

**Amendment to LD 384 -
An Act Addressing Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry**
Proposed by Representative Pluecker
March 10, 2023

Amend the bill by striking everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

Maine Milk Commission 0188

Initiative: Provides a one-time allocation to allow distribution of pandemic volatility payments to Maine dairy farmers who meet specific milk production criteria.

	2023-24
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$5,500,000
Total	\$5,500,000

Sec. 2. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; pandemic relief for dairy farmers. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary on or before July 30, 2023, the State Controller shall transfer \$5,500,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Maine Milk Commission, Maine Milk Pool, Other Special Revenue Funds account to provide one-time pandemic volatility payments to Maine milk producers who produced milk and reported production information to the Maine Milk Commission in the calendar year starting January 1, 2022, and ending December 31, 2022 and if the milk producer is currently participating in the Maine Dairy Stabilization “Tier” Program. In calculating the payment, the administrator of the Maine Milk Pool shall distribute payments to qualifying farmers at a rate of \$1 per hundredweight of milk production. The administrator of the Maine Milk Pool may use existing distribution methods within the Maine Milk Pool program to expedite the distribution of payments.

SUMMARY

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill, which is a concept draft. The amendment provides a one-time appropriation of \$5.5 million in SFY 2024 from the unappropriated surplus of General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Maine Milk Commission to provide one-time pandemic volatility payments to Maine milk producers.