

**132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE****LD 383****LR 604(02)****An Act to Facilitate the Consolidation of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Maine Land Use Planning Commission into a Single Combined Entity****Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "****Committee: Environment and Natural Resources****Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

Fiscal Note

Potential future biennium cost increase - General Fund

Potential future biennium cost increase - Other Special Revenue Funds

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$481,779	\$248,487	\$0	\$0
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$481,779	\$248,487	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill transfers statutory references for the Maine Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Because the bill maintains all existing positions, funding, and operations, this reorganization has no net fiscal impact.

The bill also directs the DEP to submit a report by January 1, 2026, with recommendations for the potential future consolidation of LUPC and DEP into a new entity, the Maine Environmental and Land Use Commission. While implementation costs cannot be estimated until the report is complete, the scope of the proposed consolidation and associated structural changes suggest that those costs are likely to be significant.

The bill includes one-time General Fund appropriations of \$250,000 to the DEP in fiscal year 2025-26 for contracted legal services, one-time General Fund appropriations of \$231,779 in fiscal year 2025-26 and \$248,487 in fiscal year 2026-27 for two limited-period positions to coordinate the agency transition and prepare the required report.