

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 everything after the enacting clause and before the emergency clause and inserting the following:

‘**Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10257, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 74, §1, is further amended to read:

**1. Fund established.** The Lake and River Protection Fund, referred to in this section as the "fund," is established within the department as a nonlapsing fund. The fund must be administered by the commissioner. The fund is funded from fees collected for lake and river protection stickers issued under section 13058, subsection 3 and from other funds accepted for those purposes by the commissioner or allocated or appropriated by the Legislature. Money in the fund may be used for enforcing laws pertaining to invasive aquatic plants and nuisance species, inspecting watercraft for invasive aquatic plant and nuisance species materials, educational and informational efforts targeted at invasive aquatic plant and nuisance species prevention, eradication and management activities and the production and distribution of lake and river protection stickers required under section 13058, subsection 3. For purposes of this section, "nuisance species" has the same meaning as in Title 38, section 1861, subsection 2. The department shall annually by January 15th provide a written report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters on the fund and activities and accomplishments related to invasive species prevention and control that are supported by the fund.

**Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §1863**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. B, §73 and affected by Pt. D, §7 and c. 614, §9, is further amended to read:

### **§ 1863. Invasive Aquatic Plant and Nuisance Species Fund**

The Invasive Aquatic Plant and Nuisance Species Fund, referred to in this section as the "fund," is created within the department as a nonlapsing fund. The fund is administered by the commissioner. The fund is funded from fees collected for lake and river protection stickers issued under Title 12, section 13058, subsection 3 and from other funds accepted for those purposes by the commissioner or allocated or appropriated by the Legislature. Money in the fund may be used only for costs related to conducting inspections under section 1862, conducting invasive aquatic plant prevention, containment, eradication and management activities and reimbursing agencies as necessary for costs associated with conducting or enforcing the provisions of this chapter and chapter 20-B. The commissioner may also use funds to contract with municipalities or other entities to conduct inspection, prevention or eradication programs to protect the inland waters of the State from invasive aquatic plant and nuisance species. The department shall annually by January 15th provide a written report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters on the fund and activities and accomplishments related to invasive species prevention and control that are supported by the fund.

## **SUMMARY**

This amendment, which is the minority report, replaces the bill. It requires the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Environmental Protection to report annually on the Lake and River Protection Fund and the Invasive Aquatic Plant and Nuisance Species Fund, respectively, and activities and accomplishments related to invasive species prevention and control supported by the funds, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters.