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Date: (Filing No. S- )

**APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

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

**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
125TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 255, L.D. 852, Bill, “An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support Maine's Natural Resource-based Economy”

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1 and inserting the following:

**Sec. 1. Authorization of bonds.** The Treasurer of State is authorized, under the direction of the Governor, to issue bonds in the name and on behalf of the State in an amount not exceeding \$5,000,000 for the purposes described in section 5 of this Act. The bonds are a pledge of the full faith and credit of the State. The bonds may not run for a period longer than 10 years from the date of the original issue of the bonds.'

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 5 and 6 and inserting the following:

**Sec. 5. Disbursement of bond proceeds.** The proceeds of the bonds must be expended as set out in this Act under the direction and supervision of the Department of Conservation.

1. The proceeds of the bonds for the Land for Maine's Future Board as set out in section 6 must be expended by the Department of Conservation for acquisition of land and interest in land for conservation, water access, outdoor recreation, wildlife and fish habitat, farmland preservation in accordance with the provisions for such acquisitions under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 353 and working waterfront preservation in accordance with the terms of this Act, including all costs associated with such acquisitions, except that use of the proceeds of these bonds is subject to the following conditions and requirements.

A. Hunting, fishing, trapping and public access may not be prohibited on land acquired with bond proceeds, except to the extent of applicable state, local or federal laws, rules and regulations and except for working waterfront projects and farmland protection projects.

B. Payment from bond proceeds for acquisitions of local or regional significance, as determined by the Land for Maine's Future Board, may be made directly to cooperating entities as defined in Title 5, section 6201, subsection 2 for acquisition of

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 land and interest in land by cooperating entities, subject to terms and conditions  
2 enforceable by the State to ensure its use for the purposes of this Act. In addition to  
3 the considerations required under Title 5, chapter 353, the board shall give a  
4 preference to acquisitions under this paragraph that achieve benefits for multiple  
5 towns and that address regional conservation needs including public recreational  
6 access, wildlife, open space and farmland.

7 C. The bond funds expended for conservation, recreation, farmland and water access  
8 must be matched with at least \$5,000,000 in public and private contributions. Seventy  
9 percent of that amount must be in the form of cash or other tangible assets, including  
10 the value of land and real property interest acquired by or contributed to cooperating  
11 entities, as defined in Title 5, section 6201, subsection 2, when property interests  
12 have a direct relationship to the property proposed for protection, as determined by  
13 the Land for Maine's Future Board. The remaining 30% may be matching  
14 contributions and may include the value of project-related, in-kind contributions of  
15 goods and services to and by cooperating entities.

16 D. Because portions of the State have deer populations that are struggling and deer  
17 wintering habitat protection is vital to the survival and enhancement of these  
18 populations, projects that conserve and protect deer wintering areas are considered to  
19 have special value and must receive preferential consideration during scoring of new  
20 applications for support under Title 5, section 6200 et seq.

21 E. To the extent the purposes are consistent with the disbursement provisions in this  
22 Act, 100% of the bond proceeds may be considered as state match for any federal  
23 funding to be made available to the State.

24 **Sec. 6. Disbursement of bond proceeds from General Fund bond issue.**

25 The proceeds of the sale of the bonds authorized under this Act must be expended as  
26 designated in the following schedule.

27 **CONSERVATION, DEPARTMENT OF**

28 **Land for Maine's Future Board**

29 Provides funds in order to leverage \$5,000,000 in other funds to be used for the  
30 acquisition of land and interest in land for conservation; water access, wildlife and  
31 fish habitat including deer wintering areas; outdoor recreation, including hunting and  
32 fishing; and working farmland preservation and working waterfront preservation.

33 Total \$5,000,000  
34

35 Amend the bill in section 10 by striking out all of the question (page 5, lines 1 to 8 in  
36 L.D.) and inserting the following:

37 "Do you favor a \$5,000,000 bond issue to purchase land and  
38 conservation easements statewide from willing sellers for public land and  
39 water access, conservation, wildlife and fish habitat and outdoor  
40 recreation, including hunting and fishing and deer wintering areas, and to  
41 preserve working farmland and working waterfronts to be matched by at  
42 least \$5,000,000 in private and public contributions?"

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**SUMMARY**

This amendment reduces from \$36,000,000 to \$5,000,000 the amount of the General Fund bond issue authorized by this Act to purchase land and conservation easements, to be matched with at least \$5,000,000 in public and private contributions.