



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 Committee on
Appropriations and Financial Affairs and**

**LD 2212, An Act Making Unified Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the
Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain
Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State
Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027**

Hearing Date: February 25, 2026

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, I am Melanie Loyzim, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), testifying in support of DEP-related items in L.D. 2212, the Governor’s FY26/27 Supplemental Budget proposal.

This final supplemental budget proposal from Governor Mills preserves programs and addresses some emergent issues. Governor Mills’ guiding belief has always been that our strongest asset is the people of Maine and that’s why this budget, like those in the past, seeks to invest in and support them. I look forward to working with the Legislature in the coming weeks to enact a balanced budget that supports Maine people and protects the fiscal health of our state.

DEP’s portion of the Supplemental Budget is relatively short. It includes authorization for DEP to utilize a little over \$250,000 in Personal Services funding to purchase air quality monitoring equipment, and authorizes funding for HR-approved reclass and reorganization requests for several positions.

Language Part SS

Language Part SS, “**Transfer of Personal Services balances to Capital Expenditures; Department of Environmental Protection,**” is on page 64 of the FY26/27 Supplemental Budget.

Part SS authorizes the DEP to transfer up to \$256,994 of available balance from Personal Services to Capital Expenditures in Fiscal Year 2026 to fund the purchase of two ozone calibrator instruments, one ozone monitor instrument, one continuous, real-time air quality monitoring

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instrument, one zero air generator, two hydrogen sulfide analyzers, two trace-level dilution calibrators and two data loggers.

The hydrogen sulfide analyzers, calibrators and data loggers will be used to monitor ambient air concentrations of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) near the Juniper Ridge Landfill and the Rumford Nine Dragons mill. This is in response to persistent community concerns about odors and potential health effects associated with H₂S emissions from these two facilities. The Department will compare monitored concentrations to ambient air guidelines.

The other units will replace aging monitoring equipment.

Utilization of this Personal Services funding will not affect hiring for any positions at DEP. This funding would be drawn from salary savings that exceed attrition requirements for FY26.

Reclasses and Reorganization of Positions

The State’s collective bargaining unit agreements include negotiated language related to reclasses (employee-initiated) and reorganization (management-initiated) of positions. Approved employee-initiated actions include a retroactive pay component back to the date the employee submitted the request. I have included a summary of DEP’s reclass and reorganization requests for your reference.

Budget Documents, PART	Page	Program	Change Package	Position Number	Current Job Title	Reclass or Reorg Job Title	Fund	FY26 Amount	FY27 Amount
A	A-39	0421	F-A-5009	083002200	Public Service Coordinator I	Public Service Manager II	GF	23,797	5,077
A	A-39	0250	F-A-5008	083201411	Environmental Specialist IV *Split	Policy Development Specialist *Split	*GF	15,267	8,884
A		0851			Funded	Funded	*Federal	15,881	9,182
A	A-39	0251	F-A-7041	083301670	Policy Development Specialist	Public Service Coordinator II	OSR	-	11,163
A	A-40	0248	F-A-7042	083301756	Environmental Engineer	Environmental Engineer Specialist	OSR	-	10,372
B	B-1	0241	F-B-5007	083301279	Environmental Specialist II	Environmental Specialist III	OSR	46,059	18,221
B	B-1	0241	F-B-7040	083001991	Environmental Specialist III	Environmental Licensing Specialist II			
B	B-1	0247	F-B-5013	083301544	Envir Hydroged	Lic Envir Hydroged	Federal	16,816	7,930
B	B-1	0247	F-B-5012	083301194	Environmental Specialist II	Environmental Specialist III	OSR	49,944	19,496
B	B-1	0247	F-B-5010	083201571	Environmental Specialist III	Environmental Licensing Specialist II			

*Higher amounts in FY26 include Retro payments.

A page #'s in Part A budget document

B page #'s Part B budget document

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this overview regarding DEP’s proposed supplemental budget, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.