

**STATE OF MAINE**  
132<sup>ND</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

August 2025

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# *Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry*

## **SUBJECT INDEX**

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	LD 1450	An Act Regarding the Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program	PUBLIC 216
	LD 1925	An Act to Improve Access to Grant Funding for the Maine Farms for the Future Program	PUBLIC 254
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 299	An Act to Support Investment in Agriculture	CARRIED OVER
	LD 942	An Act to Safeguard Sustainable Food Sources Provided by Certain Maine Farmers	ONTP
	LD 1252	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment Advisory Board	CARRIED OVER
	LD 1297	Resolve, to Establish the Committee to Study the Use of Sunflower Crops to Produce Biofuels and Other Products	CARRIED OVER

### **Animal Welfare**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 308	An Act to Update the Laws Governing the Administration of the Animal Welfare Advisory Council	PUBLIC 15
	LD 528	An Act to Address the Rise in Rabies in Animals by Appointing Certified Rabies Vaccine Administrators	PUBLIC 141
	LD 1771	An Act to Strengthen Oversight of Kennels by Changing the Licensing Authority from Municipalities to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry	PUBLIC 414
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 133	An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Nuisance Dogs	ONTP
	LD 498	Resolve, to Improve Standards for Animal Rescue Entities	ONTP
	LD 1057	Resolve, to Aid Municipalities, Animal Control Officers and Other Parties in Complying with Electronic Dog Licensing Requirements	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report

**Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 40	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Commercial Large Game Shooting Area License Transfer Process	PUBLIC 29
	LD 88	An Act Regarding Penalties for Violating the Maine Weights and Measures Law	PUBLIC 193
	LD 130	An Act to Establish the PFAS Response Program and to Modify the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination	PUBLIC 65
	LD 932	An Act to Require the Issuance of Maine Agricultural Fair Licenses Every 4 Years	PUBLIC 51
	LD 1213	An Act Regarding Apportionment of Stipends to Agricultural Fairs	PUBLIC 161
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 402	An Act to Move the Natural Areas Program from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and to Amend the Law Governing Administration of the Bureau of Resource Management Within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	Died Between Houses

**Food Policy**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 124	An Act to Protect the Right to Food	PUBLIC 309
	LD 1655	An Act to Allow the Keeping of Chickens on Private Residential Property	PUBLIC 174
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 113	An Act to Require Food Labels to Disclose Use of Messenger Ribonucleic Acid Vaccine Material in Food Production	ONTP
	LD 415	An Act to Support Hunger Prevention in Maine	CARRIED OVER
	LD 468	An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food	CARRIED OVER
	LD 1141	An Act to Increase the Procurement of Maine Foods by Certain State Institutions	HELD BY GOVERNOR
	LD 1257	An Act to Ban the Sale of Cell-cultured Meat	Died Between Houses
	LD 1605	An Act to Support Farmers and Food Banks Affected by Federal Funding Cuts to Their Existing Contracts	CARRIED OVER

### **Land Use Planning Commission**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 103	An Act to Reorganize and Simplify Certain Exceptions in the Use Regulation Law	PUBLIC 11
	LD 398	An Act to Amend the Definition of “Transient Occupancy” in the Laws Governing the Maine Land Use Planning Commission	PUBLIC 61
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 870	An Act Regarding the Membership of the Maine Land Use Planning Commission	HELD BY GOVERNOR

### **Maine Forest Service**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 39	An Act to Require Landowners to Report Their Participation in a Forest Carbon Program or Project	PUBLIC 96
	LD 379	An Act Regarding Confidential Information Gathered for Forest Fire Emergency Response and Planning	PUBLIC 72
	LD 1529	An Act to Enhance the Protection of High-value Natural Resources Statewide	PUBLIC 481
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 417	An Act Regarding the Confidentiality of Certain Records Belonging to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Related to the Bureau of Forestry	Majority (ONTP) Report
	LD 939	An Act to Increase the Maximum Permissible Size of Recreational Campfires	Majority (ONTP) Report

### **Miscellaneous**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 550	An Act to Support Outdoor, Agricultural-based and Hands-on Experiential Learning in Public Schools	PUBLIC 183
	LD 895	An Act to Support Immersive Outdoor Education by Establishing the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program	PUBLIC 84
	LD 1525	An Act to Promote Firewood Banks in Maine	PUBLIC 170
	LD 1953	An Act to Ensure Public Access to Conservation Land by Providing Protections from Liability to Landowners	PUBLIC 256
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 473	An Act to Support Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry in Maine	CARRIED OVER
	LD 1528	An Act to Support Farmland Conservation	CARRIED OVER

LD 1547	An Act to Use a Portion of the Sales Tax on Snowmobiles to Fund Maine's Snowmobile Trail Programs	CARRIED OVER
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### **Parks and Public Lands**

#### **Enacted**

LD 24	Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Public Land Parcels in Lincoln Plantation and Sandy River Plantation	RESOLVE 22
LD 491	Resolve, Requiring the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Certain Real Property in the Town of Richmond	RESOLVE 24
LD 1072	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Land for Maine's Future Program and to Authorize the Use of Options to Purchase at Agricultural Value	PUBLIC 471
LD 1264	Resolve, Requiring the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Modify the Deed That Conveyed Montpelier, the General Henry Knox Museum in Thomaston, to the Friends of Montpelier	RESOLVE 36
LD 1724	Resolve, Authorizing the Baxter State Park Authority to Convey Certain Land in Cumberland County	RESOLVE 55

