**An Act To Protect Public Lands**

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

**Sec.** **1. 12 MRSA §598-C** is enacted to read:

**§****598-C.** **Process for determination of substantially altered; use of designated land**

The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands shall adopt rules to establish an objective evaluation process for determining if a proposed activity on land designated under this chapter would cause the land to be reduced or substantially altered. These rules must also include provisions for public notice and comment before authorizing any such activity and for determining the appropriate instrument to be used to authorize that activity, including but not limited to whether an easement, lease, license or other instrument should be used. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to adopt rules that establish an objective evaluation process for determining if a proposed activity on designated land would cause the land to be reduced or substantially altered and designates those rules as major substantive rules.