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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

TO: Senator Margaret Rotundo, Senate Chair,
Representative Melanie Sachs, House Chair, and
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM: Senator Henry Ingwersen, Senate Chair, *HI KSN*
Representative Bill Pluecker, House Chair, *BP KSN*
and
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and
Forestry

DATE: March 14, 2024
RE: Supplemental Budget Report-back

The Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF) Committee is pleased to submit the following report for the proposed 2024-25 biennial budget initiatives relating to agriculture, conservation and forestry (see attached report-back document).

The ACF Committee voted unanimously in favor of all initiatives and corresponding language parts with the exception of one initiative and corresponding language part relating to one-time funding for the distribution of payments to address escalating production costs to Maine dairy farmers who meet specific milk production costs (see Ref. #47 on Page 18 and language Part HHH on Pages 29 and 30 of the report-back document). The ACF Committee unanimously votes in favor of providing one-time funding of \$7,000,000, rather than \$3,000,000 as proposed in the supplemental budget bill, in fiscal year ending 2024.

In addition, the ACF Committee voted unanimously in favor of the following two additions to the supplemental budget bill.

- 1) The first addition is to continue and make permanent one position which was established in Public Law 2023, chapter 448 (LD 1881, An Act Regarding Compensation Fees and Related Conservation Efforts to Protect Soils and Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat from Solar and Wind Energy Development and High-impact Electric Transmission Lines Under the Site Location of Development Laws). Public Law 2023, chapter 448 establishes one limited-period Environmental Licensing Supervisor position and provides funding for related All Other costs. The position ends June 7, 2025.

See attached email dated March 7, 2024 for details. This initiative, which is under the Bureau of Agriculture 0393, is on Page 1 of the email.

2) The second addition is to include one ongoing permanent position, which is also proposed in LD 579, An Act to Support Farmland Conservation. LD 579, which is currently on the Appropriations Table, proposes to establish one Resource Management Coordinator position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

The initiatives under the Bureau of Agriculture 0393 and DACF Administration 0401 relating to this addition are on Page 2 of the attached email dated March 7, 2024.

Furthermore, the following language, which is also included in LD 579, creates a separate account within the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Program and corresponds with this second addition.

Sec. __. 7 MRSA §164, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Funding. A separate nonlapsing, interest-bearing account, administered by the department, is established in the department to support public-private partnerships to carry out the purposes of the program. The account consists of money appropriated or allocated to it or received from any private or public source.

Finally, the ACF Committee would like to emphasize the importance of LD 2212, An Act to Strengthen Maine's Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment. The Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund is established and administered by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to support public-private partnerships to, among other things, facilitate strategic investments in Maine's agricultural, food and forest products process and manufacturing industries, including value-added products. In particular, the committee amendment to LD 2212, which is unanimous, provides ongoing funding from the General Fund for one Public Service Manager II position and associated all Other costs for administrative support and for program implementation. The ACF Committee strongly supports this new position within the department which will provide essential staffing resources needed to get this important program off the ground.

c: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
 Members, Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Nadeau, Karen

From: Carlton, Aimee M <Aimee.M.Carlton@maine.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 5:08 PM
To: Nadeau, Karen
Cc: Horton, Emily K; Pluecker, Bill; Russo, Michael; Beal, Amanda
Subject: RE: Supplemental Budget

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Good afternoon-

LD 1881 chapter 448, the position was an Environmental Licensing Supervisor (position # 005001036). That position is currently funded through FY 25. The request should read "Continues and makes permanent one Environmental Licensing Supervisor previously established in Public Law 23 Chapter 448" continues and makes permanent is an important distinction so any incumbent will keep the job. Since it is funded, it will only request 1.000 Legislative Count in FY 25, which would look like below.

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Environmental Licensing Supervisor previously established in Public Law 2023 chapter 448.

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	
All Other	\$0	\$0	
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$

The second position would look like below.

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Establishes one Resource Management Coordinator position and provides funding for associated All Other costs.

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
GENERAL FUND			
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$113,333
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$ 3,500
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$116,833

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Establishes one Resource Management Coordinator position and provides funding for associated All Other costs.

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
GENERAL FUND			
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$3,292
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$3,292

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS			
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$647
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$647

Committee Vote: _____

AFA Vote: _____

Sec. A-2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to upgrade the Cony Road facility.

Ref. #: 52 One Time Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$750,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$750,000

Notes:

See Part J

Justification:

This request provides necessary and urgent upgrades to office and storage space that is home to 2 critical programs and related staff. In addition to the Weights and Measures and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) programs, it will serve as additional hoteling/telework space for existing and future Bureau staff. The request will modernize extremely dated areas to make the bathrooms ADA compliant; provide necessary and energy efficient upgrades (lights, insulation, window replacement), contain asbestos, and allow for more functional usage of office and storage space for DACF programmatic needs. This is estimated based upon BGS and was not fully funded. These funds are required to complete the necessary projects.

