

**§206. Establishment of fund**

There is established a fund to encourage local soil and water conservation projects. The fund shall consist of all moneys appropriated to it and any moneys received as donations or from other sources. Moneys in this fund shall be disbursed periodically by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry on a competitive basis to one or more of the soil and water conservation districts for the funding of innovative soil and water conservation projects. Any balance in this fund, except moneys appropriated by the State, shall not lapse, but shall be carried forward from year to year to be expended for the purposes set forth in this subchapter. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall establish by rule criteria for project submission, evaluation and selection. These criteria shall, among other factors, address priority of need, boldness of approach, program feasibility and reproducibility and verification of results. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may impose such conditions on the use of funds awarded as in its judgment are best suited to accomplish the purposes of this subchapter and insure that moneys awarded by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry are properly spent by the districts. Any final decision of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to fund a project or to not fund a project shall constitute "final agency action" for purposes of Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter IV. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall submit an annual report on the status of the Challenge Grant Program to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture and audit and program review, as well as the Finance Authority of Maine for public hearing and critique. [PL 1985, c. 481, Pt. A, §20 (AMD); PL 1995, c. 532, §17 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5 (REV).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

PL 1983, c. 522 (NEW). PL 1985, c. 481, §A20 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 532, §17 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5 (REV).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Regular and First Special Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through November 1, 2023. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.