



JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM  
COMMISSIONER

**TESTIMONY OF**  
**MELANIE LOYZIM, COMMISSIONER**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
**SPEAKING IN SUPPORT OF**

**L.D. 258 “AN ACT MAKING UNIFIED APPROPRIATIONS AND ALLOCATIONS  
FROM THE GENERAL FUND AND OTHER FUNDS FOR THE EXPENDITURES OF  
STATE GOVERNMENT AND CHANGING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE LAW  
NECESSARY TO THE PROPER OPERATIONS OF STATE GOVERNMENT FOR THE  
FISCAL YEARS ENDING JUNE 30, 2023, JUNE 30, 2024 AND JUNE 30, 2025”  
SPONSORED BY REP. SACHS**

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND  
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS  
AND THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES**

**HEARING DATE:  
FEBRUARY 16, 2023**

Senators Rotundo and Brenner, Representatives Sachs and Gramlich, and members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Environmental and Natural Resources, I am Melanie Loyzim, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), providing this public hearing testimony *in support of* DEP-related items in the Budget Office Document, the Governor’s FY24/25 Biennial Budget proposal.

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The Governor's guiding belief is that to build a stronger, more prosperous state where opportunity is available to all, then we must invest in the infrastructure that supports the people of Maine. DEP's biennial budget proposal supports the Department's core environmental monitoring and licensing programs for clean air and clean water, and provides resources for the additional responsibilities assigned to DEP by the Legislature for implementation beginning in this biennium. This testimony addresses each initiative for DEP in Part A of the Budget document on pages A-261 through A-281.

## **OVERVIEW**

DEP proposes 32 initiatives in the FY 24/25 biennial budget, most of which fall broadly into three categories:

- 1) Support core environmental programs;
- 2) Support purchases of capital equipment needed for program work, and
- 3) Support operational needs of the Department

### **1. Support core environmental programs.**

DEP's core statutory responsibilities are protection of air and water quality. DEP has experienced declining Other Special Revenues in air and water licensing programs and mostly static federal funding for these delegated programs under the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, while personnel and other program costs have increased. The majority of DEP's position-related initiatives transfer existing legislative FTE from Federal Expenditures or Other Special Revenue Funds to General Fund for licensing and environmental monitoring. DEP also proposes to continue and make permanent six positions supporting sampling and treatment of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). One initiative reclassifies 22 positions within the Division of Land Licensing to improve recruitment. One initiative provides 1 FTE for a 2022 public law with a delayed implementation cost. For the biennium, DEP's position-related initiatives add 7 FTE to the total

legislative count, and comprise an increase of \$4,123,913 to the General Fund and decreases of \$757,878 from Federal Expenditure Funds and \$1,884,169 from Other Special Revenue Funds.

Four initiatives propose to address underfunded programs within the Bureau of Water Quality, including \$340,000 in General Fund to support the Surface Water Ambient Toxics Monitoring and Marine Environmental Monitoring programs, \$150,000 in Federal Expenditure Funds to support water quality management planning for watersheds, and \$79,080 in General Fund to support eelgrass and salt marsh vegetation mapping. One initiative proposes \$7M in General Fund to provide matching funds for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Capitalization Grant for wastewater infrastructure.

## **2. Capital Equipment.**

For the upcoming biennium, DEP programs have identified the need for investments in capital equipment that are essential for the State to meet its obligation for investigating and cleaning up spilled hazardous materials and petroleum products, and for the State to meet its obligation to monitor and maintain baseline data about ambient air quality. In total, DEP is requesting \$209,000 in General Fund and \$789,500 in Other Special Revenue Funds to meet its capital equipment needs for the biennium.

## **3. Supporting Operational Needs.**

DEP is proposing six initiatives to address rate increases for central services provided by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services (DAFS). DAFS develops, delivers, and maintains centralized government systems that support the financial, human resource, physical and technological infrastructure of state government. This allows DEP to focus its expertise on Department and statutory priorities while DAFS manages centralized service areas. These services are funded through Internal Service Funds (ISFs), which are used to track and recover the costs of providing the various services. DAFS then bills the DEP for these services, which are paid for with All Other funds.

