



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 408

H.P. 274

House of Representatives, February 12, 2015

An Act To Help Municipalities Prepare for Changes in Sea Level

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BLUME of York.
Cosponsored by Senator JOHNSON of Lincoln and
Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, COOPER of Yarmouth, FOLEY of Wells, HOGAN of Old
Orchard Beach, HYMANSON of York, KRUGER of Thomaston, RYKERSON of Kittery,
Senator: LANGLEY of Hancock.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4312, sub-§3, ¶¶I and J**, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 104,
3 Pt. A, §45 and Pt. C, §10, are amended to read:

4 I. To preserve the State's historic and archeological resources; ~~and~~

5 J. To promote and protect the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities for all
6 Maine citizens, including access to surface waters; and

7 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §4312, sub-§3, ¶K** is enacted to read:

8 K. To plan for the impacts of changes in sea level on buildings, transportation
9 infrastructure, sewage treatment facilities and other relevant state, regional, municipal
10 or privately held infrastructure, property or resources.

11 **Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §4326, sub-§1, ¶¶J and K**, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 104,
12 Pt. A, §45 and Pt. C, §10, are amended to read:

13 J. Land use information describing current and projected development patterns; ~~and~~

14 K. An assessment of capital facilities and public services necessary to support
15 growth and development and to protect the environment and health, safety and
16 welfare of the public and the costs of those facilities and services; and

17 **Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §4326, sub-§1, ¶L** is enacted to read:

18 L. For a coastal municipality or multimunicipal region, projections regarding sea
19 level rise and its potential impacts on buildings, transportation infrastructure, sewage
20 treatment facilities and other relevant municipal, multimunicipal or privately held
21 infrastructure or property.

22 **Sec. 5. 30-A MRSA §4326, sub-§3-A, ¶¶I and J**, as enacted by PL 2001, c.
23 578, §15, are amended to read:

24 I. Encourage the availability of and access to traditional outdoor recreation
25 opportunities, including, without limitation, hunting, boating, fishing and hiking, and
26 encourage the creation of greenbelts, public parks, trails and conservation easements.
27 Each municipality or multimunicipal region shall identify and encourage the
28 protection of undeveloped shoreland and other areas identified in the local planning
29 process as meriting that protection; ~~and~~

30 J. Develop management goals for great ponds pertaining to the type of shoreline
31 character, intensity of surface water use, protection of resources of state significance
32 and type of public access appropriate for the intensity of use of great ponds within the
33 municipality's or multimunicipal region's jurisdiction; and

34 **Sec. 6. 30-A MRSA §4326, sub-§3-A, ¶K** is enacted to read:

35 K. For a coastal municipality or multimunicipal region that includes a coastal
36 municipality, develop a coordinated plan for addressing the impacts of changes in sea

1 level on buildings, transportation infrastructure, sewage treatment facilities and other
2 relevant municipal, multimunicipal or privately held infrastructure or property.

3 **Sec. 7. 38 MRSA §1801, sub-§4-A** is enacted to read:

4 **4-A. Sea level rise.** Address and plan for the impacts of changes in sea level on
5 buildings, transportation infrastructure, sewage treatment facilities and other relevant
6 state, regional, municipal or privately held infrastructure, property or resources;

7 **SUMMARY**

8 This bill requires that if a coastal municipality or multimunicipal region that includes
9 a coastal municipality adopts a growth management program under the State's growth
10 planning and land use laws, its comprehensive plan must include information on and a
11 plan to address the impacts of changes in sea level on buildings, transportation
12 infrastructure, sewage treatment facilities and other relevant municipal, multimunicipal or
13 privately held infrastructure or property. This bill also amends the State's growth
14 planning and land use laws to reflect that addressing the impacts of sea level rise is a state
15 planning and regulatory goal. This bill amends the laws regarding the State's coastal
16 management policies to reflect a new state policy of addressing and planning for the
17 impacts of sea level rise.