

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

H.P. 1095 - L.D. 1706

**An Act to Clarify Statewide Laws Regarding Affordable Housing and  
Accessory Dwelling Units**

**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

**Whereas,** current law requires, beginning July 1, 2023, all municipalities to allow a certain number of dwelling units under certain circumstances and the construction of accessory dwelling units on the same lot as a single-family dwelling unit and to comply with certain other zoning requirements; and

**Whereas,** it is the intent of this legislation to extend the implementation date for certain municipalities; and

**Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

**Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4364, first ¶,** as enacted by PL 2021, c. 672, §4, is amended to read:

For an affordable housing development approved on or after ~~July 1, 2023~~ the implementation date, a municipality with density requirements shall apply density requirements in accordance with this section.

**Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §4364, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 2021, c. 672, §4, is amended to read:

**1. Definition.** For the purposes of this section, "affordable housing development" means:

A. For rental housing, a development in which a household whose income does not exceed 80% of the median income for the area as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development under the United States Housing Act of 1937, Public Law 75-412, 50 Stat. 888, Section 8, as amended, can afford a ~~majority~~

51% or more of the units that the developer designates as affordable in the development without spending more than 30% of the household's monthly income on housing costs; and

B. For owned housing, a development in which a household whose income does not exceed 120% of the median income for the area as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development under the United States Housing Act of 1937, Public Law 75-412, 50 Stat. 888, Section 8, as amended, can afford ~~a majority~~ 51% or more of the units that the developer designates as affordable in the development without spending more than 30% of the household's monthly income on housing costs.

**Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §4364, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

**1-A. Implementation date.** For purposes of this section, "implementation date" means:

A. January 1, 2024 for municipalities for which ordinances may be enacted by the municipal officers without further action or approval by the voters of the municipality; and

B. July 1, 2024 for all other municipalities.

**Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §4364, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 672, §4, is amended to read:

**3. Long-term affordability.** Before ~~approving~~ granting final approval of an affordable housing development, including but not limited to issuing an occupancy permit, a municipality shall require that the owner of the affordable housing development have executed a restrictive covenant, recorded in the appropriate registry of deeds, for the benefit of and enforceable by a party acceptable to the municipality, to ensure that for at least 30 years after completion of construction:

A. For rental housing, occupancy of all of the units designated affordable in the development will remain limited to households at or below 80% of the local area median income at the time of initial occupancy; and

B. For owned housing, occupancy of all of the units designated affordable in the development will remain limited to households at or below 120% of the local area median income at the time of initial occupancy.

**Sec. 5. 30-A MRSA §4364, sub-§6**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 672, §4, is amended to read:

**6. Subdivision requirements.** This section may not be construed to exempt a subdivider from the requirements ~~for division of a tract or parcel of land in accordance with~~ subchapter 4.

**Sec. 6. 30-A MRSA §4364-A, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 672, §5, is amended to read:

**1. Use allowed.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, except as provided in Title 12, chapter 423-A, for any area in which ~~housing is residential uses are~~ allowed, including as a conditional use, a municipality shall allow structures with up to 2 dwelling units per lot if that lot does not contain an existing dwelling unit, except that a municipality shall allow up to 4 dwelling units per lot if that lot does not contain an existing

dwelling unit and the lot is located in a designated growth area within a municipality consistent with section 4349-A, subsection 1, paragraph A or B or if the lot is served by a public, special district or other centrally managed water system and a public, special district or other comparable sewer system in a municipality without a comprehensive plan.

A municipality shall allow on a lot with one existing dwelling unit the addition of up to 2 dwelling units: one additional dwelling unit within or attached to an existing structure or one additional detached dwelling unit, or one of each.

A municipality may allow more units than the number required to be allowed by this subsection.

**Sec. 7. 30-A MRSA §4364-A, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

**1-A. Implementation date.** For purposes of this section, "implementation date" has the same meaning as in section 4364, subsection 1-A.

**Sec. 8. 30-A MRSA §4364-A, sub-§2, ¶B,** as enacted by PL 2021, c. 672, §5, is amended to read:

B. A municipal zoning ordinance may establish a prohibition or an allowance for lots where a dwelling unit in existence after ~~July 1, 2023~~ the implementation date is torn down and an empty lot results.