In this biennial budget, DAFS has adjusted the rates for several of its services. DEP's All Other baseline budget was not increased to reflect the increased costs to the ISFs, so DEP is requesting \$696,783 in General Fund All Other and \$1,362 in Highway Fund All Other to cover these increases. DEP absorbed similar rate increases in the FY22/23 biennium as part of its curtailment efforts during the height of the pandemic but cannot absorb further increases in the next biennium without impacting core programs.

Overall, new initiatives proposed in the FY24-25 budget would increase DEP's budget by \$5,082,677 over the biennium. This is comprised of net increases of \$12,448,776 to the General Fund and \$1,362 to the Highway Fund, and net decreases of \$1,288,638 in Federal Expenditure Funds and \$6,078,823 in Other Special Revenue Funds.

#### **ADMINISTRATION – ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - 0251**

The first Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-262** is “**Administration – Environmental Protection 0251**”. This Budget Program is comprised of General Fund and Other Special Revenue Funds. The Other Special Revenue Funds component of this Budget Program is collected pursuant to DEP's Indirect Cost Allocation Plan. Both funding sources support centralized agency services that are administered by the Office of the Commissioner. The Commissioner's Office oversees and coordinates policy, strategic planning, regulatory programs, data management, support services, regional office management, Small Business Technical Assistance Program, Quality Assurance and Quality Control programs, priority chemicals program, assistance, education and outreach efforts, and legislative services.

The **first initiative** in this Budget Program is on **page A-262**. This initiative provides funding in General Fund All Other for \$2,825 in each year of the biennium for technology costs associated with a proposed new Environmental Specialist III position to implement PL 2021, c. 742, which set standards for the post-consumer recycled plastic content of plastic beverage containers. The corresponding initiative to establish the position is on **page A-270**.

The **next initiative** on **page A-262** provides funding in General Fund All Other for \$31,800 in FY24 and \$44,606 in FY25 for increased financial and human resources service center costs.

The **next initiative** on **page A-262** provides funding in General Fund All Other for \$539 in each year of the biennium for increased statewide insurance coverage rates provided by the Division of Risk Management.

The **next initiative** on **page A-262** provides funding in General Fund All Other for \$214,323 in FY24 and \$219,119 in FY25 for increased technology service rates provided by the Office of Information Technology.

The **next initiative** on **page A-263** is a housekeeping item which transfers General Fund All Other for \$61,602 in each year of the biennium from the Maine Environmental Protection Fund program to the Administration – Environmental Protection program. This aligns funding for statewide technology end user services provided by the Office of Information Technology with the correct Budget Program.  
(counterpart see pg. A-271)

The **final initiative** in this Budget Program on **page A-263** provides funding in General Fund All Other for \$802 in each year of the biennium for increased statewide property lease rates provided by the Division of Leased Space.

## AIR QUALITY - 0250

The next DEP Budget Program is “**Air Quality 0250**” on **page A-264**. This Budget Program includes General Fund, Highway Fund and Federal Expenditure Funds. This Budget Program implements state and federal laws to protect and improve outdoor air quality, including air emission licensing, monitoring and compliance, meteorological data analysis, and regional greenhouse gas-related efforts.

The **first initiative** in this Budget Program is on **page A-264**. It transfers one Public Service Manager II position and related All Other costs from the Maine Environmental Protection Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds to the Air Quality program, General Fund to provide stable funding for a key director position. The initiative increases allocation in General Fund Personal Services by \$154,648 in FY24 and by \$156,001 in FY25, and All Other of \$1,513 in each year of the biennium.  
(counterpart see pg. A-270)

The **next initiative** on **page A-264** provides funding in General Fund All Other for \$1,232 in each year of the biennium for increased statewide insurance coverage rates provided by the Division of Risk Management.

