

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

An Act To Require the Replacement of Trees Cut in Shoreland Areas

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4452, sub-§3, ¶C-1, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 727, §1, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §4452, sub-§3, ¶C-2 is enacted to read:

C-2. Notwithstanding paragraph C, for violations of the laws and ordinances set forth in subsection 5, paragraph Q, the provisions of this paragraph apply. The court must order the violator to correct or mitigate the violation unless the correction or mitigation would result in a threat or hazard to public health or safety, substantial environmental damage or a substantial injustice.

(1) Except for timber harvesting, correction or mitigation of a violation that involves the cutting of a tree or trees must include, but is not limited to, replacement of each tree cut with a tree of substantially similar size and species to the extent available and feasible.

(2) Except for timber harvesting, correction or mitigation of a violation that involves the cutting of understory vegetation must include, but is not limited to, replacement of the understory vegetation with understory vegetation of substantially similar size and species to the extent available and feasible.

(3) For violations requiring correction or mitigation pursuant to subparagraph (1) or (2), the violator shall submit to the municipality a reforestation plan developed with and signed by a forester licensed pursuant to Title 32, chapter 76 or other qualified professional. The reforestation plan must include consideration of specified site conditions and address habitat and other riparian restoration, visual screening, understory vegetation and erosion and sedimentation control.

For purposes of this paragraph, "timber harvesting" has the same meaning as in Title 38, section 438-B, subsection 1, paragraph C.

For purposes of this paragraph, "understory vegetation" means all saplings that measure less than 2 inches in diameter at 4.5 feet above ground level and all shrubs.

Effective September 20, 2007