



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1881

LR 77(02)

**An Act Regarding Compensation Fees and Related Conservation Efforts to Protect Soils and Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat from Solar and Wind Energy Development and High-impact Electric Transmission Lines Under the Site Location of Development Laws**

**Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "**

**Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry**

**Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

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## Fiscal Note

Current biennium revenue increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

Current biennium cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill establishes a solar energy compensation program which includes compensation fees for the impact of solar energy projects developed on high-value agricultural land, which must be defined through rulemaking. This fee will be determined by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF) and will be credited to the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund within ACF. The bill also establishes a compensation fee program for renewable energy development that impacts wildlife and fisheries habitats and directs that revenues from this fee be credited to existing accounts within the Maine Environmental Protection Fund within the DEP. As the bill directs the DEP to coordinate with the ACF to calculate the compensation fees and define the lands impacted before any revenue can be generated, no estimate is made at this time, but it is anticipated to generate significant Other Special Revenue Funds revenue for both the ACF and the DEP. Additional allocations will be required to authorize expenditure of any revenue collected.