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for capital improvements and deferred maintenance for the Big E building.

Ref. #: 53 One Time Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$58,436
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$58,436

Justification:

The Eastern States' Exposition (known as the Big E) is the 4th largest agricultural fair in the US and is held annually for 17 days in West Springfield, MA. DACF owns and operates the historic "Maine" building along the Avenue of States with other New England state buildings. Over 1 million visitors pass through the Maine Building each year, visiting the diverse array of artisans, food vendors, and craftspeople who sell their products during the show and showcase the "best of Maine." The building is over 100 years old and requires constant upkeep to meet safety code and provide a safe and sanitary environment for vendors and attendees. These capital improvements will begin to address the deferred maintenance requirements for the Big E building.

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Provides funding to establish allocation in the PFAS Reserve - Bureau of Agriculture Other Special Revenue Funds account.

Ref. #: 54

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

All Other

2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000
\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL

Justification:

This initiative will establish allocation in this account.

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one State Horticulturist position from range 28 to range 30, retroactive to October 14, 2022.

Ref. #: 55

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

Personal Services

2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
\$0	\$13,920	\$8,301
\$0	\$13,920	\$8,301

GENERAL FUND TOTAL

Justification:

This initiative aligns work functions with the appropriate classification.

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Provides funding to increase allocation for federal grants.

Ref. #: 56

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND

All Other

2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
\$0	\$0	\$400,000
\$0	\$0	\$400,000

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL

Justification:

This initiative will increase allocation for ongoing federal grants.

Conservation and Recreation Fund Z378

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Conservation and Recreation Fund program to the Land For Maine's Future Trust Fund program to consolidate these funds under one program.

Ref. #: 127

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	(\$500)	(\$500)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$500)	(\$500)

Justification:

This proposes to move All Other funding to consolidate Other Special Revenue Funds under one account to realize administrative efficiencies for the Land for Maine's Future program.

Conservation Land Management Fund Z379

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Conservation Land Management Fund program to the Land For Maine's Future Trust Fund program to consolidate these funds under one program.

Ref. #: 129

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	(\$500)	(\$500)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$500)	(\$500)

Justification:

This proposes to move All Other funding to consolidate Other Special Revenue Funds under one account to realize administrative efficiencies for the Land for Maine's Future program.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Agency GIS/Technology Coordinator position previously continued by Financial Order 002859 F4 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 58

Committee Vote: IN 7-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$3,292
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$3,292

Ref. #: 59

Committee Vote: IN 7-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	1.000

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$3,292
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$3,292

Ref. #: 63

Committee Vote: IN 7-0 AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$647
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$647

Justification:

The National Park Service has allocated funds in personal services to administer the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The Bureau of Parks and Lands is requesting a Planning and Research Associate I position to perform statewide compliance inspections required for each funded project every five years. The position will also be responsible for managing the database and GIS website to reflect the current status of site inspections and compliance actions.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Planning and Research Associate I position previously established by financial order to work as a trail specialist for recreational trails program projects and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 64

Committee Vote: IN 7-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$3,292
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$3,292

Ref. #: 65

Committee Vote: IN 7-0 AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$647
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$647

Justification:

Over the last several years, the Bureau of Parks and Lands has received increased federal funding for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). To handle the additional administrative and project responsibilities resulting from additional funding, the program contracted a trail planner position. With elevated levels of funding forecasted to remain, RTP is seeking a permanent, federally-funded Planning and Research Associate I position to replace the contracted position and efficiently manage the increased workload.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Establishes one Public Service Manager II position as the southern region lands manager and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 66

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$3,292
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$3,292

Ref. #: 67

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$647
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$647

Justification:

High levels of public use on many public lands (e.g., Tumbledown Mountain, Kennebec Highlands, Pinelands, Dodge Point) demand increased management attention from staff currently based in Farmington. In addition, the Bureau continues to acquire new lands in southern and central Maine. This position would lead a new geographic management unit (in addition to our current Western, Eastern, and Northern Regions) focusing on these and other heavily used public lands.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Senior Entomology Technician position previously established by Public Law 2021, chapter 727 and provides funding for related All Other costs under the DACF Administration and Forest Management programs.

