

§6203-A. Public Access to Maine Waters Fund

1. Fund established. There is established the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund that is administered by the board. The Public Access to Maine Waters Fund consists of the proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized for the purposes set forth in subsection 3 and funds received as contributions from private and public sources for those purposes. The Public Access to Maine Waters Fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts, except that eligible investment earnings credited to the assets of the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund become part of the assets of the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund. Any balance remaining in the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund at the end of a fiscal year must be carried forward for the next fiscal year.

[PL 2023, c. 284, §4 (AMD).]

2. Grants; matching funds. The board may make grants to state agencies and designated cooperating entities for the purposes identified in subsection 3. For each grant made under this subsection, the board shall require the grant recipient to provide matching funds at least equal to the amount of the grant. Grants must be made according to rules adopted by the board. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2023, c. 284, §5 (RPR).]

3. Fund proceeds. The proceeds of the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund may be applied and expended to:

A. Acquire property or interests in property abutting fresh or coastal waters when public access to those waters does not exist or when the board determines that existing points of public access are not sufficient; [PL 2021, c. 33, §2 (AMD).]

B. Provide minor capital improvements on lands acquired by proceeds from the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund to provide public access or improve accessibility, as long as these improvements do not exceed 5% of the appraised value of the acquired property; and [PL 2021, c. 33, §2 (AMD).]

C. When land or interest in land is acquired with proceeds from the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund, fund minor capital investments in the stewardship and management of that land. Stewardship and management investments under this paragraph must be held in a dedicated stewardship endowment and identified for use on the funded property. Stewardship and management investments may not exceed 5% of the appraised value of the acquired property. [PL 2021, c. 33, §2 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 33, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1993, c. 728, §5 (NEW). PL 2021, c. 33, §2 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 284, §§4, 5 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature and is current through October 15, 2024. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.