



# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1904**

S.P. 745

In Senate, May 6, 2025

### **An Act to Establish the Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund**

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Reference to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator NANGLE of Cumberland.

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

**Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §3112** is enacted to read:

**§3112. Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund**

**1. Fund established.** The Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established in the office to assist municipalities in paying legal costs incurred in pursuing egregious shoreland zoning violations.

**2. Funding.** The fund consists of money received from any public or private source. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Interest earned by the fund must be credited to the fund. Any unexpended balances remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year do not lapse and must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

**3. Administration.** The office shall administer the fund. In accordance with rules adopted by the office, the office shall provide money from the fund to a municipality to cover legal costs incurred by the municipality in pursuing shoreland zoning violations the municipality determines to be egregious.

**4. Reimbursement.** A municipality receiving financial assistance from the fund shall reimburse the fund within 6 months of the settlement or final adjudication of the legal claim for which the funding was received.

**5. Fund balance.** For each fiscal year, the Governor shall submit a funding level recommendation for the fund that maintains a minimum balance in the fund of \$100,000. The recommendation must be transmitted to the Legislature within the time schedules in section 1666.

**6. Rules.** The department shall adopt routine technical rules as defined in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to carry out the purposes of the fund.

**Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund N528

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to establish the Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>
All Other	\$100,000	\$0
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>\$100,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>

## SUMMARY

This bill establishes the Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund in the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to assist municipalities in paying legal costs incurred in pursuing egregious shoreland zoning violations. Municipalities are required to reimburse the fund within 6 months of the settlement or final adjudication of the legal claim for which the funding was received.