

**132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE****LD 1528****LR 1689(01)****An Act to Support Farmland Conservation****Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement for Original Bill****Sponsor: Sen. Bennett of Oxford****Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry****Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement

	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	Projections FY 2027-28	Projections FY 2028-29
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$1,121,078	\$127,558	\$132,268	\$137,161
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$121,078	\$127,558	\$132,268	\$137,161
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$1,000,647	\$647	\$647	\$647
Transfers				
General Fund	(\$1,000,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill modifies the accounting structure of the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Program (MWFAPP) by moving it from a standalone account within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) to a sub-account under the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources (BAFRR) within DACF. As a result, DACF would require a one-time deallocation of the \$500 baseline established for the MWFAPP in Public Law 2021, Chapter 135, and a corresponding \$500 allocation to establish the new sub-account under BAFRR.

The bill provides ongoing General Fund appropriations to DACF of \$121,078 and Other Special Revenue Funds allocations of \$647 beginning in fiscal year 2025-26 for one Research Management Coordinator position and associated position costs.

Additionally, the bill includes a one-time General Fund transfer of \$1,000,000 to DACF in fiscal year 2025-26 and a corresponding allocation of the same amount.