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Date: (Filing No. S- )

**INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS**

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
131ST LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 822, L.D. 1997, “An Act to Implement Critical Reforms to the Department of Environmental Protection Outlined in the State COVID-19 Reopening Plan”

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

**'An Act to Enhance Services Provided by the Department of Environmental Protection'**

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

**'Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §342, sub-§4, ¶B**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 579, Pt. B, §5 and affected by §13, is further amended by repealing the 2nd blocked paragraph.

**Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §342, sub-§4, ¶C** is enacted to read:

C. The Office of Innovation and Assistance is established within the department to provide assistance to the public and regulated entities in navigating and accessing services offered by the department, including, but not limited to:

(1) Providing information regarding and assistance in the application process for licenses, permits and other approvals issued by the department pursuant to this Title and department rules; and

(2) Coordinating and consulting as necessary with other state agencies and entities, including, but not limited to, the Business Ombudsman Program established pursuant to Title 5, section 13063 within the Department of Economic and Community Development, regarding the provision of such assistance to the public and regulated entities.

**Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §342, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 579, Pt. B, §5 and affected by §13, is further amended by enacting at the end a new last blocked paragraph to read:

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 The commissioner shall identify a staff person or persons in each bureau of the department  
2 whose primary responsibility is to provide guidance to any party through the permit review  
3 process.

4 **Sec. 4. 38 MRSA §344-B, 2nd ¶**, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 804, Pt. B, §4 and  
5 affected by §7, is amended to read:

6 The provisions of this section apply only to new permit and license applications, except  
7 that the provisions of this section apply to all applications under chapter 3, subchapter 1,  
8 article 6.

9 **Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
10 allocations are made.

11 **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF**  
12 **Administration - Environmental Protection 0251**

13 Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for 2 Environmental Specialist III positions and  
14 associated costs to assist the public and regulated entities in navigating and accessing the  
15 services offered by the department.

16 <b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
17 POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	2.000
18 Personal Services	\$0	\$187,618
19 All Other	\$0	\$28,000
20		
21 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$215,618

22 '  
23 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section  
24 number to read consecutively.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This amendment replaces the bill and changes the title. Current law provides that the  
27 Commissioner of Environmental Protection must determine and annually publish a  
28 processing time for new permit and license applications for each type of permit or license  
29 issued by the Department of Environmental Protection. The amendment provides that the  
30 commissioner must publish a processing time for all applications under the site location of  
31 development laws, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, chapter 3, subchapter 1, article 6.  
32 The amendment also establishes in the Maine Revised Statutes the Office of Innovation  
33 and Assistance within the Department of Environmental Protection to provide assistance  
34 to the public and regulated entities in navigating and accessing services offered by the  
35 department. The amendment provides ongoing appropriations for 2 positions and  
36 associated costs within the Administration - Environmental Protection program for the  
37 Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Innovation and Assistance to carry out  
38 the duties of the office.

39 The amendment also amends the language requiring the Commissioner of  
40 Environmental Protection to identify a staff person or persons in each bureau of the  
41 department whose primary responsibility is to provide guidance to any party through the

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 822, L.D. 1997

1 permit review process so that the language applies to the entire department instead of to the  
2 Office of Pollution Prevention.

3

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

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**(See attached)**