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Date: (Filing No. H-)

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1433, L.D. 2118, “An Act to Eliminate the Natural Areas Program and Reassign Certain Responsibilities Under the Program to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and to Amend the Law Governing Administration of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Bureau of Resource Management”

Amend the bill in section 32 in sub-c. 4 in §12825 by inserting after the first indented paragraph the following:

'This section is repealed September 30, 2029.'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 41.

Amend the bill by inserting after section 44 the following:

'Sec. 45. Report regarding rulemaking. No later than February 15, 2029, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall provide a report, including any findings and recommendations, to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters and agriculture, conservation and forestry matters regarding the effect of the prohibition established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 12825, which provides that the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife may not adopt rules to protect plants and plant communities under Title 12, chapter 925, subchapter 4 except when required for the conservation of rare fish or wildlife species, threatened fish or wildlife species or endangered fish or wildlife species. Each committee may submit legislation related to the subject matter of the report to the 134th Legislature in 2029.

Sec. 46. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is authorized to transfer up to \$150,000 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations, after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the All Other line category of the Resource Management Services - Inland and Fisheries Wildlife program, General Fund account for

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 the purpose of funding early detection and rapid response efforts to eradicate invasive stilt
 2 grass. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of
 3 the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered
 4 adjustments to appropriations.

5 **Sec. 47. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department**
 6 **of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Resource Management Services - Inland**
 7 **Fisheries and Wildlife.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal
 8 year 2026-27, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is authorized to transfer up
 9 to \$25,000 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations, after all salary,
 10 benefit and other obligations are met, to the All Other line category of the Resource
 11 Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, General Fund account for
 12 the purpose of funding an update to the State's official list of threatened and endangered
 13 plants. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of
 14 the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered
 15 adjustments to appropriations.

16 **Sec. 48. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
 17 allocations are made.

18 **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF**
 19 **Natural Areas Program Z821**

20 Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Manager II position, one Resource Management
 21 Coordinator position and 5 Biologist II positions from the Natural Areas Program within
 22 the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Resource Management
 23 Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program within the Department of Inland Fisheries
 24 and Wildlife. This initiative also transfers All Other funds from the Natural Areas Program
 25 within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Resource
 26 Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program within the Department of
 27 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

28	GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
29	Personal Services	\$0	(\$418,180)
30	All Other	\$0	(\$66,242)
31			
32	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$484,422)

34	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
35	Personal Services	\$0	(\$179,238)
36	All Other	\$0	(\$133,082)
37			
38	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$312,320)

40	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
41	Personal Services	\$0	(\$302,202)
42	All Other	\$0	(\$605,699)
43			

1	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$907,901)
2			
3	AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND		
4	FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF		
5	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
6			
7	GENERAL FUND	\$0	(\$484,422)
8	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	(\$312,320)
9	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	(\$907,901)
10			
11	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	(\$1,704,643)
12	INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE, DEPARTMENT OF		
13	Natural Areas Conservation Fund N548		
14	Initiative: Provides baseline allocation to establish the account.		
15	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
16	All Other	\$0	\$500
17			
18	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$500
19	Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0534		
20	Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Manager II position, one Resource Management		
21	Coordinator position and 5 Biologist II positions from the Natural Areas Program within		
22	the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Resource Management		
23	Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program within the Department of Inland Fisheries		
24	and Wildlife. This initiative also transfers All Other funds from the Natural Areas Program		
25	within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Resource		
26	Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program within the Department of		
27	Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.		
28	GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
29	Personal Services	\$0	\$418,180
30	All Other	\$0	\$66,242
31			
32	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$484,422
33			
34	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
35	Personal Services	\$0	\$179,238
36	All Other	\$0	\$133,082
37			
38	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$312,320
39			
40	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
41	Personal Services	\$0	\$302,202
42	All Other	\$0	\$605,699

1			
2	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$907,901
3			
4	INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE,		
5	DEPARTMENT OF		
6	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
7			
8	GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$484,422
9	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$312,320
10	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$908,401
11			
12	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$1,705,143
13			
14	SECTION TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
15			
16	GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$0
17	FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$0
18	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$500
19			
20	SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$500

21 '
 22 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
 23 number to read consecutively.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This amendment repeals on September 30, 2029 the provision of the bill that prohibits
 26 the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife from adopting rules to protect plants
 27 and plant communities except when required for the conservation of rare fish or wildlife
 28 species, threatened fish or wildlife species or endangered fish or wildlife species.

29 The amendment directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to provide a
 30 report, including any findings and recommendations, to the joint standing committees of
 31 the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters and
 32 agriculture, conservation and forestry matters regarding the effect of this prohibition. Each
 33 committee may submit legislation related to the subject matter of the report to the 134th
 34 Legislature in 2029.

35 The amendment allows the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to transfer
 36 funds from available balances of Personal Services appropriations to the Resource
 37 Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program for the purposes of funding
 38 early detection and rapid response efforts to eradicate invasive stilt grass and funding an
 39 update to the State's official list of threatened and endangered plants.

40 The amendment also removes from the bill a provision allowing the Department of
 41 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to determine that a municipality has a comprehensive land
 42 use plan in providing for the protection of wildlife habitat, fisheries, unusual natural areas

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1433, L.D. 2118

1 and archaeological and historic sites for the purposes of an exemption from review for the
2 determination of municipal capacity for a site location of development.

3 The amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section.

4 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

5 **(See attached)**