

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

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

**'An Act To Make Fisheries and Wildlife and Marine Resources Projects Eligible for Tax Increment Financing'**

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

**'Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §5222, sub-§10-A** is enacted to read:

**10-A. Fisheries and wildlife or marine resources project.** "Fisheries and wildlife or marine resources project" means a project approved by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or the Department of Marine Resources undertaken for the purpose of improving public access to freshwater or saltwater fisheries and wildlife resources of the State for fishing, hunting, research or observation or for conservation or improvement of the freshwater or saltwater fisheries and wildlife resources of the State.

**Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §5223, sub-§3, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 413, §3, is further amended to read:

A. At least 25%, by area, of the real property within a development district must meet at least one of the following criteria:

(1) Must be a blighted area;

(2) Must be in need of rehabilitation, redevelopment or conservation work including a fisheries and wildlife or marine resources project; or

(3) Must be suitable for commercial or arts district uses.

**Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §5225, sub-§1, ¶C**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 101, §14 and c. 102, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

C. Costs related to economic development, environmental improvements, fisheries and wildlife or marine resources projects, recreational trails or employment training within the municipality or plantation, including, but not limited to:

(1) Costs of funding economic development programs or events developed by the municipality or plantation or funding the marketing of the municipality or plantation as a business or arts location;

(2) Costs of funding environmental improvement projects developed by the municipality or plantation for commercial or arts district use or related to such activities;

(3) Funding to establish permanent economic development revolving loan funds or investment funds;

(4) Costs of services to provide skills development and training for residents of the municipality or plantation. These costs may not exceed 20% of the total project costs and must be designated as training funds in the development program;

(5) Quality child care costs, including finance costs and construction, staffing, training, certification and accreditation costs related to child care;

(6) Costs associated with new or existing recreational trails determined by the department to have significant potential to promote economic development, including, but not limited to, costs for multiple projects and project phases that may include planning, design, construction, maintenance, grooming and improvements with respect to new or existing recreational trails, which may include bridges that are part of the trail corridor, used all or in part for all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing or other related multiple uses;

(7) Costs associated with a new or expanded transit service, limited to:

(a) Transit service capital costs, including but not limited to: transit vehicles such as buses, ferries, vans, rail conveyances and related equipment; bus shelters and other transit-related structures; and benches, signs and other transit-related infrastructure; and

(b) In the case of transit-oriented development districts, ongoing costs of adding to an existing transit system or creating a new transit service and limited strictly to transit operator salaries, transit vehicle fuel and transit vehicle parts replacements; and

(8) Costs associated with the development of fisheries and wildlife or marine resources projects; and

**Sec. 4. Fisheries and wildlife or marine resources projects; rules.** The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, in consultation with the Department of Economic and Community Development, shall adopt rules establishing standards and a process for approval of fisheries and wildlife projects eligible for tax increment financing under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, chapter 206. The Department of Marine Resources, in consultation with the Department of Economic and Community Development, shall adopt rules establishing standards and a process for approval of marine resources

projects eligible for tax increment financing under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, chapter 206. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations 0535**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for rule-making costs associated with establishing standards and a process for approval of fisheries and wildlife projects eligible for tax increment financing.

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
All Other	\$0	\$7,000
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<hr/> \$0	\$7,000

**SUMMARY**

This amendment replaces the bill and changes the title. It authorizes the use of tax increment financing for marine resources projects approved by the Department of Marine Resources in addition to projects approved by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, as authorized in the bill. It adds marine resources projects to the types of tax increment projects that may be undertaken for the purpose of improving public access to fisheries and to the wildlife resources of the State for fishing, hunting, research or observation or for conservation or improvement of the fisheries and wildlife resources of the State. It requires the Department of Marine Resources to adopt rules for establishing the standards for the approval of marine resources projects eligible for tax increment financing. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

**(See attached)**