Service Trust Act, 42 United States Code, Section 12501, et seq. and prepare a grant application to the Corporation for National and Community Service;

5. Assist state education agencies. Assist the Department of Education and institutions of higher education in the preparation of applications for national and community service grants;

6. Administer grant programs. Evaluate, monitor and administer grant programs;

7. Provide technical assistance. Serve as a clearinghouse for information on national and community service and provide technical assistance to local nonprofit organizations and other entities in planning, applying for funds and implementing national service programs;

8. Provide development assistance and training. Provide program development assistance and training to national service programs in the State;

9. Recruitment and placement. Serve as a clearinghouse for people interested in national and community service placements and agencies recruiting volunteers;

10. State priorities. Make recommendations to the Corporation for National and Community Service with respect to priorities within the State for programs receiving assistance under the federal Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, 42 United States Code, Section 4951, et seq. (1973);

11. Coordination. Coordinate and foster collaboration among state agencies, colleges, universities, municipalities, federal agencies and volunteer service programs, including, but not limited to, coordination of and collaboration regarding the activities of the Maine Climate Corps Program established pursuant to Title 5, section 3216 and related national and other climate-related service programs;

12. Advisory committees. Establish advisory committees as needed, with membership not limited to commission members;

13. Fund raising. Carry out fund-raising efforts to supplement federal funding and to meet all federal matching requirements;

13-A. Maine Service Fellows Program. Develop and administer the Maine Service Fellows Program under Title 5, section 3215; and

14. Annual report. Submit an annual report to the Governor, the Legislature and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters by January 31st of each year.

§3214-C. Staff and administrative services

The office shall provide staff and administrative services as follows.

1. Executive director. The director, in consultation with the commission, shall hire an executive director as a member of the office staff. The executive director oversees day-to-day operations of the commission, hires staff members with the approval of the commission and the director and carries out other responsibilities as directed by the commission.

2. Administrative services. The director shall provide the executive director and the commission with continuing administrative support as appropriate. The office may establish a dedicated account on behalf of the commission to receive funds contributed by private and public agencies for use solely for commission purposes.

§3214-D. Private support organization

1. Designation of private support organization. The executive director of the commission, with the consent of the voting members of the commission, shall designate a nonprofit corporation as the private support organization for the commission. The nonprofit corporation must be incorporated under the laws of this State and for purposes that are consistent with the goals, objectives, programs, responsibilities and functions of the commission.

The commission's private support organization must be organized and operated exclusively to receive, hold, invest and administer property and funds and to make expenditures to and for the benefit of the commission.

2. Board of directors. A member of the private support organization's board of directors may not also be a member of the commission. The executive director of the commission, or the executive director's designee, shall serve as a nonvoting ex-officio member of the private support organization's board of directors.

3. Scope of work. The private support organization shall operate under a memorandum of understanding negotiated annually by the commission that outlines a plan of work consistent with the purposes and goals of the commission and shall submit an annual budget for review and approval by the commission by June 1st.

The memorandum of understanding must further stipulate the reversion to the commission, or to the State if the commission ceases to exist, of money and property held in trust by the private support organization if the private support organization is no longer designated by the commission pursuant to subsection 1.

4. Use of property. The commission may authorize the private support organization to use the commission's facilities, equipment and other property, except money, in keeping with the purposes of the private support organization.

§3215. Maine Service Fellows Program

The Maine Service Fellows Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the commission. Individuals who participate in the program are referred to in this section as "program fellows." The commission shall administer the program in accordance with this section.

1. Program purposes. The commission shall establish the program to:

A. Increase the opportunities for individuals to devote a year of service to communities in the State;

B. Attract to and retain in the State motivated adults who have completed a college degree within the prior 5 years to serve in positions where they can apply skills and abilities to projects for the benefit of citizens of the State;

C. Provide rural and underserved communities in the State a resource to address critical health and human, public safety, education and environmental needs; and

D. Strengthen civic engagement of both the program fellows and community residents through solutions based in whole or in part in volunteer service.

