

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

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §1866 is enacted to read:

§ 1866. Eradication of Invasive Aquatic Plant and Nuisance Species Fund

The Eradication of 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 funded from annual transfers from the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Carrying Account, General Fund account within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Money in the fund may be used only for eradication of invasive aquatic plant and nuisance species. Eradication does not include containing, monitoring or inspecting invasive aquatic plant and nuisance species. The fund may be used to provide grants to municipalities or other entities for eradication programs to protect the inland waters of the State from invasive aquatic plant and nuisance species.

Sec. 2. Transfer; unexpended funds; Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Carrying Account. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State Controller shall transfer \$246,650, to the extent available, from the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Carrying Account, General Fund account within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to the Eradication of Invasive Aquatic Plant and Nuisance Species Fund established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 1866 by July 10, 2014. In every subsequent fiscal year, the State Controller shall transfer \$517,930, to the extent available, from the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Carrying Account, General Fund account within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to the Eradication of Invasive Aquatic Plant and Nuisance Species Fund by July 10th.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF

Eradication of Invasive Aquatic Plant and Nuisance Species Fund N176

Initiative: Provides an allocation of \$246,650 in fiscal year 2014-15 for eradicating invasive aquatic plant and nuisance species.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2013-14	2014-15
All Other	\$0	\$246,650
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$246,650

SUMMARY

This amendment removes from Committee Amendment "A" the provisions that increase fees for watercraft operating on the inland waters of the State and for lake and river protection stickers and provides from the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Carrying Account, General Fund account within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to the Eradication of Invasive Aquatic Plant and Nuisance Species Fund established in this amendment the amount of money that would have been raised by the fee increases. This money must be used by the Department of Environmental Protection only for eradicating invasive aquatic plant and nuisance species and may be used for grants to lake associations and municipalities for eradication programs.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)