



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 63

LR 125(03)

An Act Regarding the Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact

Fiscal Note for Bill as Engrossed with:

C "A" (H-235)

Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Fiscal Note

Legal immunity for firefighters reciprocal

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill extends liability protection for the State and firefighters who travel to fight wildfires outside of the Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact area. This is a reciprocal arrangement where Maine will provide legal immunity to firefighters from other states if other states provide it to Maine firefighters. For example, if an event occurs during fire suppression efforts that creates a legal liability issue, the state requesting help will handle any defense and accept responsibility for the outcome. Given that this is a reciprocal arrangement and Maine will remain liable only for what occurs within its borders, there is not expected to be any significant impact on the Risk Management Fund within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.