



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1809

LR 2840(02)

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Issuance of Burn Permits

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "

Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	Projections FY 2019-20	Projections FY 2020-21
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$52,739	\$52,739	\$52,739
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	\$9,600	\$9,600	\$9,600
Revenue				
General Fund	\$0	(\$43,139)	(\$43,139)	(\$43,139)

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF) to allow municipalities to use third-party internet based software to issue burn permits so long as the software meets statutory requirements and is approved by ACF. The bill eliminates the \$7 fee ACF charged for electronically issued burn permits via their online permit system. Currently, \$4 is deposited into the General Fund, \$2 is transferred to the municipality where the permit was issued and \$1 goes to InforME for the administrative cost of the online permit system. In unorganized areas, \$6 of the fee is deposited into the General Fund and \$1 is for the administrative costs of InforME. Beginning in fiscal year 2018-19, elimination of the fee will reduce annual General Fund revenue by \$43,139, reduce revenue to municipalities by approximately \$20,000 a year and reduce revenue available to pay InforME by \$9,600. The bill includes an ongoing General Fund appropriation to ACF of \$9,600 beginning in fiscal year 2018-19 to continue to pay InforME for burn permits issued through the state online system.