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Date: (Filing No. H-)

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 734, L.D. 1162, “An Act to Protect the Environment by Funding Ash Tree Management”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Increase Support for the Community Forestry Fund'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §8705, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 439, Pt. XXX, §1 and amended by PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 and PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §23, is further amended to read:

1. Establishment of fund. The Community Forestry Fund, referred to in this section as "the "fund," is established as a nonlapsing fund under the jurisdiction of the bureau to promote the community forestry activities in the municipalities of the State. On or before July 31st of each fiscal year, the State Controller shall transfer \$500,000 from the General Fund undedicated revenue to the fund to provide grants to municipalities to address ash tree disease issues and expand tree replacement efforts. The bureau may apply for and accept any appropriation, grant, gift or service made available from any public or private sources consistent with the purpose of this section and shall deposit any such money into the fund.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF
DACF Administration 0401**

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Entomologist I position previously established in Public Law 2021, chapter 727 to provide technical and educational assistance to municipalities and organizations to address forest pests and diseases and provides funding for related All Other costs.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1	GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
2	All Other	\$0	\$3,292
3			
4	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$3,292
5			
6	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2023-24	2024-25
7	All Other	\$0	\$585
8			
9	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$585
10	Forest Resource Management Z233		
11	Initiative: Provides ongoing funding to the Community Forestry Fund under the Maine		
12	Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 8705 to provide grants to municipalities to address ash		
13	tree disease issues and expand tree replacement efforts.		
14	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2023-24	2024-25
15	All Other	\$500,000	\$500,000
16			
17	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500,000	\$500,000
18	Forest Resource Management Z233		
19	Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Entomologist I position previously		
20	established in Public Law 2021, chapter 727 to provide technical and educational assistance		
21	to municipalities and organizations to address forest pests and diseases and provides		
22	funding for related All Other costs.		
23	GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
24	POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
25	Personal Services	\$0	\$96,300
26	All Other	\$0	\$3,500
27			
28	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$99,800
29			
30	AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND		
31	FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF		
32	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2023-24	2024-25
33			
34	GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$103,092
35	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$500,000	\$500,585
36			
37	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$500,000	\$603,677
38			
39	Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section		
40	number to read consecutively.		

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SUMMARY

This amendment, which is the majority report, clarifies that the ongoing funding to provide grants to municipalities to address ash tree disease and expand tree replacement efforts be deposited into the Community Forestry Fund, established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 8705. The amendment also provides ongoing funding for a full-time permanent Entomologist I position to provide technical and educational assistance to municipalities and organizations to address forest pests and diseases.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)