



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1916

LR 2463(02)

An Act To Create a Legal Defense Fund for the Maine Lobster Industry

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "

Committee: Marine Resources

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Projections FY 2023-24	Projections FY 2024-25
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill creates the Lobster Legal Defense Fund (LLDF) within the Department of Marine Resources (DMR). For 2 years 20% of license surcharges currently credited to the Lobster Promotion Fund (LPF) are to be credited to the LLDF. The bill includes an allocation of \$380,000 in fiscal year 2022-23 to the LLDF and a deallocation of \$380,000 to the LPF to reflect this revenue shift. Half the funds will be distributed to a lobster association and half to a labor union representing individuals engaged in commercial lobster fishing in the State for legal costs incurred and paid in legal proceedings involving the regulations of the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, implementing the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan. The bill also includes a General Fund appropriation to the DMR of \$500,000 in fiscal year 2022-23 with the intent that the same amount be appropriated in fiscal year 2023-24. The appropriation will be used to increase funding to the LLDF. Any funds remaining in the LLDF on June 31, 2024 will be moved back to the Lobster Promotion Fund.