Ref. #: 68

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$3,292
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$3,292

Ref. #: 69

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$647
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$647

Justification:

This position was created in response to anticipated climate/pest increases that Maine is currently experiencing, including emerald ash borer, beech leaf disease, and browntailed moth. The position is paired with an entomologist position to create a field team for entomology and pathology staff at the lab to work within the region. This position is responsible for communicating with project leads, directing the work of entomology technicians and serving as a liaison with other

bureau field staff to help better integrate forest health survey monitoring in all field activities of the bureau. This position will allow for continued regional response made possible by the limited-period position.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Entomologist I position previously established by Public Law 2021, chapter 727 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 70

Committee Vote: IN 8-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$3,292
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$3,292

Ref. #: 71

Committee Vote: IN 8-0 AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$647
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$647

Justification:

This position was created in response to anticipated climate/pest increases that Maine is currently experiencing, including emerald ash borer, beech leaf disease, and browntailed moth. The position is paired with an entomology technician to create a field team for entomology and pathology staff at the lab to work within the region. This position will allow for continued regional response made possible by the limited-period position.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Establishes one Forest Fire Prevention Specialist position to administer the federal Community Wildfire Defense Grant and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 72

Committee Vote: IN 9-0 AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$3,292
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$3,292

Ref. #: 73

Committee Vote: IN 9-0 AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$647
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$647

Justification:

The Maine Forest Service (MFS) received \$800,000 in federal funds over the last two years for the Federal Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG). The MFS anticipates federal funding extending for an additional 8 years, with the program having the ability to annually opt into the \$400,000 base funding opportunity. The MFS is seeking a federally funded Fire Prevention Specialist position to oversee the CWDG.

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Provides funding to increase allocation for federal grants.

Ref. #: 74

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000

Justification:

This initiative will increase allocation for ongoing federal grants.

Division of Forest Protection Z232

Initiative: Establishes one Forest Fire Prevention Specialist position to administer the federal Community Wildfire Defense Grant and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 91

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$94,793
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$22,724
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$117,517

Justification:

The Maine Forest Service (MFS) received \$800,000 in federal funds over the last two years for the Federal Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG). The MFS anticipates federal funding extending for an additional 8 years, with the program having the ability to annually opt into the \$400,000 base funding opportunity. The MFS is seeking a federally funded Fire Prevention Specialist position to oversee the CWDG.

Division of Forest Protection Z232

Initiative: Provides funding to pay risk management costs for workers' compensation for call-when-needed firefighters, including unpaid invoices from prior years.

Ref. #: 92

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$56,809	\$3,889
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$56,809</u>	<u>\$3,889</u>

Justification:

Workers Compensation premiums for call-when-needed fire fighters (CWNFF) haven't been invoiced to the Maine Forest Service (MFS) since 2020, when MFS switched coverage from Risk Management to the State Workers Compensation Program. The FY24 invoice to insure the CWNFF totals \$17,640 (98 volunteers, \$180/volunteer) representing a \$3,889 increase in premiums compared to 2020. The workers compensation program also intends to invoice the program an equal amount for FY21, FY22, and FY23, totaling \$56,809.

Division of Forest Protection Z232

Initiative: Provides funding to increase allocation for federal grants.

Ref. #: 94 Committee Vote: IN 9-0 AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$1,100,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,200,000</u>

Justification:

This initiative will increase allocation for ongoing federal grants.

Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program Fund Z364

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to increase allocation in the Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program Fund.

Ref. #: 118 One Time Committee Vote: IN 9-0 AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,000,000</u>

Justification:

This initiative will increase allocation for this account.

Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program Fund Z364

Initiative: Reduces funding to align with Public Law 2023, chapter 412, which reduced the allocation provided to the Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program Fund in Public Law 2023, chapter 17.

Ref. #: 119

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	(\$1,000,000)	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$1,000,000)	\$0

Justification:

Public Law 2023, chapter 17, part G allocated \$2,000,000 to the Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program, Other Special Revenue Funds, which was reduced to \$1,000,000 in Public Law 2023, chapter 412, part PP. Chapter 412 included this reduction in language but not in initiative. This initiative corrects this oversight and aligns the one-time allocation with the language in part PP.

Forest Resource Management Z233

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Senior Entomology Technician position previously established by Public Law 2021, chapter 727 and provides funding for related All Other costs under the DACF Administration and Forest Resource Management programs.

Ref. #: 96

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$84,736
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$15,500
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$100,236

Justification:

This position was created in response to anticipated climate/pest increases that Maine is currently experiencing, including emerald ash borer, beech leaf disease, and browntailed moth. The position is paired with an entomologist position to create a field team for entomology and pathology staff at the lab to work within the region. This position is responsible for communicating with project leads, directing the work of entomology technicians and serving as a liaison with other bureau field staff to help better integrate forest health survey monitoring in all field activities of the bureau. This position will allow for continued regional response made possible by the limited-period position.

Forest Resource Management Z233

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Entomologist I position previously established by Public Law 2021, chapter 727 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 97

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$96,300

All Other	\$0	\$0	\$15,500
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$111,800</u>

Justification:

This position was created in response to anticipated climate/pest increases that Maine is currently experiencing, including emerald ash borer, beech leaf disease, and browntailed moth. The position is paired with an entomology technician to create a field team for entomology and pathology staff at the lab to work within the region. This position will allow for continued regional response made possible by the limited-period position.

