BILL ANALYSIS

LD 203 – An Act To Increase Funding for the St. Croix International Waterway Commission (Moore)

Bill summary and legislative history
This bill provides an additional $25,000 per fiscal year to the St. Croix International Waterway Commission (the "Commission") but only if the Province of New Brunswick, Canada commits to match the funding.

As noted by the sponsor, LD 203 is essentially identical to LD 450, a bill worked and voted unanimously by the ENR Committee during the 129th Legislature. That bill was reported out of ENR in 2019 but remained on the Special Appropriations Table through the adjournment sine die of the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature and thus died upon the termination of that Legislature.

List of entities that submitted written testimony and/or spoke at the hearing[1]
For – St. Croix International Waterway Commission

Against/neither for nor against – none

Issues, suggested amendments and other notes
1. Biennial budget initiative – as noted by the sponsor, the same funding increase for the Commission is included as an initiative in the Governor's proposed biennial budget (see attached), which the AFA Committee has recently begun its work on. The Commission is one of the entities under ENR's budgetary subject matter jurisdiction and the proposed initiative is included as part of the budget portions that will be heard by ENR and AFA during a joint hearing on March 5.

From comments made by the sponsor, it appears that this bill is intended to serve as a backup proposal in the event that the Commission's budget initiative does not make it into the final budget amendment.

Fiscal impact
See attached preliminary fiscal impact statement prepared by the Office of Fiscal and Program Review.

If any member of the committee wishes to support this bill as proposed, the bill would need to be amended to incorporate a fiscal note based on the preliminary fiscal impact statement (i.e., a vote of "ought to pass as amended").

[1] List does not include sponsor, co-sponsors or any individuals not associated with an agency, business or organization.

		Actual 2019-20	Current 2020-21	Budgeted 2021-22	Budgeted 2022-23
Department Summary - All Funds					
All Other		**25,000**	**25,000**	**50,000**	**50,000**
	Total	**25,000**	**25,000**	**50,000**	**50,000**
Department Summary - GENERAL FUND					
All Other		25,000	25,000	50,000	50,000
	Total	25,000	25,000	50,000	50,000

St. Croix International Waterway Commission

ST. CROIX INTERNATIONAL WATERWAY COMMISSION 0576

What the Budget purchases:

The St. Croix International Waterway Commission catalyzes, facilitates, plans and delivers transboundary programs involving natural resources, environment, heritage and economic development within the Maine/New Brunswick St. Croix corridor. It does this in close cooperation with over 80 public and private sector entities.

		Actual 2019-20	Current 2020-21	Budgeted 2021-22	Budgeted 2022-23
Program Summary - GENERAL FUND					
All Other		25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
	Total	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000

	2021-22	2022-23
Initiative: Increases funding to meet the operational needs of the Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Maine and the Province of New Brunswick, Canada to jointly fund the St. Croix International Waterway Commission that oversees the St. Croix River watershed.		
GENERAL FUND		
All Other	25,000	25,000
Total	25,000	25,000

		Actual 2019-20	Current 2020-21	Budgeted 2021-22	Budgeted 2022-23
Revised Program Summary - GENERAL FUND					
All Other		25,000	25,000	50,000	50,000
	Total	25,000	25,000	50,000	50,000

Completed:

130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD **LR 1203(01)**

An Act To Increase Funding for the St. Croix International Waterway Commission

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement for Original Bill
Sponsor: Sen. Moore of Washington
Committee: Not Referred
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement

	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Projections FY 2023-24	Projections FY 2024-25
Net Cost (Savings)					
General Fund	$25,000	$25,000	$25,000	$25,000	$25,000
Appropriations/Allocations					
General Fund	$25,000	$25,000	$25,000	$25,000	$25,000

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes ongoing General Fund appropriations to the St. Croix International Waterway Commission of $25,000 starting in fiscal year 2020-21 to support a portion of operational costs and a portion of the cost of one full-time administrative assistant position. The funding is contingent upon the Province of New Brunswick, Canada providing a matching amount to the commission.