The **next initiative** on **page A-265** provides funding in General Fund All Other for \$14,564 in FY24 and \$17,967 in FY25, and Highway Fund All Other for \$600 in FY24 and \$762 in FY25 for increased rates for vehicles leased through the Bureau of General Services, Central Fleet Management.

The **next initiative** on **page A-265** provides one-time Capital Expenditure funding in General Fund for \$35,000 in FY24 and \$94,000 in FY25 to replace equipment essential to meet the Department's obligation to monitor and maintain baseline data for ambient air quality. Existing equipment is past its useful life.

The **next initiative** on **page A-265** provides one-time Capital Expenditure funding in General Fund for \$80,000 in FY24 to purchase a continuous hydrogen sulfide analyzer and BTEX continuous analyzers for community health risk assessments.

The **next initiative** on **page A-265** transfers one Environmental Engineering Services Manager position and related All Other costs from the Maine Environmental Protection Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds to the Air Quality program, General Fund to provide stable funding for a core air licensing position. The initiative increases allocation in General Fund Personal Services by \$148,882 in FY24 and by \$150,008 in FY25, and in All Other by \$7,609 in FY24 and by \$8,097 in FY25.

*(counterpart see pg. A-271)*

The **final initiative** in this Budget Program on **page A-265** provides funding in General Fund All Other for \$803 in each year of the biennium for increased statewide property lease rates provided by the Division of Leased Space.

#### **BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUND - 0025**

The third Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-266** is “**Board of Environmental Protection Fund 0025**”. This Budget Program is comprised only of Other Special Revenue Funds. The Board of Environmental Protection (“Board”) hears appeals of DEP permitting decisions, reviews certain enforcement agreements and orders, and establishes DEP rules. There are no initiatives for this Budget Program.

#### **EELGRASS AND SALT MARSH VEGETATION MAPPING FUND - Z324**

The fourth Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-267** is the “**Eelgrass and Salt Marsh Vegetation Mapping Fund Z324**”. This Budget Program is comprised only of Other Special Revenue Funds. This fund was created by P.L. 2021, c. 424 to accept grants, bequests, gifts or contributions for mapping eelgrass beds and salt marsh vegetation within the State. There are no initiatives for this Budget Program.

#### **LAND APPLICATION CONTAMINANT MONITORING FUND - Z325**

The fifth Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-267** is the “**Land Application Contaminant Monitoring Fund Z325**”. This fund was established by P.L. 2021, c. 478 to receive fees for land-applied biosolids to fund testing and monitoring of soil and groundwater for PFAS. These fees were repealed when land application of biosolids was subsequently prohibited by P.L. 2021, c. 641. There are no initiatives for this Budget Program area.

#### **LAND RESOURCES - Z188**

The sixth Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-268** is “**Land Resources Z188**”. This Budget Program is comprised of General Fund and Federal Expenditure Funds. These funds support implementation of laws and regulations related to a wide range of land development activities, including large-scale developments, stormwater, impacts to natural resources (such as ponds, streams, and wetlands), shoreland zoning, and hydropower facilities.

The **first initiative** in this Budget Program is on **page A-268**. It provides funding in General Fund All Other for \$1,848 in each year of the biennium for increased statewide insurance coverage rates provided by the Division of Risk Management.

The **next initiative** on **page A-268** provides funding in General Fund All Other for \$15,237 in FY24 and \$19,442 in FY25 for increased rates for vehicles leased through the Bureau of General Services, Central Fleet Management.

The **next initiative** on **page A-268** provides funding in General Fund All Other for \$1,530 in each year of the biennium for increased statewide property lease rates provided by the Division of Leased Space.

The **last initiative** in this Budget Program on **page A-269** provides funding for the reorganization of 22 licensing positions within the Bureau of Land Resources. The reorganization updates position classifications to align with the actual work being performed, in hopes of improving recruitment and retention. This initiative provides General Fund Personal Services of \$74,423 in FY24 and \$75,358 in FY25. It also provides Federal Expenditure Fund Personal Services of \$18,500 in FY24 and \$18,974 in FY25, and All Other of \$278 in FY24 and \$285 in FY25. Overall, this initiative increases the hourly salary for each position by approximately \$2 per hour for a total Personal Services increase of \$94,617 for the 22 affected positions. A corresponding initiative can be found on **page A-272**.

