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Date: (Filing No. S-)

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 136, L.D. 315, “An Act to Provide Funding for Drought Relief and Other Programs Benefiting Maine Farmers”

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the following:

Emergency preamble. **Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, climate change is making the availability of water more unpredictable for farmers, and it has been well documented that extreme weather patterns will continue; and

Whereas, of the State’s 4 most recent droughts, 3 of them have occurred in 2020, 2021 and 2022, and the State's farmers face a very uncertain future when it comes to sufficient water for crops; and

Whereas, this legislation makes necessary changes to immediately support farmers to move forward to develop sustainable water sources and invest in irrigation to mitigate risk of a changing climate and to help secure the State’s food supply; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,'

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

Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF
Bureau of Agriculture 0393**

Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for one Public Service Coordinator I position and associated All Other costs.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1	GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
2	POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1,000	1,000
3	Personal Services	\$80,125	\$112,618
4	All Other	\$2,625	\$3,500
5			
6	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$82,750	\$116,118
7	Maine Land Use Planning Commission Z236		
8	Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for one Environmental Specialist II position and		
9	associated All Other costs.		
10	GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
11	POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1,000	1,000
12	Personal Services	\$62,894	\$88,400
13	All Other	\$2,625	\$3,500
14			
15	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$65,519	\$91,900
16	Maine Land Use Planning Commission Z236		
17	Initiative: Provides one-time funding for contracted services to review and overhaul the		
18	current water withdrawal permitting process.		
19	GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
20	All Other	\$35,000	\$0
21			
22	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$35,000	\$0
23	Office of the Commissioner 0401		
24	Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for information technology administration costs.		
25	GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
26	All Other	\$5,816	\$7,754
27			
28	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$5,816	\$7,754
29			
30	AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND		
31	FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF		
32	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2023-24	2024-25
33			
34	GENERAL FUND	\$189,085	\$215,772
35			
36	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$189,085	\$215,772
37	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF		
38	Administration - Environmental Protection 0251		
39	Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for information technology administration costs.		
40	GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
41	All Other	\$2,825	\$2,825
42			

1	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$2,825	\$2,825
2	Water Quality 0248		
3	Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for one Environmental Specialist III position and		
4	associated All Other costs.		
5	GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
6	POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
7	Personal Services	\$66,525	\$93,646
8	All Other	\$1,363	\$1,363
9			
10	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$67,888	\$95,009
11			
12	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,		
13	DEPARTMENT OF		
14	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2023-24	2024-25
15			
16	GENERAL FUND	\$70,713	\$97,834
17			
18	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$70,713	\$97,834
19			
20	SECTION TOTALS	2023-24	2024-25
21			
22	GENERAL FUND	\$259,798	\$313,606
23			
24	SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$259,798	\$313,606

25

26 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
 27 takes effect when approved.'

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

30 **SUMMARY**

31 This amendment replaces the bill, which is a concept draft. The amendment
 32 implements some of the recommendations of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation
 33 and Forestry January 2023 report, "Findings and Recommendations for Streamlining
 34 Permitting New Sources of Water for Irrigation in Maine." The amendment adds an
 35 emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill.

36 The amendment provides a one-time appropriation of \$35,000 in fiscal year 2023-24
 37 in order for the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Maine Land Use
 38 Planning Commission to hire a consultant to review and overhaul the current applications
 39 to improve water withdrawal permitting.

40 The amendment establishes and provides ongoing funding for 3 full-time, permanent
 41 positions: one within the Maine Land Use Planning Commission; one within the

1 Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and
2 Rural Resources' division of agricultural resource development; and one within the
3 Department of Environmental Protection's Water Withdrawal Program.

4 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

5 **(See attached)**