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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
131ST LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 141, L.D. 220, “An Act to Support Maine’s Potato Farmers and Processors”

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

**'An Act to Support Maine's Farmers in the Development of Sustainable Irrigation'**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 1. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; grants to potato farmers for sustainable water sources.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before December 31, 2023, the State Controller shall transfer \$6,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund as follows:

1. Three million dollars to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account for a grant program to assist farmers in the State to overcome the adverse effects of drought conditions in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 220-A. Grants under this subsection must be awarded exclusively to farmers who are not eligible to apply for grants for sustainable irrigation from the Potato Marketing Improvement Fund; and

2. Three million dollars to the Potato Marketing Improvement Fund established under Title 10, section 1023-N to be used for grants to potato farmers for the development of sustainable irrigation water sources that meet the requirements of Department of Environmental Protection rule Chapter 587 relating to in-stream flows and lake and pond water levels. A grant awarded to an applicant for a project under this subsection may not be more than \$200,000 and may not exceed 75% of the total project cost.

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

**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF  
Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program Fund Z364**

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 Initiative: Provides one-time funding to be used exclusively for farmers who are not eligible  
 2 to apply for grants for sustainable irrigation from the Potato Marketing Improvement Fund.

|   |  |                    |                |
|---|--|--------------------|----------------|
| 3 | <b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>       | <b>2023-24</b>     | <b>2024-25</b> |
| 4 | All Other                                | \$3,000,000        | \$0            |
| 5 |  |                    |                |
| 6 | <b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b> | <u>\$3,000,000</u> | <u>\$0</u>     |

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 8 **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND**  
 9 **FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF**  
 10 **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

|    |                                     |                           |                   |
|----|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 11 |                                     | <b>2023-24</b>            | <b>2024-25</b>    |
| 12 | <b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>  | <b>\$3,000,000</b>        | <b>\$0</b>        |
| 13 |                                     |                           |                   |
| 14 | <b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b> | <u><b>\$3,000,000</b></u> | <u><b>\$0</b></u> |

15 **FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**  
 16 **Potato Marketing Improvement Fund N444**

17 Initiative: Provides one-time funding to be used for grants to potato farmers for the  
 18 development of sustainable irrigation water sources that meet Department of  
 19 Environmental Protection rule Chapter 587 requirements relating to in-stream flows and  
 20 lake and pond water levels.

|    |  |                    |                |
|----|--|--------------------|----------------|
| 21 | <b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>       | <b>2023-24</b>     | <b>2024-25</b> |
| 22 | All Other                                | \$3,000,000        | \$0            |
| 23 |  |                    |                |
| 24 | <b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b> | <u>\$3,000,000</u> | <u>\$0</u>     |

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 26 **FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**  
 27 **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

|    |                                     |                           |                   |
|----|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 28 |                                     | <b>2023-24</b>            | <b>2024-25</b>    |
| 29 | <b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>  | <b>\$3,000,000</b>        | <b>\$0</b>        |
| 30 |                                     |                           |                   |
| 31 | <b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b> | <u><b>\$3,000,000</b></u> | <u><b>\$0</b></u> |

32  
 33 **SECTION TOTALS**

|    |                                    |                           |                   |
|----|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 34 |                                    | <b>2023-24</b>            | <b>2024-25</b>    |
| 35 | <b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b> | <b>\$6,000,000</b>        | <b>\$0</b>        |
| 36 |                                    |                           |                   |
| 37 | <b>SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>   | <u><b>\$6,000,000</b></u> | <u><b>\$0</b></u> |

38  
 39 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section  
 40 number to read consecutively.

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**SUMMARY**

This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft. The amendment provides one-time funding of \$6,000,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund with \$3,000,000 appropriated to the Potato Marketing Improvement Fund established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 1023-N to be used for grants to potato farmers for the development of sustainable irrigation water sources that meet the requirements of Department of Environmental Protection rule Chapter 587 relating to in-stream flows and lake and pond water levels and \$3,000,000 appropriated to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program Fund to be used exclusively for farmers who are not eligible to apply for grants for sustainable irrigation from the Potato Marketing Improvement Fund.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

**(See attached)**