Forest Resource Management Z233

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Entomologist III position to a Natural Resource Pathologist position, retroactive to February 10, 2022. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 98

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$5,234	\$2,163
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$5,234</u>	<u>\$2,163</u>

Ref. #: 99

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$1,311	\$543
All Other	\$0	\$32	\$13
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,343</u>	<u>\$556</u>

Justification:

This initiative aligns work functions with the appropriate classification.

Forest Resource Management Z233

Initiative: Provides funding to increase allocation for federal grants.

Ref. #: 101

Committee Vote: IN 9-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$800,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$900,000</u>

Justification:

This initiative will increase allocation for ongoing federal grants.

Geology and Resource Information Z237

Initiative: Provides funding to increase allocation for federal grants.

Ref. #: 105

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$250,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$250,000

Justification:

This initiative will increase allocation for ongoing federal grants.

Harness Racing Commission 0320

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align with revenue changes approved in the December 2023 revenue forecast.

Ref. #: 50

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	(\$185,157)	\$413,590
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$185,157)	\$413,590

Justification:

This initiative will adjust funding to reflect revenue changes based on the approved December 2023 Revenue Forecast Committee report.

Land for Maine's Future Z162

Initiative: Provides funding to increase allocation for federal grants.

Ref. #: 77

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$10,000

Justification:

This initiative will increase allocation for ongoing federal grants.

Land for Maine's Future Z162

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Land For Maine's Future program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to consolidate these funds under one program.

Ref. #: 78

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS			
All Other	\$0	(\$47,560)	(\$47,560)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$47,560)</u>	<u>(\$47,560)</u>

Justification:

This proposes to move All Other funding to consolidate Other Special Revenue Funds under one account to realize administrative efficiencies for the Land for Maine's Future program.

Land for Maine's Future - Community Conservation Projects Z307

Initiative: Eliminates funding for the Land For Maine's Future - Community Conservation Projects program, Other Special Revenue Funds account.

Ref. #: 111

Committee Vote: IN 11-0

AFA Vote: _____

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS			
All Other	\$0	(\$20,000,000)	(\$20,000,000)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$20,000,000)</u>	<u>(\$20,000,000)</u>

Justification:

Public Law 2023, chapter 284 transferred the balance for this account to the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund account. This initiative eliminates the allocation established by Public Law 2021, chapter 398, which should have been one-time.

Land For Maine's Future Trust Fund Z377

Initiative: Provides one-time allocation for land acquisitions in the Land For Maine's Future Trust Fund.

Ref. #: 121

One Time

Committee Vote: IN 11-0

AFA Vote: _____

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS			
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$20,000,000

Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$10,000,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$30,000,000

Justification:

This initiative will establish allocation in All Other and provide Capital Expenditures allocation for land acquisitions based on funds made available to the Land for Maine's Future in previous budgets.

Land For Maine's Future Trust Fund Z377

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Conservation and Recreation Fund program to the Land For Maine's Future Trust Fund program to consolidate these funds under one program.

Ref. #: 122

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$500	\$500

Justification:

This proposes to move All Other funding to consolidate Other Special Revenue Funds under one account to realize administrative efficiencies for the Land for Maine's Future program.

Land For Maine's Future Trust Fund Z377

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Conservation Land Management Fund program to the Land For Maine's Future Trust Fund program to consolidate these funds under one program.

Ref. #: 123

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$500	\$500

Justification:

This proposes to move All Other funding to consolidate Other Special Revenue Funds under one account to realize administrative efficiencies for the Land for Maine's Future program.

Land For Maine's Future Trust Fund Z377

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Land For Maine's Future program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to consolidate these funds under one program.

Ref. #: 124

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$47,560	\$47,560
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$47,560	\$47,560

Justification:

This proposes to move All Other funding to consolidate Other Special Revenue Funds under one account to realize administrative efficiencies for the Land for Maine's Future program.

Land For Maine's Future Trust Fund Z377

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to consolidate these funds under one program.

Ref. #: 125

Committee Vote: IN 11-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$500	\$500

Justification:

This proposes to move All Other funding to consolidate Other Special Revenue Funds under one account to realize administrative efficiencies for the Land for Maine's Future program.

Land Management and Planning Z239

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Forester II position previously established by Public Law 2021, chapter 635 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 107

Committee Vote: IN 11-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$6,820
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$191
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$7,011

Justification:

This position was established as limited-period in Public Law 2021, chapter 635 to focus on marketing forest products in the western region. The lack of a Forester II position has significantly reduced the Bureau's ability to identify the most efficient (in terms of trucking) and lucrative markets for its forest products (e.g., veneer quality hardwood, spruce sawlogs), thereby impacting the Bureau's revenue. The creation of this position is anticipated to generate more revenue than its cost. This same position exists in the northern and eastern regions and was eliminated from the western region.

during the last administration.

