



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 993

LR 811(02)

An Act to Facilitate Stakeholder Input Regarding Forest Policy in Maine

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "

Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

| | FY 2023-24 | FY 2024-25 | Projections FY 2025-26 | Projections FY 2026-27 |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Net Cost (Savings) | | | | |
| General Fund | \$5,130 | \$5,130 | \$5,130 | \$5,130 |
| Appropriations/Allocations | | | | |
| General Fund | \$5,130 | \$5,130 | \$5,130 | \$5,130 |

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill creates the Maine Forest Advisory Board to advise the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF) regarding a variety of forestry issues and to provide input on the state forest action plan required under the federal Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008. The bill includes ongoing appropriations starting in fiscal year 2023-24 of \$5,130 to ACF for the reimbursement of board member expenses. While this bill does not include specific instructions for staffing to the board, ACF has indicated that if requested to provide staffing to the advisory board, the department may require additional funding of \$120,611 for one Senior Planner position, its associated costs and for the anticipated use of contracted facilitation services.

Additional costs to the University of Maine System associated with having a wildlife biologist representing the University of Maine participate on the advisory board can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.