



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 437

LR 1314(03)

An Act To Establish the Maine Healthy Soils Program

Fiscal Note for Bill as Engrossed with:

C "A" (S-75)

Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Fiscal Note

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Projections FY 2023-24	Projections FY 2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill establishes the Maine Healthy Soils program within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF) to promote and expand the use of healthy soils and best practices among farmers and farmland owners. It requires the ACF to consult with the Department of Environmental Protection and cooperate with the University of Maine, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, state and soil conservation districts and the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, in the development and administration of the program.

The ACF has indicated that it will not require additional staffing at this time. The bill includes ongoing Other Special Revenue Funds allocations of \$500 starting in fiscal year 2021-22 to establish the Maine Healthy Soils Fund to allow acceptance of grants, bequests, gifts or contributions to support the program from any source, public or private. Any additional costs to the other state agencies referenced in this bill as a result of cooperation or consultation with the ACF are anticipated to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.