Land Management and Planning Z239

Initiative: Establishes one Public Service Manager II position as the southern region lands manager and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 108

Committee Vote: IN 8-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$138,596
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$7,474
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$146,070

Justification:

High levels of public use on many public lands (e.g., Tumbledown Mountain, Kennebec Highlands, Pinelands, Dodge Point) demand increased management attention from staff currently based in Farmington. In addition, the Bureau continues to acquire new lands in southern and central Maine. This position would lead a new geographic management unit (in addition to our current Western, Eastern, and Northern Regions) focusing on these and other heavily used public lands.

Land Management and Planning Z239

Initiative: Provides funding to increase allocation for federal grants.

Ref. #: 109

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$500,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$500,000

Justification:

This initiative will increase allocation for ongoing federal grants.

Maine Healthy Soils Fund Z328

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to increase allocation in the Maine Healthy Soils Fund.

Ref. #: 115

One Time

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$1,500,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$1,500,000

Justification:

This initiative will increase allocation for this account.

Maine Healthy Soils Fund Z328

Initiative: Reduces funding to align with Public Law 2023, chapter 412, which reduced the allocation provided to the Maine Healthy Soils Fund in Public Law 2023, chapter 17.

Ref. #: 116

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

All Other

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	(\$1,500,000)	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$1,500,000)	\$0

Justification:

Public Law 2023, chapter 17, part F allocated \$3,000,000 to the Maine Healthy Soils Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds, which was reduced to \$1,500,000 in Public Law 2023, chapter 412, part PP. Chapter 412 included this reduction in language but not in initiative. This initiative corrects this oversight and aligns the one-time allocation with the language in part PP.

Maine Land Use Planning Commission Z236

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Secretary Associate position to an Office Specialist II position, retroactive to February 28, 2023.

Ref. #: 103

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

Personal Services

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$4,686	\$4,494
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$4,686	\$4,494

Justification:

This initiative funds a reclassification to align work functions with the approved classification. This employee-initiated reclassification was approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on December 21, 2023.

Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund Z313

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to the Land For Maine's Future Trust Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to consolidate these funds under one program.

Ref. #: 113

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25

All Other	\$0	(\$500)	(\$500)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$500)	(\$500)

Justification:

This proposes to move All Other funding to consolidate Other Special Revenue Funds under one account to realize administrative efficiencies for the Land for Maine's Future program.

Milk Commission 0188

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the distribution of payments to address escalating production costs to Maine dairy farmers who meet specific milk production criteria.

Ref. #: 47

One Time

Committee Vote: IN as amended AFA Vote: _____

9-0

\$7,000,000

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS			
All Other	\$0	\$3,000,000	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$3,000,000	\$0

\$7,000,000

Notes:

See Part HHH

Justification:

This initiative provides one-time payments to address escalating production costs to Maine milk producers who produced milk and reported production information to the Maine Milk Commission in calendar year 2023 and are currently participating in the dairy stabilization program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 3153-B, also known as the Tier Program.

Milk Commission 0188

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align with revenue changes approved in the December 2023 revenue forecast.

Ref. #: 48

Committee Vote: IN 10-0 AFA Vote: _____

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS			
All Other	\$0	(\$1,224,932)	(\$3,770,853)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$1,224,932)	(\$3,770,853)

Justification:

This initiative will adjust funding to reflect revenue changes based on the approved December 2023 Revenue Forecast Committee report.

Natural Areas Program Z821

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Biologist I position to a Resource Management Coordinator position, retroactive to April 28, 2022. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 131

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$4,774	\$5,279
All Other	\$0	\$513	\$568
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$5,287	\$5,847

Ref. #: 132

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$4,772	\$5,276
All Other	\$0	\$513	\$567
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$5,285	\$5,843

Justification:

This initiative funds a reclassification to align work functions with the approved classification. This reclassification was approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on December 15, 2023.

Natural Areas Program Z821

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Public Service Manager II position from range 30 to range 32, retroactive to October 21, 2021.

Ref. #: 133

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$42,482	\$10,058
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$42,482	\$10,058

Justification:

This initiative funds a reclassification to align work functions with the approved classification. This range change was approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on December 13, 2023.

Off-Road Recreational Vehicles Program Z224

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent 2 Recreation Trails Coordinator positions previously continued by Financial Order 002857 F4 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 87

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$166,153
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$11,844
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$177,997

Justification:

These positions were established by financial order to address issues raised by the ATV Task force. Permanent positions are necessary to address trail maintenance needs resulting from increased recreational use. The positions will also help address recent statutory requirements to inspect every mile of trail annually.

Off-Road Recreational Vehicles Program Z224

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align with revenue changes approved in the December 2023 revenue forecast.

