



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1998

LR 2160(03)

An Act To Establish a Disaster Relief Fund for Potato Farmers Adversely Affected by Drought Conditions

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "

Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Projections FY 2023-24	Projections FY 2024-25
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$75,000	\$0	\$0
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	\$75,000	\$0	\$0
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$500

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill creates the Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program and the Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program Fund (FDRGP) within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to provide grants to farmers impacted by the adverse effects of drought conditions or to farmers seeking to establish sources of irrigation water to alleviate drought conditions. The bill also directs ACF to coordinate with the Land Use Planning Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection on strategies to streamline the irrigation permitting process and report these findings by January 1, 2023. The bill includes ongoing allocations of \$500 to establish the FDRGP fund and allow for the acceptance of other funding from public and private sources. ACF has indicated that the scope and timeline of the reporting requirements regarding the irrigation permitting process will require additional contracted resources to complete. The bill includes a one-time appropriation of \$75,000 in fiscal year 2022-23 for contracted services.