



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1676

LR 2794(10)

An Act To Establish a Process for the Procurement of Biomass Resources

Fiscal Note for Senate Amendment " " to Committee Amendment "A"

Sponsor: Sen. Hamper of Oxford

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	Projections FY 2017-18	Projections FY 2018-19
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund - Maine Budget Stabilization Fund	\$0	(\$6,700,000)	(\$6,700,000)	\$0
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$6,700,000	(\$6,700,000)	\$0
Transfers				
From Cascade Priorities	(\$13,400,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0
General Fund - Maine Budget Stabilization Fund	\$0	\$6,700,000	\$6,700,000	\$0
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$13,400,000	(\$6,700,000)	(\$6,700,000)	\$0

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This amendment eliminates the \$6,700,000 transfer from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund to the Cost Recovery Fund within the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in both fiscal year 2016-17 and 2017-18 and instead directs \$13,400,000 to be transferred from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund at the close of fiscal year 2015-16 following certain statutorily required transfers (the so-called "cascade"). There is no guarantee that there will be sufficient funds from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to make this transfer. The amendment allows up to 50% of funds within the Cost Recovery Fund to go to facilities serving the Northern Maine Independent System Administrator region. This amendment also allows the PUC to not enter into any contract if a determination from the PUC is made that none of the bids are competitive. The amendment requires any funds remaining in the Cost Recovery Fund at the close of fiscal year 2016-17 be transferred to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund.

The amendment makes clarifying changes to the language governing the transfer of funds from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Cost Recovery Fund. The new language makes clear that the transfer to the Cost Recovery Fund is to take place before any transfers to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund and the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents. The amendment also adds an emergency preamble and clause, as well as eliminates the requirement that the PUC conduct a solicitation to procure certain energy.