Ref. #: 88

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	(\$80,983)	(\$115,774)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$80,983)	(\$115,774)

Justification:

This initiative will adjust funding to reflect revenue changes based on the approved December 2023 Revenue Forecast Committee report.

Parks - General Operations Z221

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Planning and Research Associate I position previously established by financial order for the land and water conservation fund program. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 80

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$85,892
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$6,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$91,892

Justification:

The National Park Service has allocated funds in personal services to administer the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The Bureau of Parks and Lands is requesting a Planning and Research Associate I position to perform statewide compliance inspections required for each funded project every five years. The position will also be responsible for

managing the database and GIS website to reflect the current status of site inspections and compliance actions.

Parks - General Operations Z221

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Planning and Research Associate I position previously established by financial order to work as a trail specialist for recreational trails program projects and provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 81

Committee Vote: IN 7-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$85,892
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$6,001
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$91,893

Justification:

Over the last several years, the Bureau of Parks and Lands has received increased federal funding for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). To handle the additional administrative and project responsibilities resulting from additional funding, the program contracted a trail planner position. With elevated levels of funding forecasted to remain, RTP is seeking a permanent, federally-funded Planning and Research Associate I position to replace the contracted position and efficiently manage the increased workload.

Parks - General Operations Z221

Initiative: Provides funding to increase allocation for federal grants.

Ref. #: 82

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$5,000,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$5,000,000

Justification:

This initiative will increase allocation for ongoing federal grants.

Parks - General Operations Z221

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Supervisor Outdoor Recreation position to a Public Service Manager II position, retroactive to April 3, 2023. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 83

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

GENERAL FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$5,883	\$5,834

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$5,883	\$5,834
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Ref. #: 84

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$5,882	\$5,833
All Other	\$0	\$165	\$163
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$6,047	\$5,996

Justification:

This employee initiated reclassification was approved by the Bureau of Human Resources on January 18, 2024.

Parks - General Operations Z221

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to address damage incurred by the state parks, historic sites and public lands from the December 2023 and January 2024 storms.

Ref. #: 85

One Time

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$500
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$6,000,000	\$500

Notes:

See Part III

Justification:

This initiative provides one-time funding to address damage incurred to the State Parks & Historic Sites and Public Lands during the December 2023 and January 2024 storms and directs any reimbursement received to the reserve account established by the State Controller to reserve General Fund resources for future funding needs or the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$129,014	\$331,547
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$12,677	\$9,173,701
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	(\$14,985,787)	\$11,359,969
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	\$0	\$0	\$400,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	(\$14,844,096)	\$21,265,217

Sec. A-5. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

BAXTER STATE PARK AUTHORITY

Baxter State Park Authority 0253

Initiative: Eliminates one vacant Office Associate II Supervisor position and provides funding to continue and make permanent one Management Analyst II position previously established by Financial Order 003216 F4 to enhance the leadership team at Baxter State Park. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

Ref. #: 171

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$20,529
All Other	\$0	\$0	\$222
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$20,751</u>

Justification:

This position was previously established by Financial Order 003216 F4 to enhance the management structure and provide oversight of reservation and gate staff and park-related services and product sales. The vacant Office Associate II Supervisor position will be used to partially fund this position and to provide the legislative count necessary to make this a permanent position.

BAXTER STATE PARK AUTHORITY

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$0	\$20,751
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$20,751</u>

Sec. A-13. Appropriations and allocations.

The following appropriations and allocations are made.

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE

Dairy Improvement Fund Z143

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align with revenue changes approved in the December 2023 revenue forecast.

Ref. #: 301

Committee Vote: IN 10-0

AFA Vote: _____

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	(\$6,930)	(\$3,130)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$6,930)	(\$3,130)

Justification:

This initiative will adjust funding to reflect revenue changes based on the approved December 2023 Revenue Forecast Committee report.

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	(\$6,930)	(\$3,130)
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	(\$6,930)	(\$3,130)

PART I IN 10-0

Sec. I-1. Carrying provision; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, at the end of fiscal year 2023-24, the State Controller shall carry forward any unexpended balance remaining of the \$750,000 appropriated in Public Law 2023, chapter 412, in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture program, General Fund account, Capital Expenditures line category to the next fiscal year to be used to upgrade the Cony Road facility in Augusta.

PART I
SUMMARY

This Part authorizes the State Controller to carry forward up to \$750,000 of unexpended balance in the Capital Expenditures line category in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture at the end of fiscal year 2023-24 to upgrade the Cony Road facility in Augusta.

PART J IN 10-0

Sec. J-1. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2024, the State Controller shall transfer \$750,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture program, Other Special Revenue Funds account for the purposes of renovating the Cony Road facility office area to include asbestos tile remediation, making restroom facilities ADA compliant, improving energy efficiency, and improving functionality of the 60 year old office space.

