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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. 775, L.D. 1227, “An Act to Balance Renewable Energy Development with Natural and Working Lands Conservation”

Amend the bill in section 4 in the 9th line (page 1, line 31 in L.D.) by striking out the following: ", but not limited to,"

Amend the bill in section 4 in the 10th line (page 1, line 32 in L.D.) by striking out the following: ", parking lots and aquatic sites"

Amend the bill in section 4 in the 12th line (page 1, line 34 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "land or aquatic sites" and inserting the following: 'agricultural production'

Amend the bill in section 4 in the 12th line (page 1, line 34 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "production." the following: 'The department may accept funds from any source, public or private, for the purposes of this section and may contract for professional services to carry out the purposes of this section.'

Amend the bill in section 4 in subsection 1 in the first 2 lines (page 1, lines 36 and 37 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "30 megawatts, with at least 20 megawatts reserved for dual-use projects on agricultural land," and inserting the following: 'not less than 20 megawatts nor more than 60 megawatts'

Amend the bill in section 4 by striking out all of subsection 5 (page 2, lines 13 to 15 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

'5. Include an application process for landowners or developers, with the informed consent of the landowner, seeking to be included in the pilot program, including those who have already deployed or are planning to deploy solar energy systems;'

Amend the bill in section 4 by striking out all of the last indented paragraph (page 2, lines 25 to 30 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

'The department in coordination with the Governor's Energy Office may implement the pilot program and shall submit a report relating to the pilot program to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters; energy and utilities matters; and environment and natural resources

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 matters no later than February 1, 2025 and each joint standing committee may submit  
 2 legislation relating to the subject matter of the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.'

3 Amend the bill by inserting after section 4 the following:

4 '**Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
 5 allocations are made.

6 **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF**  
 7 **Bureau of Agriculture 0393**

8 Initiative: Provides funding for one limited-period Senior Planner position and associated  
 9 All Other costs.

10	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
11	Personal Services	\$72,326	\$76,305
12	All Other	\$2,625	\$2,625
13			
14	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$74,951	\$78,930

15 **Bureau of Agriculture 0393**

16 Initiative: Provides one-time funding for contracted legal services and contracted services  
 17 to coordinate engagement with landowners and the public.

18	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
19	All Other	\$20,000	\$0
20			
21	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$20,000	\$0

22 **DACF Administration 0401**

23 Initiative: Provides allocations for expenditures related to the technology management  
 24 costs associated with one limited-period Senior Planner position.

25	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
26	All Other	\$439	\$439
27			
28	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$439	\$439

29 **DACF Administration 0401**

30 Initiative: Provides funding for the technology management costs associated with one  
 31 limited-period Senior Planner position.

32	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
33	All Other	\$2,469	\$2,469
34			
35	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$2,469	\$2,469

36  
 37 **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND**  
 38 **FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF**  
 39 **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

40		<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
41	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$97,420</b>	<b>\$81,399</b>

1	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$439</b>	<b>\$439</b>
2			
3	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$97,859</b>	<b>\$81,838</b>
4	<b>EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT</b>		
5	<b>Governor's Energy Office Z122</b>		
6	Initiative: Provides ongoing funding to develop and maintain information technology and		
7	databases, including publicly accessible databases.		
8	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
9	All Other	\$150,000	\$150,000
10			
11	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>
12			
13	<b>EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT</b>		
14	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
15			
16	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>
17			
18	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>
19			
20	<b>SECTION TOTALS</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
21			
22	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$247,420</b>	<b>\$231,399</b>
23	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$439</b>	<b>\$439</b>
24			
25	<b>SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$247,859</b>	<b>\$231,838</b>

26  
 27 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section  
 28 number to read consecutively.

29 **SUMMARY**

30 This amendment revises the definition of "dual-use project" to mean a mixed-use  
 31 system combining use of agricultural production with solar energy production.

32 The amendment provides that the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and  
 33 Forestry may accept funds from any source, public or private, for the development or  
 34 implementation of a pilot program to study the feasibility of dual-use projects. The  
 35 amendment also provides that the department may contract for professional services to  
 36 develop or implement the pilot program.

37 The amendment provides that the pilot program must identify dual-use projects that  
 38 collectively have a total capacity of not less than 20 megawatts nor more than 60  
 39 megawatts, rather than 30 megawatts with at least 20 megawatts reserved for dual-use  
 40 projects on agricultural land as proposed in the bill.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1           The amendment clarifies that developers, with the informed consent of the landowner,  
2           as well as landowners may apply for the pilot program.

3           Finally, the amendment authorizes the department, in coordination with the Governor's  
4           Energy Office, to implement the pilot program.

5   **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

6   **(See attached)**