2. Program design. The program must be designed to coordinate with appropriate organizations in the served communities. Program fellows must be required to commit up to 20% of their time in the program to developing regional networks of volunteer programs whose common goals can result in mutual benefits. An entity may submit a proposal to sponsor a program fellow based on guidelines established under this subsection. Services provided by a program fellow may include but are not limited to services to address home evictions, to support workforce development, to mitigate and prevent substance use disorder and to promote mental health. The commission may identify other priority needs of communities to be addressed by the program and may make those services available to eligible communities. The commission shall establish guidelines for the program that include but are not limited to:

A. Limiting the eligibility of entities that may sponsor program fellows to local or county government, school districts, nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations and similar entities;

B. Establishing standards for local sponsors regarding supervision and support of program fellows during their service;

C. Ensuring that projects and project proposals are well-designed and measure their impact and do not include partisan or political activity;

D. Ensuring that program fellows are not used to replace positions eliminated or position hours reduced as a result of budget cuts by the sponsor;

E. Requiring criminal background checks or other safeguards if projects involve working with vulnerable populations such as schoolchildren or if otherwise required to receive federal funds;

F. Focusing the program on rural communities as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service's rural-urban continuum codes, except that the commission shall use criteria other than the codes for defining rural communities in Penobscot County;

G. Authorizing private sector and local partner contributions to program operations for travel reimbursements or training costs; and

H. Any other guideline that the commission believes will benefit the program.

3. Compensation. To the extent funds are available, the commission shall ensure that program fellows receive the following compensation for service:

A. A stipend set by the commission to achieve an annual income of up to 212% of the nonfarm income official federal poverty level. To the extent the stipend is paid from the General Fund or any other account of the commission, personal liability insurance and workers' compensation insurance, paid for from the same source of funds, must also be provided. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, program fellows are not employees of the State for the purposes of Title 5, Part 20;

B. A program completion bonus that includes, to the extent established by the commission by rule, an educational loan payment in an amount up to 20% of the stipend value paid on behalf of the program fellow to the holder of the loan; and

C. An allowance to pay for individual health insurance not to exceed 2% of the stipend amount.

4. Funding. The commission may seek and receive both private and federal funds, grants and gifts in support of the program. The commission may accept funding from other state agencies to support program fellows whose work will support and promote goals of programs administered by those agencies.

5. Rules. The commission may adopt rules necessary to carry out the purposes of this section. Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

§3216. Maine Climate Corps Program

The Maine Climate Corps Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the commission to provide grants, technical assistance and training to community service corps programs with the mission of responding to the impacts of climate change. Eligible community service corps programs under the program must be designed to:

1. Direct service projects. Conduct evidence-based direct service projects developed through community collaboration, including collaboration with indigenous communities, that address principles of equity, justice and accessibility;

2. Climate impacts. Address through measurable performance one or more of the following areas: transportation, energy, housing, the State's coastal zone as defined under the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's coastal zone

management program, public health, land and fresh water preservation, community resilience and climate-related education;

3. Disproportionately affected communities; representation. Prioritize assistance to disproportionately affected communities and ensure that individuals in service positions represent the economic and demographic diversity of communities, including persons who are historically marginalized; and

4. Additional standards. Meet additional program standards, including, but not limited to, requirements to:

- A. Enroll individuals for set terms in service positions;
- B. Provide individuals in full-time service positions with stipends, health insurance, liability insurance and accidental death or dismemberment insurance;
- C. Provide individuals in service positions with training, education and service experiences that further employability or career preparation; and
- D. Meet any other standards set by the commission or nationally for similar programs.

Sec. D-7. 5 MRSA c. 373, as amended, is repealed.

Sec. D-8. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§6-J, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 664, §2 is amended to read:
6-J.

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Economic | Development | Expenses | 30-A <u>MRSA</u> |
| Development | Ready Advisory | Only | §5161-5 <u>MRSA</u> |
| | Committee | | <u>§3211-D</u> |

Sec. D-9. 5 MRSA §13056-J, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 635, Pt. U, §1, is repealed.