PART J
SUMMARY

This Part transfers \$750,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Bureau of Agriculture program, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to be used to upgrade the Cony Road facility in Augusta.

PART K IN 9-0

Sec. K-1. Transfer of funds from unencumbered balance forward, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Forest Protection. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall leave \$200,000 of unencumbered

balance forward remaining in the Personal Services line category and \$300,000 of unencumbered balance forward remaining in the All Other line category in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Forest Protection, General Fund account at the close of fiscal year 2023-24 and shall transfer all remaining money from the unencumbered balance forward in the Personal Services line category above \$200,000 and in the All Other line category above \$300,000 on or before August 1, 2024 to the Capital Expenditures line category in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Division of Forest Protection, General Fund account to carry out the mission of the Division of Forest Protection.

PART K SUMMARY

This part authorizes a one-time transfer in fiscal year 2024-25 of all funds in excess of \$500,000 from unencumbered balance forward in the Personal Services and All Other line categories in the Division of Forest Protection, General Fund account to the Capital Expenditures line category in the Division of Forest Protection, General Fund account.

PART L IN 9-0

Sec. L-1. 7 MRSA, §103, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 681, p. J, §2, is amended to read:

3. Fund created: The Treasurer of State shall establish an account as a separate unit operating within the Harness Racing Commission to be known as "the Agricultural Fair Promotion Fund" and shall credit to it all money received under Title 8, section 1218, subsection 1, paragraph E. The fund is a dedicated, nonlapsing fund. All revenues deposited in the fund must be disbursed in accordance with this section.

Sec. L-2. Transfer balances. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, at the close of fiscal year 2023-24, the State Controller shall transfer, after the deduction of all allocations, financial commitments, other designated funds or any other transfer authorized by statute, any remaining balance in the Agricultural Fair Promotion Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account, to the Operating Account, Other Special Revenue Funds account, within the Harness Racing Commission program in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

PART L SUMMARY

This part will establish the Agricultural Fair Promotion Fund as a unit in the Operating Account within the Harness Racing Commission program and authorizes any residual cash balance to be transferred to the Operating Account.

PART M IN 9-0

Sec. M-1. 5 MRSA §6203-A, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2023, c. 284, §4, is further amended to read:

1. **Fund established.** ~~There is established~~ The Public Access to Maine Waters Fund is established as an accounting unit within the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund and that is administered by the board. The Public Access to Maine Waters Fund consists of the proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized for the purposes set forth in subsection 3 and funds received as contributions from private and public sources for those purposes. The Public Access to Maine Waters Fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts, except that eligible investment earnings credited to the assets of the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund become part of the assets of the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund. Any balance remaining in the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund at the end of a fiscal year must be carried forward for the next fiscal year.

Sec. M-2. 5 MRSA §6203-B, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2023, c. 284, §6, is further amended to read:

1. **Fund established.** The Maine Working Waterfront Access Protection Fund, ~~referred to in this section as "the fund,"~~ is established as an accounting unit within the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund and is administered by the board in cooperation with the Commissioner of Marine Resources under the provisions of this chapter and Title 12, section 6031-A. The Maine Working Waterfront Access Protection Fund consists of the proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized for the purposes set forth in subsection 3 and funds received as contributions from private and public sources for those purposes. The Maine Working Waterfront Access Protection Fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts, except that eligible investment earnings credited to the assets of the Maine Working Waterfront Access Protection Fund become part of the assets of the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year must be carried forward for the next fiscal year.

Sec. M-3. 5 MRSA §6203-C, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2023, c. 284, §7, is further amended to read:

1. **Fund established.** The Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund, ~~referred to in this section as "the fund,"~~ is established as an accounting unit within the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund and is administered by the board in cooperation with the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry under the provisions of this chapter and Title 7, section 164. The Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund consists of the proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized for the purposes set forth in subsection 3 and funds received as contributions from private and public sources

for those purposes. The Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts, except that eligible investment earnings credited to the assets of the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund become part of the assets of the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year must be carried forward for the next fiscal year.

Sec. M-4. 5 MRSA §6203-E as enacted by PL 2023, c. 284, §9, is amended to read:

1. Fund established. ~~There is established the Conservation and Recreation Fund that is administered by the board. The Conservation and Recreation Fund is established as an accounting unit within the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund and is administered by the board.~~ The Conservation and Recreation Fund consists of the proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized for the purposes set forth in subsection 3 and funds received as contributions from private and public sources for those purposes. The Conservation and Recreation Fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts, except that eligible investment earnings credited to the assets of the Conservation and Recreation Fund become part of the assets of the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund. Any balance remaining in the Conservation and Recreation Fund at the end of a fiscal year must be carried forward for the next fiscal year.

