



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1788

LR 2340(02)

An Act To Eliminate Online Burn Permit Fees for All Areas of the State

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " "

Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	Projections FY 2021-22	Projections FY 2022-23
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$0	\$52,739	\$52,739	\$52,739
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	\$9,600	\$9,600	\$9,600
Revenue				
General Fund	\$0	(\$43,139)	(\$43,139)	(\$43,139)

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill would eliminate the \$7 fee the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF) charges for electronically issued burn permits via their online permit system. Currently, \$4 is deposited into the General Fund, \$2 is transferred to the municipality where the permit was issued and \$1 goes to InforME for the administrative cost of the online permit system. In unorganized areas, \$6 of the fee is deposited into the General Fund and \$1 is for the administrative costs of InforME. Beginning in fiscal year 2020-21, elimination of the fee would reduce annual General Fund revenue by \$43,139, reduce revenue to municipalities by approximately \$20,000 a year and reduce revenue available to pay InforME by \$9,600. The bill includes an ongoing General Fund appropriation to ACF of \$9,600 beginning in fiscal year 2020-21 to continue to pay InforME for burn permits issued through the state online system. Municipalities may incur additional costs if the vendor or owner of a private party burn permit software system chooses to impose fees for its use.