



OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET

State Budget Office

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State Fiscal Note for Bill Number:

2025-S 0108

Date of State Budget Office Approval: Monday, March 3, 2025

Date Requested: Friday, January 31, 2025

Date Due: Saturday, February 15, 2025

<i>Impact on Expenditures</i>		<i>Impact on Revenues</i>	
FY 2025	N/A	FY 2025	N/A
FY 2026	\$1,165,538	FY 2026	N/A
FY 2027	\$1,183,661	FY 2027	N/A

Explanation by State Budget Office:

This bill amends Rhode Island General Laws (R.I.G.L.) Title 2, Chapter 10 to add a new Section 14, which would appropriate funding to the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) in an amount sufficient to cover 10.0 additional FTE positions above the current authorization, in addition to necessary equipment and supplies. The new FTE positions would focus, support, and expand on efforts related to forestry and woodlands.

Summary of Facts and Assumptions:

According to DEM's Division of Forest Environment, given 10.0 additional FTE positions, the program would hire a Conservation Management Area Manager, a Conservation Management Assistant Manager, 3 Forest Technicians, a Forester, a Biologist, a Principal Fire Control Officer, a Senior Fire Control Officer, and a Chief Implementation Aide. Using the FY 2025 starting salary for these positions while accounting for the enacted 4% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and updated planning values, the FY 2026 estimated personnel expenditures total \$1,150,038.

The FY 2026 personnel costs include salaries and benefits. The breakdown by position title is as follows:

Conservation Management Area Manager: \$127,769
Conservation Management Assistant Manager: \$113,453
Forest Technician I: \$99,705 (for 3.0 FTE positions, \$299,114)
Forester: \$120,264
Biologist: \$113,453
Senior Fire Control Officer: \$120,264
Principal Fire Control Officer: \$131,797
Chief Implementation Aide: \$123,925

The FY 2027 estimated personnel expenditures total \$1,183,661. This estimate applies the enacted 3% COLA to FY 2026 starting salaries and assumes planning values remain level to the prior year.

With regard to supplies and equipment, the program reports that the immediate needs for these positions consist of computer and uniform costs totaling approximately \$15,500.



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NOTE: DEM also notes that there are potential long-term capital costs for specialized fire response vehicles associated with the addition of these FTE; however, these expenses are not known with enough certitude to include in the reported fiscal impact.

It is assumed that this bill will be passed at or around June 30, 2025; thus, no fiscal impact is expected in FY 2025. The total fiscal impact in FY 2026 is \$1,165,538, which consists of personnel and operating supplies expenditures. The total fiscal impact in FY 2027 is \$1,183,661, entirely in personnel expenses.

Comments on Sources of Funds:

It is assumed that the FTE positions and related equipment and supplies costs would be financed with general revenue.

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

FY 2025: No fiscal impact.

FY 2026: \$1,165,538 in general revenue expenditures.

FY 2027: \$1,183,661 in general revenue expenditures.

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