

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

H.P. 105 - L.D. 164

An Act Regarding the Funding of Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Projects

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §480-N, as amended by PL 1989, c. 890, Pt. A, §40 and Pt. B §§79 and 80, is further amended to read:

§480-N. Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Fund

1. Fund purposes and administration. There is established a nonlapsing Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," from which the commissioner may pay up to 50% of the eligible costs incurred in a lake water quality restoration or protection project, except that eligible costs for projects addressing technical assistance, watershed surveys, watershed plan development, public education or research issues may be paid up to 100%. Eligible costs include all costs except those related to land acquisition, legal fees and debt service. ~~All money~~ The commissioner may use money credited to that the fund must be used by the commissioner for only for the purposes described in subsections 3, 4 and 6 and for projects to improve or maintain the quality of lake waters in the State and for no other purpose. The commissioner may authorize the State Controller to draw a warrant for such funds as may be necessary to pay the lawful expenses of the lake water quality restoration or protection project, up to the limits of the money duly authorized. Any balance remaining in the fund must continue without lapse from year to year and remain available only for the ~~purpose~~ purposes for which the fund is established ~~and for no other purpose.~~

2. Money Prohibited expenditures. ~~Money in the Lake Restoration and Protection Fund may not be used~~ The commissioner may not use money in the fund to pay costs for projects in or on lakes for which public access is not provided.

3. ~~Intensive staffing program~~ Staffing support. The commissioner shall ~~establish an intensive staffing program to provide adequate staffing at both the state and regional levels. The commissioner shall provide technical information and guidance and the regional agencies shall assist with the adoption of revised comprehensive plans, standards and local ordinances by local governments~~ may use money in the fund for state, regional

or local staffing to support administration and implementation of activities authorized under this section.

4. Public education program. The commissioner ~~shall~~ may use money in the fund to develop a coordinated public education program for school children involving extensive use of the media.

~~**5. Research.** The commissioner shall encourage internal research focused on the following statewide topics:~~

- ~~A. Lake vulnerability, particularly as it relates to noncultural features of the watershed;~~
- ~~B. The effectiveness and design of the best management practices to control phosphorous pollution; and~~
- ~~C. New lake and watershed diagnostic tools.~~

6. Research. The commissioner may use money in the fund to conduct internal or external assessments and research focused on lake water quality restoration or protection.

7. Funding sources. The fund may receive money from any source, public or private.

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF
Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Fund N422**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for projects that meet specific criteria and improve or maintain the quality of lake waters in the State.

GENERAL FUND	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$0	\$200,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$200,000

Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Fund N422

Initiative: Provides a base allocation in the event that outside funding is received for projects that meet specific criteria and improve or maintain the quality of lake waters in the State.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2023-24	2024-25
All Other	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,
DEPARTMENT OF
DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

	2023-24	2024-25
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$200,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$500	\$500
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$500	\$200,500