



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1595

LR 1011(01)

An Act To Address Waste Associated with Solar Energy Equipment

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement for Original Bill

Sponsor: Rep. O'Connor of Berwick

Committee: Environment and Natural Resources

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Preliminary Fiscal Impact Statement

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Projections FY 2023-24	Projections FY 2024-25
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$206,853	\$0	\$0	\$0
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$206,853	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$301,096	\$315,062	\$328,058
Revenue				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$301,096	\$315,062	\$328,058

Correctional and Judicial Impact Statements

The additional workload associated with the minimal number of new cases filed in the court system does not require additional funding at this time.

The collection of additional fine and/or fee revenue will increase General Fund and dedicated revenue by minor amounts.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill creates new requirements for the use and disposal of solar panels and requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to establish a recycling program for discarded solar panels. The bill establishes a fee of \$125 per solar panel purchased to offset program administration costs. The DEP has indicated that the programming requirements of this bill require additional staff and resources. While the bill allows the DEP to establish a fee structure to offset the program's costs, the DEP will require initial General Fund appropriations of \$206,853 for one Environmental Specialist IV, 2 Environmental Specialist III positions and associated costs. The DEP anticipates that fees will fund the positions starting in fiscal year 2022-23. The DEP will require ongoing allocations of \$301,096 starting in fiscal year 2022-23 for the same positions and associated costs.

Because this bill allows, but does not require, funds from the Maine Technology Institute (MTI) within the Department of Economic and Community Development to be used to fund the development of a recycling process as well as the design and construction of recycling equipment and an approved recycling facility, this bill does not have a fiscal impact on MTI.