



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1904

LR 1507(03)

An Act to Establish the Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund

Fiscal Note for Bill as Engrossed with:

C "A" (S-523)

Committee: Environment and Natural Resources

Fiscal Note

Potential current biennium revenue decrease - General Fund
Potential current biennium revenue increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

| | FY 2025-26 | FY 2026-27 | Projections FY 2027-28 | Projections FY 2028-29 |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Net Cost (Savings) | | | | |
| General Fund | \$0 | \$201,881 | \$106,477 | \$110,556 |
| Appropriations/Allocations | | | | |
| General Fund | \$0 | \$101,881 | \$106,477 | \$110,556 |
| Other Special Revenue Funds | \$0 | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | \$100,000 |
| Transfers | | | | |
| General Fund | \$0 | (\$100,000) | \$0 | \$0 |
| Other Special Revenue Funds | \$0 | \$100,000 | \$0 | \$0 |

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill establishes the Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund (MSPL) within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The bill also directs that, of the monetary penalties collected under the Natural Resources Protection Act each fiscal year, up to the first \$100,000 be deposited into the MSPL. Because these revenues are currently credited to the General Fund, this provision will reduce General Fund revenue by the amount redirected to the MSPL.

The DEP has indicated that administration of the MSPL will require additional staff and resources. Although the bill authorizes the use of MSPL resources for administrative costs, penalty revenue is variable and may not provide a minimum level of funding to support a position within the fund. As a result, the bill includes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$101,881 beginning in fiscal year 2026-27 for one Environmental Specialist III position and related All Other costs.

The bill also includes a one-time transfer of \$100,000 on or before September 1, 2026 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to capitalize the MSPL, along with a corresponding ongoing allocations to authorize expenditures.