



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 268

LR 918(01)

An Act To Eliminate Online Burn Permit Fees for All Areas of the State

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement for Original Bill

Sponsor: Sen. Dill of Penobscot

Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Projections FY 2023-24	Projections FY 2024-25
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$39,554	\$52,739	\$52,739	\$52,739
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$7,200	\$9,600	\$9,600	\$9,600
Revenue				
General Fund	(\$32,354)	(\$43,139)	(\$43,139)	(\$43,139)

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill eliminates the \$7 fee the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF) charges for electronically issued burn permits via an online permit system. Currently, \$4 is deposited into the General Fund, \$2 is transferred to the municipality where the permit was issued and \$1 goes to InforME for the administrative cost of the online permit system. In unorganized areas, \$6 of the fee is deposited into the General Fund and \$1 is for the administrative costs of InforME. Elimination of the fee reduces annual General Fund revenue by \$32,354 in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$43,139 in fiscal year 2022-23, reduces revenue to municipalities by approximately \$20,000 a year and reduces revenue available to pay InforME by \$9,600. ACF will require ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$7,200 in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$9,600 in fiscal year 2022-23 to continue to pay InforME for burn permits issued through the state online system. Municipalities may incur additional costs if a vendor or owner of a private party burn permit software system charges for use of its software.