

§206. Establishment of fund

There is established a fund to encourage local soil and water conservation projects. The fund shall consist of all moneys appropriated to it and any moneys received as donations or from other sources. Moneys in this fund shall be disbursed periodically by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry on a competitive basis to one or more of the soil and water conservation districts for the funding of innovative soil and water conservation projects. Any balance in this fund, except moneys appropriated by the State, shall not lapse, but shall be carried forward from year to year to be expended for the purposes set forth in this subchapter. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall establish by rule criteria for project submission, evaluation and selection. These criteria shall, among other factors, address priority of need, boldness of approach, program feasibility and reproducibility and verification of results. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may impose such conditions on the use of funds awarded as in its judgment are best suited to accomplish the purposes of this subchapter and insure that moneys awarded by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry are properly spent by the districts. Any final decision of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to fund a project or to not fund a project shall constitute "final agency action" for purposes of Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter IV. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall submit an annual report on the status of the Challenge Grant Program to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture and audit and program review, as well as the Finance Authority of Maine for public hearing and critique. [PL 1985, c. 481, Pt. A, §20 (AMD); PL 1995, c. 532, §17 (AMD); PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5 (REV).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 522 (NEW). PL 1985, c. 481, §A20 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 532, §17 (AMD). PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5 (REV).

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