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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

SENATE AMENDMENT “ ” to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “A” to S.P. 613, L.D. 1529, “An Act to Enhance the Protection of High-value Natural Resources Statewide”

Amend the amendment by striking out all of sections 4 and 5 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 4. Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to develop comprehensive report on statewide strategies to enhance conservation of late-successional forests and old-growth forests. Subject to the availability of funds, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, referred to in this section as "the department," may develop a comprehensive report on statewide strategies to enhance the conservation of late-successional forests and old-growth forests, including the management of transitioning late-successional forests. In developing the strategies, the department may incorporate ecological values, carbon sequestration methods and economic considerations from a broad range of perspectives to include forest landowners, forest industry representatives, logging contractors, conservation interests and local economies. By November 4, 2026, the department may submit the report, including any recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters, which may report out legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027. In completing the report under this section, the department may solicit and use resources from other state agencies and outside sources.'

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

SUMMARY

This amendment authorizes, rather than requires, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to develop a report on statewide strategies to enhance conservation of late-successional forests and old-growth forests, subject to availability of

1 funds. It also eliminates one-time funding for contractual services to assist with research,
2 data compilation, statistical analysis and report writing.

3 **SPONSORED BY:** _____

4 **(Senator ROTUNDO, M.)**

5 **COUNTY: Androscoggin**