

**Department of State Lands
Wetland Program Development**

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends the Joint Committee on Ways and Means approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for up to \$348,647 for wetlands management improvement, and increase the Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$133,000.

The Department and the EPA have partnered in wetland projects since 1991. Grant funds for this period are for wetlands assessment methods. The EPA requires a 25% match, which would be met by existing agency staff performing normal duties, and by an outside partner. One limited duration part-time position would be covered by the federal funds.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approving the grant application submission and including limitation in the 2015 close-of-session bill. The Department of Administrative Services is requested to unschedule the limitation until the agency has notified LFO and DAS of a successful award. If additional limitation is needed, the agency may request it in February 2016.