#### **MAINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUND - 0421**

The seventh Budget Program in the Budget document on **page A-270** is “**Maine Environmental Protection Fund 0421**”. This Budget Program includes General Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds and Federal Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. Licensing fees are deposited to this Fund to support environmental licensing, compliance, and assistance activities in each of DEP’s bureaus.

The **first initiative** in this Budget Program is on **page A-270**. It establishes one Environmental Specialist III position and related All Other funding to support the implementation of a PL 2021, c. 742, which set standards for the post-consumer recycled plastic content of plastic beverage containers. The fiscal note for the new law identified costs to the Department for implementation would not begin until FY24. The initiative provides General Fund Personal Services of \$88,699 in FY24 and \$93,646 in FY25, and All Other of \$1,513 in each year of the biennium.

The **next initiative** on **page A-270** is the *counterpart to an initiative on page A-264*, which transfers one Public Service Manager II position and related All Other costs from the Maine Environmental Protection Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds to the Air Quality program, General Fund to provide stable funding for a key director position. This initiative reduces Other Special Revenue Fund Personal Services by \$154,648 in FY24 and \$156,001 in FY25 and All Other by \$3,857 in FY24 and by \$3,877 in FY25.

The **next initiative** on **page A-270** continues and makes permanent 6 positions established in the FY22/23 biennium to support the identification and management of PFAS throughout the State. DEP anticipates these positions will be needed for ongoing PFAS sampling and treatment beyond



FY24/25. This initiative provides funding in General Fund Personal Services of \$510,482 in FY24 and \$537,533 in FY25 and adds these positions to the Department's legislative count.

The **next initiative** on **page A-271** provides funding in General Fund All Other for \$2,310 in each year of the biennium for increased statewide insurance coverage rates provided by the Division of Risk Management.

The **next initiative** on **page A-271** provides funding in General Fund All Other for \$1,207 in FY24 and \$1,546 in FY25 for increased rates for vehicles leased through the Bureau of General Services, Central Fleet Management.

The **next initiative** on **page A-271** reallocates one Environmental Specialist IV position from 65% Water Quality program, Federal Expenditures Fund and 35% Maine Environmental Protection Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds to 100% Water Quality program, Federal Expenditures Fund to align the position's assignments with the proper funding source. This initiative reduces allocation in Other Special Revenue Fund Personal Services by \$38,927 in FY24 and \$39,274 in FY25, and reduces All Other by \$584 in FY24 and by \$590 in FY25.  
(counterpart see pg. A-280)

The **next initiative** on **page A-271** is the *counterpart to an initiative on page A-265*, which transfers one Environmental Engineering Services Manager position and related All Other costs from the Maine Environmental Protection Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds to the Air Quality program, General Fund. This initiative reduces allocation in Other Special Revenue Fund Personal Services by \$148,882 in FY24 and by \$150,008 in FY25, and in All Other by \$9,958 in FY24 and by \$10,470 in FY25.

The **next initiative** on **page A-271** is the *counterpart to an initiative on page A-263*, which transfers \$61,602 of General Fund All Other in each year of the biennium from the Maine Environmental Protection Fund program to the Administration – Environmental Protection program. This aligns funding for technology end user services with the appropriate DEP Budget Program.

The **last initiative** in this Budget Program on **page A-272** *corresponds with the initiative on page A-269* to provide funding for the reorganization of 22 licensing positions within the Bureau of Land Resources.

## PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP GRANT 0851

The eighth Budget Program in the Budget document on **page A-273** is “**Performance Partnership Grant 0851**”. This Budget Program is comprised exclusively of Federal Expenditure Funds. The Performance Partnership Grant is a federal grant and is awarded following a lengthy detailed agreement between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and DEP for our work on

federally delegated Air, Land, and Water Quality, and Remediation and Waste Management programs.

