

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

—
S.P. 430 - L.D. 1348

Resolve, To Study the Impacts of Consumer Fireworks Use

Sec. 1. Stakeholder group. Resolved: That, in accordance with the requirements of this section, the State Fire Marshal shall convene a stakeholder group to review matters relating to the impacts of consumer fireworks use.

1. The State Fire Marshal shall, at a minimum, include as members of the stakeholder group:

- A. The Commissioner of Public Safety or the commissioner's designee;
- B. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or the commissioner's designee;
- C. The Director of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or the director's designee;
- D. A representative of a statewide organization representing the interests of farmers;
- E. A representative of a statewide equine protection organization;
- F. A representative of a statewide animal welfare organization;
- G. A veterinarian;
- H. An owner of a business that sells consumer fireworks in the State; and
- I. A representative of a statewide organization representing municipal interests.

2. The stakeholder group shall review and conduct research on matters relating to the impacts of consumer fireworks use in the State including, but not limited to:

- A. A review of the decibel levels of consumer fireworks sold in the State, including how the decibel level of a firework can impact humans, pets, livestock and wildlife, and a review of documented reports since the enactment of Public Law 2011, chapter 416 of harm to animals caused directly or indirectly by the use of consumer fireworks;
- B. A survey of residents of the State to identify concerns and negative experiences with consumer fireworks use;

C. A review of laws of other jurisdictions regulating the use of consumer fireworks, including any laws requiring a user of consumer fireworks to notify abutters or nearby persons prior to use; and

D. An analysis of methods and the feasibility of implementing a notification system in the State to alert the owners of livestock and other animals of potential nearby consumer fireworks use prior to such use.

As used in this section, "consumer fireworks" has the same meaning as in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8, section 221-A, subsection 1-A.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, on or before January 15, 2023, the State Fire Marshal shall submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters a report outlining the findings and any recommendations of the stakeholder group convened pursuant to section 1, including any proposed legislation. After reviewing the report, the joint standing committee may report out legislation relating to the report to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.