**Sec. 9. 30-A MRSA §4364-A, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 2021, c. 672, §5, is amended to read:

**3. General requirements.** A municipal ordinance may not establish dimensional requirements ~~or, including but not limited to~~ setback requirements, for dwelling units allowed under this section that are greater than dimensional requirements ~~or, including but not limited to~~ setback requirements, for single-family housing units, except that a municipal ordinance may establish requirements for a lot area per dwelling unit as long as the required lot area for subsequent units on a lot is not greater than the required lot area for the first unit.

**Sec. 10. 30-A MRSA §4364-A, sub-§7,** as enacted by PL 2021, c. 672, §5, is amended to read:

**7. Subdivision requirements.** This section may not be construed to exempt a subdivider from the requirements ~~for division of a tract or parcel of land in accordance with~~ subchapter 4.

**Sec. 11. 30-A MRSA §4364-A, sub-§10,** as enacted by PL 2021, c. 672, §5, is amended to read:

**10. Implementation.** A municipality is not required to implement the requirements of this section until ~~July 1, 2023~~ the implementation date.

**Sec. 12. 30-A MRSA §4364-B, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 2021, c. 672, §6, is amended to read:

**1. Use permitted.** Except as provided in Title 12, chapter 423-A, a municipality shall allow an accessory dwelling unit to be located on the same lot as a single-family dwelling unit in any area in which ~~housing is~~ residential uses are permitted, including as a conditional use.

**Sec. 13. 30-A MRSA §4364-B, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

**1-A. Implementation date.** For purposes of this section, "implementation date" has the same meaning as in section 4364, subsection 1-A.

**Sec. 14. 30-A MRSA §4364-B, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 672, §6, is amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

This subsection does not restrict the construction or permitting of accessory dwelling units constructed and certified for occupancy prior to ~~July 1, 2023~~ the implementation date.

**Sec. 15. 30-A MRSA §4364-B, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 672, §6, is amended to read:

**3. Zoning requirements.** With respect to accessory dwelling units, municipal zoning ordinances must comply with the following conditions:

A. At least one accessory dwelling unit must be allowed on any lot where a single-family dwelling unit is the principal structure; ~~and~~

B. If more than one accessory dwelling unit has been constructed on a lot as a result of the allowance under this section ~~or section 4364-A~~, the lot is not eligible for any additional increases in density except as allowed by the municipality; ~~and~~

C. An accessory dwelling unit is allowed on a lot that does not conform to the municipal zoning ordinance if the accessory dwelling unit does not further increase the nonconformity.

**Sec. 16. 30-A MRSA §4364-B, sub-§4, ¶B**, as corrected by RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. A, §110, is amended to read:

B. For an accessory dwelling unit located within the same structure as a single-family dwelling unit or attached to or sharing a wall with a single-family dwelling unit, the setback requirements and dimensional requirements must be the same as the setback requirements and dimensional requirements of the single-family dwelling unit, except for an accessory dwelling unit permitted in an existing accessory building or secondary building or garage as of ~~July 1, 2023~~ the implementation date, in which case the requisite setback requirements for such a structure apply. A municipality may establish more permissive dimensional and setback requirements for an accessory dwelling unit.

**Sec. 17. 30-A MRSA §4364-B, sub-§4, ¶D** is enacted to read:

D. An accessory dwelling unit that was not built with municipal approval must be allowed if the accessory dwelling unit otherwise meets the requirements for accessory dwelling units of the municipality and under this section.

**Sec. 18. 30-A MRSA §4364-B, sub-§5**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 672, §6, is amended to read:

**5. Shoreland zoning.** An accessory dwelling unit must comply with shoreland zoning requirements established by the Department of Environmental Protection under Title 38, chapter 3 and municipal shoreland zoning ordinances, except that a municipality may not categorically prohibit accessory dwelling units in the shoreland zone that would otherwise meet requirements established by the Department of Environmental Protection under Title 38, chapter 3 and municipal shoreland zoning ordinances.

**Sec. 19. 30-A MRSA §4364-B, sub-§8, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 672, §6, is amended to read:

A. Establish an application and permitting process for accessory dwelling units that does not require planning board approval;

**Sec. 20. 30-A MRSA §4364-B, sub-§10**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 672, §6, is amended to read:

**10. Subdivision requirements.** This section may not be construed to exempt a subdivider from the requirements ~~for division of a tract or parcel of land in accordance with~~ subchapter 4.

**Sec. 21. 30-A MRSA §4364-B, sub-§13**, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 672, §6, is amended to read:

**13. Implementation.** A municipality is not required to implement the requirements of this section until ~~July 1, 2023~~ the implementation date.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.