The **first initiative** in this Budget Program is on **page A-273**. It transfers one Biologist II position and related All Other costs from the Performance Partnership Grant program, Federal Expenditures Fund to the Water Quality program, General Fund. With rising program costs and static federal EPA funding for core programs, this provides stable funding for a key water quality monitoring position. This initiative reduces Federal Expenditures Fund Personal Services by \$111,493 in FY24 and by \$112,484 in FY25, and All Other by \$3,209 in FY24 and by \$3,224 in FY25.

*(counterpart see pg. A-279)*

The **next initiative** on **page A-273** transfers one Biologist I position and related All Other costs from the Performance Partnership Grant program, Federal Expenditures Fund to the Water Quality program, General Fund, also due to insufficient federal funding. With rising program costs and static federal EPA funding for core programs, this provides stable funding for another key water quality monitoring position. This initiative reduces Federal Expenditures Fund Personal Services by \$102,278 in FY24 and by \$103,726 in FY25, and All Other by \$3,071 in FY24 and by \$3,093 in FY25.

*(counterpart see pg. A-279)*

The **final initiative** in this Budget Program on **page A-273** transfers one Certified Environmental Hydrogeologist position and related All Other costs from the Performance Partnership Grant program, Federal Expenditures Fund to the Water Quality program, General Fund, also due to insufficient federal funding. With rising program costs and static federal EPA funding for core programs, this provides stable funding for a key scientific position. This initiative reduces Federal Expenditures Fund Personal Services by \$92,651 in FY24 and by \$97,705 in FY25, and All Other by \$2,926 in FY24 and by \$3,002 in FY25.

*(counterpart see pg. A-279)*

## **REMEDICATION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT 0247**

The ninth Budget Program in the Budget document on **page A-274** is “**Remediation and Waste Management 0247**”. This Budget Program is comprised of General Fund, Federal Expenditure Funds, Other Special Revenue Funds and Federal Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. This program supports Maine's oil, hazardous material and solid waste control programs, including: emergency response for oil and hazardous materials spills; regulation of above ground and underground oil storage facilities; development of natural resource damage assessment claims resulting from oil & hazardous substances; licensing of waste facilities, waste transporters, oil

terminals, and spreading sites for septage, sludge and other residuals; oversight of asbestos management and disposal; and investigation and cleanup of uncontrolled hazardous substances sites. This program also administers waste diversion grants and municipal landfill closure and remediation reimbursements.

The **first initiative** in this Budget Program is on **page A-274**. It transfers one Public Service Manager II position and related All Other costs from Other Special Revenue Funds to General Fund to provide stable funding for a key emergency response director position. This initiative increases allocation in General Fund Personal Services by \$108,967 in FY24 and by \$114,462 in FY25, and reduces Other Special Revenue Fund Personal Services by the same amounts. It also increases General Fund All Other by \$1,513 in each year of the biennium and reduces Other Special Revenue Fund All Other by \$3,171 in FY24 and by \$3,254 in FY25.

The **next initiative** on **page A-275** transfers one Public Service Manager II position and related All Other costs from Other Special Revenue Funds to General Fund to provide stable funding for a key petroleum management position. This initiative increases allocation in General Fund Personal Services by \$140,823 in FY24 and by \$146,972 in FY25, and reduces Other Special Revenue Fund Personal Services by the same amounts. It also increases General Fund All Other by \$1,513 in each year of the biennium and reduces Other Special Revenue Fund All Other by \$3,649 in FY24 and by \$3,742 in FY25.

The **next initiative** on **page A-275** transfers one Public Service Manager II position and related All Other costs from Other Special Revenue Funds to General Fund to provide stable funding for a key technical services director position. This initiative increases allocation in General Fund Personal Services by \$146,476 in FY24 and by \$152,945 in FY25, and reduces Other Special Revenue Fund Personal Services by the same amounts. It also increases General Fund All Other by \$1,513 in each year of the biennium and reduces Other Special Revenue Fund All other by \$3,734 in FY24 and by \$3,831 in FY25.