Sec. D-10. 10 MRSA §9722, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2011, c. 633, §5, if further amended to read:

1. Establishment. The Technical Building Codes and Standards Board, established in Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 5-A and located within the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs, is established to adopt, amend and maintain the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, to resolve conflicts between the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code and the fire and life safety codes in Title 25, sections 2452 and 2465 and to provide for training for municipal building officials, local code enforcement officers and 3rd-party inspectors.

Sec. D-11. 10 MRSA §9722, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2007, c. 699, §6, if further amended to read:

3. Ex officio member; chair. ~~The Commissioner of Public Safety~~ Director of the Maine Office of Community Affairs, or the commissioner's director's designee, serves as an ex officio

member and as the chair of the board. The chair is a nonvoting member, except in the case of a tie of the board. The chair is responsible for ensuring that the board maintains the purpose of its charge when executing its assigned duties, that any adoption and amendment requirements for the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code are met and that training and technical assistance is provided to municipal building officials.

Sec. D-12. 10 MRSA §9723, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2019, c. 517, §1 is further amended to read:

2. Training program standards; implementation. The committee shall direct the training coordinator of the Division of Building Codes and Standards, established in Title 25, section 2372, to develop a training program for municipal building officials, local code enforcement officers and 3rd-party inspectors. ~~The Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs, pursuant to Title 30-A, section 4451, subsection 3-A, shall implement the training and certification program established under this chapter.

Sec. D-13. 12 MRSA §408, as revised by PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5 is repealed.

Sec. D-14. 12 MRSA §409, as revised by PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5 is repealed.

Sec. D-15. 12 MRSA §6052, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. QQ, §5 is repealed.

Sec. D-16. 25 MRSA §2371, as amended by PL 2011, c. 633, §§7,8, is further amended to read:

§2371. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Board. "Board" means the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board established in Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 5-A.

2. Building official. "Building official" means a building official appointed pursuant to section 2351-A.

3. Bureau.

4. Code. "Code" means the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code adopted pursuant to Title 10, chapter 1103.

5. Commissioner. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Safety.

6. Director. "Director" means the Director of the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Title 5, chapter 310-B.

~~**5-A7. Division.**~~ "Division" means the Division of Building Codes and Standards established in section 2372.

8. Office. "Office" means the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Title 5, chapter 310-B.

69. Third-party inspector. "Third-party inspector" means a person certified by the State to conduct inspections under Title 30-A, section 4451 for compliance with the code. A 3rd-party inspector may not hold a pecuniary interest, directly or indirectly, in any building for which the 3rd-party inspector issues an inspection report pursuant to section 2373 and may not serve as a 3rd-party inspector in any municipality where that 3rd-party inspector has been appointed as a building official or code enforcement officer.

Sec. D-17. 25 MRS §2372, as amended by PL 2019, c. 517, §2, is further amended to read:

§2372. Division of Building Codes and Standards

1. Established. The Division of Building Codes and Standards is established within the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal office~~ to provide administrative support and technical assistance to the board in executing its duties pursuant to Title 10, section 9722, subsection 6.

2. Staff. The ~~commissioner~~ director may appoint and may remove for cause staff of the division, including:

A. A technical codes coordinator certified in building standards pursuant to Title 30-A, section 4451, subsection 2-A, paragraph E, who serves as the division director and principal administrative and supervisory employee of the board. The technical codes coordinator shall attend meetings of the board, keep records of the proceedings of the board and direct and supervise the personnel employed to carry out the duties of the board, including but not limited to providing technical support and public outreach for the adoption of the code, amendments, conflict resolutions and interpretations. Technical support and public outreach must include, but may not be limited to:

- (1) Providing nonbinding interpretation of the code for professionals and the general public; and
- (2) Establishing and maintaining a publicly accessible website to publish general technical assistance, code updates and interpretations and post-training course schedules; and

B. An office specialist to provide administrative support to the division and the board.

Sec. D-18. 25 MRS §2374, as amended by PL 2019, c. 517, §3, is further amended to read:

§2374. Uniform Building Codes and Standards Fund

The Uniform Building Codes and Standards Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within the ~~Department of Public Safety office~~ to fund the activities of the division under this chapter and the activities of the board under Title 10, chapter 1103 and Title 30-A, section 4451, subsection 3-A. Revenue for this fund is provided by the surcharge established by section 2450-A. The ~~Department of Public Safety office~~ shall determine an amount to be transferred annually from the fund for training and certification under Title 30-A, section 4451,

subsection 3-A to the Maine Code Enforcement Training and Certification Fund established in Title 30-A, section 4451, subsection 3-B. Any balance of the fund may not lapse, but must be carried forward as a continuing account to be expended for the same purpose in the following fiscal year.

