

OPPOSE

**LD 599 – An Act To Move the Land for Maine’s Future Board to
the Department of Conservation**

**LD 1120 – An Act To Move the Land for Maine’s Future Program to
the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources**

Sponsor of LD 599: Representative McCabe of Skowhegan

Co-Sponsors of LD 599: Representatives Berry of Bowdoinham, Harvell of Farmington, Kent of Woolwich, O’Brien of Lincolnville, and Senator Patrick of Oxford

Sponsor of LD 1120: Representative MOULTON of York

Co-Sponsors of LD 1120: Representative GIFFORD of Lincoln

Summary: These bills propose moving the Land for Maine’s Future Program from the State Planning Office (SPO) to either the Department of Conservation (LD 599) or the Department of Agriculture (LD 1120.)

Explanation: The Land for Maine’s Future Program is currently housed in the State Planning Office, where it has been since it was established. That is the appropriate location for LMF because the State Planning Office is responsible for coordinating activities of multiple state departments and for advising state government on matters of planning and public investment. The Departments of Conservation, Agriculture, Marine Resources, and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife all sponsor applications for LMF funds.

The Governor’s budget includes a proposal to abolish the State Planning Office. NRCM opposes abolishing SPO. (See NRCM testimony for more information.) LD 599 and 1120 should be carried over until the next legislative session, when the outcome of discussions about the future of SPO should be complete.

NRCM opposes passage of LD 599 and LD 1120 this year, but would support carrying these bills over to the 2012 legislative session when they could be considered concurrently with discussions about the future of the State Planning Office.