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Date: (Filing No. H-)

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 436, L.D. 593, “An Act To Restore Regular Eelgrass Mapping in the State”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act To Restore Eelgrass Mapping and Enhance Salt Marsh Vegetation Mapping in the State'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §1805 is enacted to read:

§1805. Eelgrass and salt marsh vegetation mapping

In accordance with the requirements of this section and in consultation with the Department of Marine Resources, the department shall establish and administer an eelgrass and salt marsh vegetation mapping program. For the purposes of this section, "eelgrass" means the flowering marine plant species *Zostera marina* that is primarily found in shallow, protected intertidal and subtidal locations in the State. For the purposes of this section, "salt marsh vegetation" means salt-tolerant vegetation that contains a mixture of graminoids and forbs and sometimes includes cordgrasses.

1. Mapping procedures. The department shall in accordance with the schedule in subsection 3 facilitate the production and update of eelgrass and salt marsh vegetation distribution maps for eelgrass beds and salt marsh vegetation within the State. The data collected and the maps produced and updated in accordance with this section must, to the maximum extent practicable, be compatible with the State's geographic information system.

2. Eelgrass and Salt Marsh Vegetation Mapping Fund. The Eelgrass and Salt Marsh Vegetation Mapping Fund is created within the department as a nonlapsing dedicated fund to support the establishment and administration of the eelgrass and salt marsh vegetation mapping program required under this section. The fund may accept revenue from grants, bequests, gifts or contributions from any source, public or private.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 **3. Mapping schedule.** The mapping of eelgrass beds and salt marsh vegetation
 2 required under this section must be conducted in accordance with the following schedule,
 3 as department resources allow.

4 A. No later than November 1, 2022, mapping must be completed for that portion of
 5 the coast from Phippsburg to St. George and must be updated every 5 years thereafter.

6 B. No later than November 1, 2023, mapping must be completed for that portion of
 7 the coast from St. George to Brooklin and must be updated every 5 years thereafter.

8 C. No later than November 1, 2024, mapping must be completed for that portion of
 9 the coast from Brooklin to Jonesport and must be updated every 5 years thereafter.

10 D. No later than November 1, 2025, mapping must be completed for that portion of
 11 the coast from Jonesport to Calais and must be updated every 5 years thereafter.

12 E. No later than November 1, 2026, mapping must be completed for that portion of
 13 the coast from Eliot to Phippsburg and must be updated every 5 years thereafter.

14 **4. Availability of data and maps.** The department shall make available on its publicly
 15 accessible website the data collected and maps produced and updated under this section.

16 **5. Report.** On or before March 1, 2023, and biennially thereafter, the department shall
 17 submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
 18 environmental and natural resources matters a report summarizing the data collected and
 19 maps produced and updated under this section and including an analysis, if available, of
 20 the changes to the eelgrass beds and salt marsh vegetation within the State that are
 21 demonstrated by the data collected and maps produced under this section.'

22 Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting the following:

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

25 **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF**

26 **Eelgrass and Salt Marsh Vegetation Mapping Fund N302**

27 Initiative: Provides an allocation to accept grants, bequests, gifts or contributions from any
 28 source, public or private, to support the administration of the eelgrass and salt marsh
 29 vegetation mapping program.

30 OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2021-22	2022-23
31 All Other	\$500	\$500
32		
33 OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500

34 **Water Quality 0248**

35 Initiative: Provides appropriations for one Biologist II position and one Environmental
 36 Technician position and All Other costs.

37 GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
38 POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2,000	2,000
39 Personal Services	\$191,551	\$195,382
40 All Other	\$6,292	\$6,418
41		

1 GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$197,843 \$201,800

2 **Water Quality 0248**

3 Initiative: Provides appropriations for aerial imagery acquisition and processing and annual
4 equipment maintenance and replacement.

5 **GENERAL FUND** **2021-22** **2022-23**
6 All Other \$86,671 \$129,825

7
8 GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$86,671 \$129,825

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10 **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,**
11 **DEPARTMENT OF**
12 **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

13
14 **GENERAL FUND** **2021-22** **2022-23**
15 **OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS** **\$284,514** **\$331,625**
16 **\$500** **\$500**

17 **DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS** **\$285,014** **\$332,125**

18

19 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
20 number to read consecutively.

21

SUMMARY

22 This amendment changes the title and, in addition to eelgrass, requires the Department
23 of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Department of Marine Resources, to
24 establish and administer a program to regularly produce and update maps regarding the
25 distribution of salt marsh vegetation in the State. It also provides a definition for "salt marsh
26 vegetation."

27

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

28

(See attached)