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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 413, L.D. 568, “An Act To Establish a Working Farmland Access and Protection Program within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and a Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund within the Land for Maine's Future Program”

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 3 and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §6203, sub-§3,** as amended by PL 2021, c. 33, §1, is further amended to read:

**3. Fund proceeds.** The proceeds of the Land for Maine's Future Fund may be applied and expended to:

A. Acquire property or an interest in property that is determined by the board to be of state significance under the guidelines of this chapter;

B. When interest in land is acquired with proceeds from the Land for Maine's Future Fund, fund minor capital improvements on such lands and on adjoining lands in the same ownership or under the same management to improve accessibility, as long as these improvements do not exceed 5% of the appraised value of the acquired property; and

~~C. When interest in farmland is acquired with proceeds from the Land for Maine's Future Fund, fund the development of a business plan and capital improvements to provide for the land's continuing use as a working farm, as long as these improvements do not exceed 5% of the appraised value of the acquired property. Capital improvements under this paragraph may also be made on adjoining farmland in the same ownership or under the same management; and~~

D. When land or interest in land is acquired with proceeds from the Land for Maine's Future Fund, fund minor capital investments in the stewardship and management of that land. Stewardship and management investments under this paragraph must be held in a dedicated stewardship endowment and identified for use on the funded property. Stewardship and management investments may not exceed 5% of the appraised value of the acquired property.'

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 Amend the bill in section 5 in §164 in subsection 3 in paragraph G in the last line (page  
2 4, line 13 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "and"

3 Amend the bill in section 5 in §164 in subsection 3 in paragraph H in the last line (page  
4 4, line 16 in L.D.) by striking out the following: " " and inserting the following: ' ; and'

5 Amend the bill in section 5 in §164 in subsection 3 by inserting after paragraph H the  
6 following:

7 'I. Whether the applicant is from or serving an underserved or underprivileged  
8 community as defined by the department by rule. Rules adopted under this paragraph  
9 are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.'

10 Amend the bill by inserting after section 5 the following:

11 **'Sec. 6. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
12 allocations are made.

13 **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF**  
14 **Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund N360**

15 Initiative: Provides a base allocation to establish the Maine Working Farmland Access and  
16 Protection Fund to allow expenditure of contributions received from private and public  
17 sources for the acquisition of property or interests in property that are designed to protect  
18 access to working farmland.

19	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
20	All Other	\$500	\$500
21			
22	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500

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

26 **SUMMARY**

27 The bill specifies the selection criteria with which to evaluate applications for  
28 protection of working farmland property under the Maine Working Farmland Access and  
29 Protection Program. This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee,  
30 provides that consideration must be given to applicants from or serving underserved or  
31 underprivileged communities. The amendment also includes technical changes to reflect  
32 changes made by Public Law 2021, chapter 33. The amendment also adds an  
33 appropriations and allocations section.

34 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**  
35 **(See attached)**