



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

MELANIE LOYZIM  
COMMISSIONER

**Testimony of Melanie Loyzim, Commissioner  
Department of Environmental Protection**

**Before the Joint Standing Committees on  
Appropriations and Financial Affairs and  
Environmental and Natural Resources**

**LD 2214 “An Act To Make Supplemental 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, 2024, and June 30, 2025”**

**Hearing Date: March 4, 2024**

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), testifying in support of DEP-related items in the Budget Office Document, the Governor’s FY24/25 Supplemental Budget proposal.

The supplemental budget is a balanced, prudent, and responsible proposal that advances the Governor’s long-held belief that we must continue to invest in the people of Maine, our greatest asset. The Governor’s proposal strikes the balance between making timely investments to address urgent needs and saving money to ensure that our state continues to stand on strong fiscal footing in the future. DEP’s portion of the Supplemental Budget enables DEP to distribute additional federal grant funds and funds a few position reclassifications.

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

The first Budget Program presented in the Budget document on page A-46 is labeled “**Administration – Environmental Protection 0251**”.

The **first initiative** on page A-46 provides funding in General Fund Personal Services for \$25,509 in FY24 and \$21,044 in FY25 for the approved reclassification of one Senior Planner position to a Policy Development Specialist position. The Bureau of Human Resources approved the reclassification on 10/31/2023 to better align the position with actual duties being performed. This request includes one-time funding for retroactive pay and interest due the employee.

The **second initiative** in this program transfers \$3,267 from Other Special Revenue Funds All Other to Personal Services in FY25 to fund the approved reorganization of one Office Associate I position to an Office Associate II position.

## **LAND RESOURCES - Z188**

The second Budget Program presented in the Budget document on page A-46 is labeled “**Land Resources Z188**”.

The **one initiative** in this program are transfers \$6,907 from General Fund All Other to Personal Services in FY25 to fund the approved reorganization of one Environmental Licensing Specialist I position to an Assistant Environmental Engineer position. This transfer of funds has a net zero increase to the departments General Fund budget.

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

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on page A-47 is labeled “**Maine Environmental Protection Fund 0421**”.

The **first initiative** on page A-47 increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds Personal Services by \$7,078 in FY24 and by \$6,720 in FY25, and in All Other by \$265 in FY24 and \$247 in FY25 to fund the approved reclassification of one Environmental Specialist II position to an Environmental Specialist III position. This request includes one-time funding for retroactive pay and interest due the employee.

The **second initiative** in this program increases allocation in Other Special Revenue Funds All Other by \$500 in each year of the biennium to establish a baseline allocation for the Cost and Carbon Efficient Technology Fund established in Public Law 2023, chapter 482. The Fund collects revenue from any source, public or private, to provide grants to participants of the State's Beverage

Container Redemption Program. Grants must improve operational efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase the use of reusable and refillable beverage containers in the State.

## REMEDIATION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT 0247

The next Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-47** is labeled “**Remediation and Waste Management 0247**”.

The one initiative in this program on page A-47 increases allocation in Federal Expenditures Fund All Other by a total of \$1,381,182 in FY25 to align allocation with projected available resources. This initiative provides a baseline allocation of \$411,557 in the Federal Waste Planning and Management Programs account to authorize the expenditure of the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program, which provides grants to improve post-consumer materials management and infrastructure, local recycling programs, and local waste management systems. This initiative also increases the allocation in the federal Cooperative Agreement Superfund account by \$969,625 to authorize the expenditure of additional grant funds for the Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program through Section 128(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. Additional funds were authorized by the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This funding will enhance the capacity of Maine's brownfields response program and support the oversight, planning, assessment, and cleanup of sites throughout the State.

## WATER QUALITY 0248

The final Budget Program presented in the Budget document on **page A-47** is labeled “**Water Quality 0248**”.

The **one initiative** in this program on page A-47 increases allocation in Federal Expenditures Fund All Other by \$866,529 in FY25 to align allocation with projected available resources. This initiative increases allocation in the federal Water Quality account to authorize spending for the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants Program and funding received through the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to support existing federal programs. The Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants Program supports municipalities with infrastructure improvement projects such as pump stations and collection systems to reduce or prevent sewer overflow events. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides additional funding for Water Quality Management Planning grants under Section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this overview regarding our proposed supplemental budget, and I welcome any questions you may have.