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Date: (Filing No. H-)

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 628, L.D. 993, “An Act to Facilitate Stakeholder Input Regarding Forest Policy in Maine”

Amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 24-H in the 2nd line (page 1, line 4 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "Not Authorized" and inserting the following: 'Expenses only'

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

'**Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §8007** is enacted to read:

§8007. Maine Forest Advisory Board established

The Maine Forest Advisory Board, as established in Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 24-H and referred to in this section as "the board," advises the bureau and provides input in the development, updating and implementation of the state forest action plan required under the federal Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110-234 and Public Law 110-246.

1. Membership. The board consists of 10 members appointed by the Governor as follows:

- A. A representative of a statewide organization representing the forest products industry;
- B. A representative of an organization representing professional logging contractors;
- C. A representative of a nonprofit corporation that owns a large amount of forested land in the State;
- D. A representative of a cooperative representing loggers in the State;
- E. A representative of a fisheries conservation organization with a statewide presence;
- F. A representative of a statewide organization representing small woodland owners in the State;
- G. A representative of a statewide organization representing outdoor enthusiasts, including, but not limited to, hunters and anglers, in the State;

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

- 1 H. A representative of a statewide organization dedicated to wildlife issues;
- 2 I. A wildlife biologist with expertise in forest habitat representing the University of
- 3 Maine System; and
- 4 J. A representative who is a member of a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or
- 5 band in this State. The appointment of the member of a federally recognized Indian
- 6 nation, tribe or band in this State must be based on the joint recommendation of the
- 7 tribal governments of the Mi'kmaq Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the
- 8 Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik and the
- 9 Penobscot Nation. If the tribal governments do not make a recommendation or a
- 10 unanimous joint recommendation, the Governor shall appoint a member of a federally
- 11 recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in this State and rotate the appointment among
- 12 members of each federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in this State.

13 At least one of the members must be a professional forester as defined in section 8868,

14 subsection 3. In making appointments under paragraphs A to I, the Governor shall consider

15 any person recommended by the organization the member is to represent.

16 **2. Terms; quorum; meetings.** Members serve for a term of 3 years. At the end of a

17 term, an outgoing member serves until a successor has been appointed. A member may

18 serve multiple terms. The board shall meet at least 4 times a year to conduct business and

19 to elect officers. The board shall annually elect a chair. A quorum consists of at least 6

20 members. The affirmative vote of a majority of the members present is necessary to decide

21 any business brought before the board.

22 **3. Duties of board.** The board shall advise and assist the bureau in the development

23 and implementation of the state forest action plan required under the federal Food,

24 Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110-234 and Public Law 110-246,

25 including conditions and trends in the forests of the State and policy, laws, rules, fiscal

26 needs and other factors affecting the use, ownership and management of forest resources.'

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

28 '**Sec. 3. State forest action plan; report.** No later than January 1, 2025, and every

29 10 years thereafter, the Director of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of

30 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall submit to the Governor and the Legislature a

31 report on the implementation of the state forest action plan required under the federal Food,

32 Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110-234 and Public Law 110-246.

33 **Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and

34 allocations are made.

35 **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF**

36 **Forest Resource Management Z233**

37 Initiative: Provides funding for reimbursement of board expenses.

38 GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
39 All Other	\$5,130	\$5,130
40		
41 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$5,130	\$5,130

42 '

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

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This amendment, which is the majority report, reduces the number of members on the
5 Maine Forest Advisory Board from 21 to 10 and requires the Governor to appoint all
6 members of the board. The amendment also requires that at least one member of the board
7 be a professional forester. The amendment revises the duties of the board to advise and
8 assist the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and
9 Forestry in the development and implementation of the state forest action plan required
10 under the federal Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. The amendment also
11 requires the director of the bureau to submit to the Governor and the Legislature a decennial
12 report on the implementation of the state forest action plan, beginning January 1, 2025.
13 This amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

14 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

15 **(See attached)**