The **next initiative** on **page A-275** transfers one Office Specialist II Supervisor position and related All Other costs from Other Special Revenue Funds to General Fund to provide stable funding for a critical contracts manager. This initiative increases allocation in General Fund Personal Services by \$100,730 in FY24 and by \$102,274 in FY25, and reduces Other Special Revenue Fund Personal Services by the same amounts. It also increases General Fund All Other by \$1,513 in each year of the biennium and reduces Other Special Revenue Fund All Other by \$3,048 in FY24 and by \$3,071 in FY25.

The **next initiative** on **page A-276** transfers one Clerk IV position and related All Other costs from Other Special Revenue Funds to General Fund to provide stable funding for a critical administrative position. This initiative increases allocation in General Fund Personal Services by \$80,213 in FY24 and by \$81,327 in FY25, and reduces Other Special Revenue Fund Personal Services by the same amounts. It also increases General Fund All Other by \$1,513 in each year

of the biennium and reduces Other Special Revenue Fund All Other by \$2,740 in FY24 and by \$2,756 in FY25.

The **next initiative** on **page A-276** provides funding in General Fund All Other for \$539 in each year of the biennium for increased statewide insurance coverage rates provided by the Division of Risk Management.

The **next initiative** on **page A-276** provides funding in General Fund All Other for \$22,570 in FY24 and \$29,000 in FY25 for increased rates for vehicles leased through the Bureau of General Services, Central Fleet Management.

The **next initiative** on **page A-276** provides one-time Capital Expenditure funding in Other Special Revenue Funds for \$201,000 in FY24 and \$283,500 in FY25 to replace equipment essential for the State to meet its obligation for the investigation, cleanup and monitoring of hazardous materials and petroleum products.

The **next initiative** on **page A-276** is a housekeeping item to align allocations with projected available resources in various accounts. The initiative reduces funding in Federal Expenditures Fund All Other by \$340,380 in each year of the biennium and Other Special Revenue Fund All Other by \$1,178,377 in each year of the biennium.

The **next initiative** on **page A-277** provides one-time Capital Expenditure funding in Other Special Revenue Funds for \$305,000 in FY24 to purchase new equipment essential for the State to meet its obligation for the investigation, cleanup and monitoring of hazardous materials and petroleum products.

The **last initiative** in this Budget Program on **page A-277** provides funding in General Fund All Other for \$10,365 in each year of the biennium for increased statewide property lease rates provided by the Division of Leased Space.

## **WATER QUALITY 0248**

The tenth Budget Program in the Budget document on **page A-278** is “**Water Quality 0248**”. This Budget Program is comprised of General Fund, Federal Expenditure Funds and Other Special Revenue Funds. This program is responsible for supporting implementation of the environmental laws that protect and improve the quality of Maine's surface and ground water through licensing, compliance and enforcement activities. This funding supports assistance for wastewater treatment facilities, and remediation grants for failed septic systems and boat pumpout facilities.

The **first initiative** in this Budget Program is on **page A-278**. It is a housekeeping item which transfers legislative count from Other Special Revenue Funds to General Fund. This initiative corrects the home account for a Public Service Manager II position which is funded 85% by General Fund. There is no fiscal impact to the budget.

The **next initiative** on **page A-278** increases allocation in Federal Expenditures Fund All Other by \$75,000 in each year of the biennium to support additional grants for watershed-based management plan development projects through Section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act.

The **next initiative** on **page A-279** is the *counterpart to an initiative on page A-273*, which transfers one Biologist II position and related All Other costs from the Performance Partnership Grant program, Federal Expenditures Fund to the Water Quality program, General Fund to provide stable funding for this position. This initiative increases allocation in General Fund Personal Services by \$111,493 in FY24 and by \$112,484 in FY25, and in All Other by \$1,513 in each year of the biennium.