2. Grants; matching funds. The board may make grants to state agencies and designated cooperating entities for the purposes identified in subsection 3. For each grant made under this subsection, the board shall require the grant recipient to provide matching funds at least equal to the amount of the grant. Grants must be made according to rules adopted by the board. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

3. Fund proceeds. The proceeds of the Conservation and Recreation Fund may be applied and expended to:

A. Acquire property or an interest in property that is determined by the board to be of statewide significance or for a community conservation project under the guidelines of this chapter;

B. When interest in land is acquired with proceeds from the Conservation and Recreation 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;

C. When land or interest in land is acquired with proceeds from the Conservation and Recreation 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; for State agencies, these

funds will be held in a separate interest-bearing Other Special Revenue Funds account in trust for these purposes. Stewardship and management investments may not exceed 5% of the appraised value of the acquired property; and

Sec. M-5. 5 MRSA §6203-F, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 284, §10, is amended to read:

1. Fund established. ~~There is established the Conservation Land Management Fund that is administered by the board. The Conservation Land Management Fund is established as an accounting unit within the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund account and is administered by the board.~~ The Conservation Land Management Fund consists of the proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized for the purposes set forth in subsection 3 and funds received as contributions from private and public sources for those purposes. The Conservation Land Management Fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts, except that eligible investment earnings credited to the assets of the Conservation Land Management Fund become part of the assets of the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund. Any balance remaining in the Conservation Land Management Fund at the end of a fiscal year must be carried forward for the next fiscal year.

PART M SUMMARY

This Part streamlines the accounting for the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund.

PART HHH

IN as amended 9-0

Sec. HHH-1. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Milk Commission. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before July 30, 2024, the State Controller shall transfer ~~\$3,000,000~~ ^{\$7,000,000} from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Milk Commission program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to provide one-time payments to address escalating production costs to Maine milk producers who produced milk and reported production information to the Maine Milk Commission in calendar year 2023 and are currently participating in the dairy stabilization program under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 3153-B, also known as the Tier Program. In calculating the payment, the administrator of the Maine Milk Pool shall attempt to achieve, insofar as practical, a proportional distribution of the entire transferred amount to farmers by basing the payments on a per hundredweight production basis and limiting payments to a production limit of 5,000,000 pounds per farm. The administrator of the Maine Milk Pool may use existing distribution methods within the Maine Milk Pool program to expedite the distribution of payments.

\$ 7,000,000

**PART HHH
SUMMARY**

This Part requires the transfer of ~~\$3,000,000~~ in fiscal year 2024-25 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Milk Commission program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to provide one-time pandemic volatility payments to Maine milk producers.

PART III

IN 10-0

Sec. III-1. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Parks – General Operation. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before July 30, 2024, the State Controller shall transfer \$6,000,000 to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Parks – General Operation, Other Special Revenue Funds account to provide one-time funding to address damage incurred to the State Parks & Historic Sites and Public Lands during the December 2023 and January 2024 storms. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry will seek reimbursement of costs through Risk Management, MEMA and FEMA. Any reimbursement received prior to June 30, 2025 will be transferred to the reserve account established by the State Controller to reserve General Fund resources for future funding needs. Any reimbursement received after July 1, 2025 will be transferred to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

**PART III
SUMMARY**

This Part requires the transfer of \$6,000,000 in fiscal year 2024-25 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Parks – General Operation, Other Special Revenue Funds account to provide one-time funding to address damage incurred to the State Parks & Historic Sites and Public Lands during the December 2023 and January 2024 storms and directs any reimbursement received to the reserve account established by the State Controller to reserve General Fund resources for future funding needs or the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

PART JJJ

IN 9-0

Sec. JJJ-1. Carrying provision; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, at the end of fiscal year 2023-24, the State Controller shall carry forward any unexpended balance remaining of the \$500,000 appropriated in Public Law 2021, chapter 635, in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture program, General Fund account, All Other line category to the next fiscal year to be used for replacement of the feed, seed, and fertilizer database.

Sec. JJJ-2. Carrying provision; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, at the end of fiscal year 2023-24, the State Controller shall carry forward any unexpended balance remaining of the \$1,500,000 appropriated in Public Law 2023, chapter 412, in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture program, General Fund account, Capital Expenditures line category to the next fiscal year to be used for replacement of the licensing and inspection database.

**PART JJJ
SUMMARY**

This Part authorizes the State Controller to carry forward up to \$500,000 of unexpended balance in the All Other line category in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources at the end of fiscal year 2023-24 to the All Other line category for the next fiscal year in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to be used to replace the feed, seed, and fertilizer database. It also authorizes the State Controller to carry forward up to \$1,500,000 of unexpended balance in the Capital Expenditures line category in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources at the end of fiscal year 2023-24 to the Capital Expenditures line category for the next fiscal year in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to be used to replace the licensing and inspection database.