Sec. D-19. 25 MRSA §2450-A, as repealed and replaced by PL 2013, c. 424, Pt. A, §13, is amended to read:

§2450-A. Surcharge on plan review fee for Uniform Building Codes and Standards Fund

In addition to the fees established in section 2450, a surcharge of 4¢ per square foot of occupied space must be levied on the existing fee schedule for new construction, reconstruction, repairs, renovations or new use for the sole purpose of funding the activities of the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board with respect to the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, established pursuant to Title 10, chapter 1103, the activities of the Division of Building Codes and Standards under chapter 314 and the activities of the ~~Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Community Development~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs under Title 30-A, section 4451, subsection 3-A, except that the fee for review of a plan for the renovation of a public school, including the fee established under section 2450, may not exceed \$450. Revenue collected from this surcharge must be deposited into the Uniform Building Codes and Standards Fund established by section 2374.

Sec. D-20. 30-A MRSA, c. 187, sub-c. II, art. 3-A, as amended is repealed.

Sec. D-21. 30-A MRSA §4451, as amended by PL 2019, c. 517, §5 is further amended to read:

§4451. Training and certification for code enforcement officers

1. Certification required; exceptions. A municipality may not employ any individual to perform the duties of a code enforcement officer who is not certified by the former State Planning Office, the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Community Development, ~~or the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ or the Maine Office of Community Affairs, except that:

A. An individual other than an individual appointed as a plumbing inspector has 12 months after beginning employment to be trained and certified as provided in this section;

B. Whether or not any extension is available under paragraph A, the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs may waive this requirement for up to one year if the certification requirements cannot be met without imposing a hardship on the municipality employing the individual;

C. An individual may be temporarily authorized in writing by the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Engineering to be employed as a plumbing inspector for a period not to exceed 12 months; and

D. An individual whose certification has expired or is about to expire may be temporarily authorized in writing by the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~

Maine Office of Community Affairs to extend that individual's certification for a period not to exceed 12 months in cases where the necessary training or examination is suspended under subsection 3-B, paragraph E.

2. Penalty. Any municipality that violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$100 may be adjudged. Each day in violation constitutes a separate offense.

2-A. Code enforcement officer; definition and duties. As used in this subchapter, "code enforcement officer" means a person certified under this section and employed by a municipality to enforce all applicable laws and ordinances in the following areas:

- A. Shoreland zoning under Title 38, chapter 3, subchapter 1, article 2-B;
- B. Comprehensive planning and land use under Part 2, Subpart 6-A;
- C. Internal plumbing under chapter 185, subchapter 3;
- D. Subsurface wastewater disposal under chapter 185, subchapter 3; and
- E. Building standards under chapter 141; chapter 185, subchapter 1; Title 5, sections 4582-B, 4582-C and 4594-F; Title 10, chapter 1103; and Title 25, chapter 313.

3. Training and certification of code enforcement officers. In cooperation with code enforcement officer professional associations, the Maine Community College System, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Health and Human Services, except as otherwise provided in paragraph H, the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall establish a continuing education program for individuals engaged in code enforcement. This program must provide training in the technical and legal aspects of code enforcement necessary for certification. The training program must include training to provide familiarity with the laws and ordinances related to the structure and practice of the municipal code enforcement office, municipal planning board and appeals board procedures, application review and permitting procedures, inspection procedures and enforcement techniques.

- ~~A.~~ [PL 1991, c. 163 (RP).]
- ~~B.~~ [PL 1991, c. 163 (RP).]
- ~~C.~~ [PL 1991, c. 163 (RP).]
- ~~D.~~ [PL 1991, c. 163 (RP).]
- ~~E.~~ [PL 1991, c. 163 (RP).]
- ~~F.~~ [PL 1991, c. 163 (RP).]
- ~~G.~~ [PL 1991, c. 163 (RP).]