The **next initiative** on **page A-279** is the *counterpart to an initiative on page A-273*, which transfers one Biologist I position and related All Other costs from the Performance Partnership Grant program, Federal Expenditures Fund to the Water Quality program, General Fund to provide stable funding for this position. This initiative increases allocation in General Fund Personal Services by \$102,278 in FY24 and by \$103,726 in FY25, and All Other by \$1,513 in each year of the biennium.

The **next initiative** on **page A-279** is the counterpart to an initiative on page A-273, which transfers one Certified Environmental Hydrogeologist position and related All Other costs from the Performance Partnership Grant program, Federal Expenditures Fund to the Water Quality program, General Fund to provide stable funding for this position. This initiative increases allocation in General Fund Personal Services by \$92,651 in FY24 and by \$97,705 in FY25, and All Other by \$1,513 in each year of the biennium.

The **next initiative** on **page A-279** provides funding in General Fund All Other for \$2,079 in each year of the biennium for increased statewide insurance coverage rates provided by the Division of Risk Management.

The **next initiative** on **page A-279** provides funding in General Fund All Other for \$8,015 in FY24 and \$10,135 in FY25 for increased rates for vehicles leased through the Bureau of General Services, Central Fleet Management.

The **next initiative** on **page A-280** transfers one Biologist II position and related All Other costs from Federal Expenditures Fund to General Fund to align the position's assigned tasks with the proper funding source. This initiative increases allocation in General Fund Personal Services by \$114,328 in FY24 and by \$115,577 in FY25, and reduces Federal Expenditures Fund Personal Services by the same amounts. It also increases allocation in General Fund All Other by \$1,513

in each year of the biennium, and reduces Federal Expenditures Fund All Other by \$3,252 in FY24 and by \$3,271 in FY25.

The **next initiative** on **page A-280** is the *counterpart to an initiative previously addressed on page A-271*, which reallocates one Environmental Specialist IV position from 65% Water Quality program, Federal Expenditures Fund and 35% Maine Environmental Protection Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds to 100% Water Quality program, Federal Expenditures Fund to align the assigned tasks with the proper funding source. This initiative increases allocation in Federal Expenditures Fund Personal Services by \$38,927 in FY24 and \$39,274 in FY25, and in All Other by \$584 in FY24 and by \$590 in FY25.

The **next initiative** on **page A-280** provides funding in General Fund All Other for \$90,000 in each year of the biennium to support lab testing, analysis and other costs for the Surface Water Ambient Toxics Monitoring Program. Funding for the program has decreased significantly over the years, and with the growing threat of PFAS, harmful algal blooms and other emerging and legacy contaminants, funding is needed to assess the extent of contamination in surface waters and fisheries throughout the State.

The **next initiative** on **page A-280** provides funding in General Fund All Other for \$80,000 in each year of the biennium to support lab, equipment and other costs for the Marine Environmental Monitoring Program. Currently, the program's monitoring efforts are limited to areas near wastewater discharges. Additional funding will allow the Department to implement statewide comprehensive coastal monitoring to better inform DEP's programs to manage point sources and nonpoint sources of water pollution that impact marine waters and to implement the State's Climate Action Plan.

The **next initiative** on **page A-280** provides one-time funding in General Fund All Other of \$43,154 in FY24 and \$35,926 in FY25 to purchase and maintain equipment to collect aerial imagery and publish maps of eelgrass and saltmarsh vegetation as required P.L. 2021, Chapter 424.

The **next initiative** on **page A-280** provides funding in General Fund All Other for \$1,579 in each year of the biennium for increased property lease rates from the Division of Leased Space.

The **last initiative** on **page A-281** provides an allocation of \$3,500,000 in General Fund All Other in each year of the biennium to provide state matching funds for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Capitalization Grant. Language Part K amends the liquor laws to deposit the first \$7 million in revenue to the General Fund starting in FY24, with the intent to transfer up to \$3.5 million to DEP for this purpose. This initiative also de-allocates \$1,313,700 in Other Special Revenue Fund All Other in each year of the biennium.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this overview of DEP's proposed biennial budget and I am happy any questions you may have.