



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1998

LR 2160(06)

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

Fiscal Note for Bill as Engrossed with:

C "A" (S-504)

S "A" (S-640) to C "A" (S-504)

Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Fiscal Note

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

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill creates the Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program (FDRGP) within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF) to provide grants to farmers impacted by the adverse effects of drought conditions. It 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. The bill includes a one-time transfer of \$75,000 from the Reserve for Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund in fiscal year 2022-23 to offset the one-time cost to ACF for contracted services in fiscal year 2022-23.