~~H.~~ If funding is not available to support the training and certification program authorized under this subsection, the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of

Community Affairs shall discontinue training and certification activities related to laws and ordinances referenced in subsection 2-A, paragraphs A and B and shall adopt by routine technical rules under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A a program to register code enforcement officers that meet training and education qualifications. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall publish the list of persons registered for code enforcement who have submitted evidence of required qualifications. Persons registered under this paragraph must meet the requirements for training and certification under this subchapter. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall consult with the Department of Health and Human Services for the purposes of carrying out training and certification activities related to laws and ordinances referenced in subsection 2-A, paragraphs C and D. Within one month of discontinuation of training and certification under this paragraph, the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters a recommendation for funding the training and certification program or for further changes in program requirements.

3-A. Training and certification of inspectors in the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. In accordance with the training and certification requirements developed pursuant to Title 10, section 9723, the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall provide the training necessary to certify municipal building officials, local code enforcement officers and 3rd-party inspectors.

3-B. Maine Code Enforcement Training and Certification Fund. The Maine Code Enforcement Training and Certification Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a nonlapsing fund to support training and certification programs administered by the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs for code enforcement officers, local plumbing inspectors, municipal building officials and 3rd-party inspectors in accordance with this subchapter.

A. On July 1st of each year, the funds identified in section 4215, subsection 4 for training and certifying local plumbing inspectors must be transferred to the fund.

B. On July 1st of each year, the funds identified in Title 25, section 2374 for training and certifying municipal building officials, local code enforcement officers and 3rd-party inspectors must be transferred to the fund.

C. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall place in the fund any money it receives from grants to support the requirements of this subchapter.

D. Funds related to code enforcement training and certification may be expended only in accordance with allocations approved by the Legislature and solely for the administration of this subchapter. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year may not lapse but must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

E. If the fund does not contain sufficient money to support the costs of the training and certification provided for in this subchapter, the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs may suspend all or reduce the level of training and certification activities.

4. Examination. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall conduct at least one examination each year to examine candidates for certification at a time and place designated by it. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs may conduct additional examinations to carry out the purposes of this subchapter.

5. Certification standards. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall adopt routine technical rules under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to establish the qualifications, conditions and licensing standards and procedures for the certification and recertification of individuals as code enforcement officers. A code enforcement officer need only be certified in the areas of actual job responsibilities. The rules established under this subsection must identify standards for each of the areas of training under subsection 2-A, in addition to general standards that apply to all code enforcement officers.

6. Certification; terms; revocation. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall certify individuals as to their competency to successfully enforce ordinances and other land use regulations and permits granted under those ordinances and regulations and shall issue certificates attesting to the competency of those individuals to act as code enforcement officers. Certificates issued by the former State Planning Office, the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Community Development, or the ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs are valid for 6 years unless revoked by the District Court. An examination is not required for recertification of code enforcement officers. The ~~Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs shall recertify a code enforcement officer if the code enforcement officer successfully completes at least 12 hours of approved training in each area of job responsibility during the 6-year certification period.

A. The District Court may revoke the certificate of a code enforcement officer, in accordance with Title 4, chapter 5, when it finds that:

- (1) The code enforcement officer has practiced fraud or deception;
- (2) Reasonable care, judgment or the application of a duly trained and knowledgeable code enforcement officer's ability was not used in the performance of the duties of the office; or
- (3) The code enforcement officer is incompetent or unable to perform properly the duties of the office.

B. Code enforcement officers whose certificates are invalidated under this subsection may be issued new certificates provided that they are newly certified as provided in this section.

7. Other professions unaffected. This subchapter may not be construed to affect or prevent the practice of any other profession.

Sec. D-22. 30-A MRSA §5161, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 664, §3 is repealed.

Sec. D-23. Transition provisions, Community Resilience Partnership Program. The following provisions govern the transition of the Community Resilience Partnership Program from the Governor's Office of Policy, Innovation and the Future to the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the Community Resilience Partnership Program.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the Community Resilience Partnership Program or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the Community Resilience Partnership Program continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the Community Resilience Partnership Program become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the Community Resilience Partnership Program may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

6. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer any unobligated balances remaining in the Community Resilience Partnership Program, other special revenue and federal funds to the Maine Office of Community Affairs no later than the effective date of this Act.

Sec. D-24. Transition provisions, coastal zone management program. The following provisions govern the transition of the coastal zone management program from the Bureau of Policy and Management program, Department of Marine Resources to the Maine Coastal Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the coastal zone management program.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the coastal zone management program or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the coastal zone management program continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the coastal zone management program become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the coastal zone management program may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

6. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer any unobligated balances related to the coastal zone management program remaining in the Bureau of Policy and Management program, Department of Marine Resources, other special revenue and federal funds to the Maine Office of Community Affairs no later than the effective date of this Act.

Sec. D-25. Transition provisions, municipal planning assistance program. The following provisions govern the transition of the municipal planning assistance program from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Municipal Planning Assistance program, Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the municipal planning assistance program.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the municipal planning assistance program or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the municipal planning assistance program continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the municipal planning assistance program become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the municipal planning assistance program may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

6. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer any unobligated balances related to the municipal planning assistance program remaining in the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, federal funds to the Maine Office of Community Affairs no later than the effective date of this Act.

Sec. D-26. Transition provisions, Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program. The following provisions govern the transition of the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program from the Department of Education to the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

6. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer any unobligated balances related to the Maine Commission for Community Service program, the Maine Service Fellows Program and the Maine Climate Corps Program remaining in the Department of Education, other special revenues fund and federal funds to the Maine Office of Community Affairs no later than the effective date of this Act.

Sec. D-27. Transition provisions, Housing Opportunity Program. The following provisions govern the transition of the Housing Opportunity Program from the Department of Economic and Community Development to the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the Housing Opportunity Program.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the Housing Opportunity Program or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the Housing Opportunity Program continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the Housing Opportunity Program become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the Housing Opportunity Program may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

Sec. D-28. Transition provisions, Division of Building Codes and Standards program. The following provisions govern the transition of the Division of Building Codes and Standards program from the Department of Public Safety to the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the Division of Building Codes and Standards program.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the Division of Building Codes and Standards program or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the Division of Building Codes and Standards program continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the Division of Building Codes and Standards program become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the Division of Building Codes and Standards program may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

6. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer any unobligated balances related to the Division of Building Codes and Standards program remaining in the Department of Public Safety, other special revenue funds to the Maine Office of Community Affairs no later than the effective date of this Act.

Sec. D-29. Transition provisions, floodplain management program. The following provisions govern the transition of the floodplain management program from the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Maine Floodplain Program, Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the municipal planning assistance program.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the floodplain management program or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the floodplain management program continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the floodplain management program become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the floodplain management program may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

6. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer any unobligated balances related to the floodplain management program remaining in the Geology and Resource Information program, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, other special revenue funds and federal funds to the Maine Office of Community Affairs no later than the effective date of this Act.

Sec. D-30. Transition provisions, Development Ready Advisory Committee. The following provisions govern the transition of the Development Ready Advisory Committee from the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority to the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the Development Ready Advisory Committee.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the Development Ready Advisory Committee or any of its administrative units or officers are hereby declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect in the Development Ready Advisory Committee continue in effect.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the Development Ready Advisory Committee become, on the effective date of this Act, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the Development Ready Advisory Committee may be utilized by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

PART D SUMMARY

This Part amends the general provisions of the Maine Office of Community Affairs. This Part also transitions several programs through State government to the Maine Office of Community Affairs. This includes the Community Resilience Partnership from the Executive Department, the Coastal Zone Management program from the Department of Marine Resources, the State Floodplain Mapping Fund and the Municipal Planning Assistance program from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Development Ready Advisory

Committee from the Maine Development Land Bank Authority, the Housing Opportunity Program from the Department of Economic & Community Development, the Maine Commission for Community Service, Maine Service Fellows Program, the Maine Climate Corp program, and the Volunteer Maine from the Department of Education, and the Division of Building Codes and Standards from the Department of Public Safety