#### **Not Enacted**

LD 14	An Act to Provide Indigenous Peoples Free Access to State Parks	CARRIED OVER
LD 183	An Act to Cap Publicly Owned Land Area at No More than 50 Percent of Any County	ONTP
LD 510	An Act to Require the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to Maintain the Weld to Byron Road in Township 6 North of Weld	CARRIED OVER
LD 593	An Act to Extend Funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program	CARRIED OVER
LD 761	An Act to Support the Maintenance, Preservation and Promotion of State Historic Sites	CARRIED OVER
LD 1019	An Act to Provide Funding for Fort McClary	ONTP
LD 1043	An Act to Provide Free Admission to State Parks and Historic Sites for the Immediate Family Members of Veterans and Active Military Personnel	CARRIED OVER
LD 1093	An Act Regarding Day Use Passes That May Be Used at Any State Park or Historic Site	CARRIED OVER
LD 1762	An Act to Protect Recreational Trails by Establishing the Trails for the Future Program	ONTP

### ***Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry***

### **Pest Management**

<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 1661	An Act to Establish a Comprehensive and Interagency Approach to Invasive Species Management	CARRIED OVER
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### **Pesticides**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 356	Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Prohibit the Use of Rodenticides in Outdoor Residential Settings	RESOLVE 47
	LD 1323	Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Evaluate the Impact of Neonicotinoids on Pollinators, Humans and the Environment	RESOLVE 69
	LD 1697	An Act to Increase Penalties to Deter Violations of the Laws Regarding Improper Pesticide Use	PUBLIC 292

### **Regulated Products**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 1198	Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Assess Its Current Meat and Poultry Inspection Programs	RESOLVE 41
	LD 1920	An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Potentially Intoxicating Hemp Products to a Person Under 21 Years of Age	PUBLIC 416
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 311	An Act to Improve Efficiency of Meat and Poultry Processing Facilities by Requiring the Designation of State Inspectors as Essential	CARRIED OVER
	LD 1601	An Act to Create Parity in Poultry Processing and Farming Licenses and Inspections	ONTP

### **Soil & Water Conservation Districts**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 758	Resolve, to Conduct a Study to Update Flood Hazard Data in the Sandy River Watershed	RESOLVE 42
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### **Timber Harvesting**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 261	An Act Regarding the Authority of Municipalities to Regulate Timber Harvesting	PUBLIC 274
	LD 750	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 27: Standards for Timber Harvesting and Timber Harvesting Related Activities Within Unorganized and Deorganized Areas of the State, a	RESOLVE 19

### **Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry**

Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture,  
Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry

DIGEST OF BILLS  
132ND LEGISLATURE, FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS - 2025

**Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry**

Comm	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Date of Last Committee Action	Carried Over?	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst note?	Session
ACF	14	An Act to Provide Indigenous Peoples Free Access to State Parks	Hickman, Craig	OTP-AM		Carried On Approps Table					S1
ACF	24	Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Public Land Parcels in Lincoln Plantation and Sandy River Plantation	Black, Russell	OTP-AM	4/16/2025		Finally Passed	RESLV	22		S1
ACF	39	An Act to Require Landowners to Report Their Participation in a Forest Carbon Program or Project	Pluecker, Bill	OTP-AM	5/8/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	96		S1
ACF	40	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Commercial Large Game Shooting Area License Transfer Process	Pluecker, Bill	OTP	3/28/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	29		S1
ACF	88	An Act Regarding Penalties for Violating the Maine Weights and Measures Law	Pluecker, Bill	OTP-AM	5/27/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	193		S1
ACF	103	An Act to Reorganize and Simplify Certain Exceptions in the Use Regulation Law	Pluecker, Bill	OTP	3/3/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	11		R1
ACF	113	An Act to Require Food Labels to Disclose Use of Messenger Ribonucleic Acid Vaccine Material in Food Production	Soboleski, Mike	ONTP	3/11/2025		Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				R1
ACF	124	An Act to Protect the Right to Food	Hickman, Craig	OTP-AM	5/27/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	309		S1
ACF	130	An Act to Establish the PFAS Response Program and to Modify the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination	Ingwersen, Henry	OTP-AM/ONTP	4/24/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	65		S1
ACF	133	An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Nuisance Dogs	Bennett, Richard	ONTP	4/4/2025		Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
ACF	183	An Act to Cap Publicly Owned Land Area at No More than 50 Percent of Any County	Faulkingham, Billy Bob	ONTP	3/27/2025		Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
ACF	261	An Act Regarding the Authority of Municipalities to Regulate Timber Harvesting	Bunker, Stephan	OTP-AM	5/27/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	274		S1



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132ND LEGISLATURE, FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS - 2025

Comm	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Date of Last Committee Action	Carried Over?	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst note?	Session
ACF	299	An Act to Support Investment in Agriculture	Pluecker, Bill		5/19/2025	Carried Over					S1
ACF	308	An Act to Update the Laws Governing the Administration of the Animal Welfare Advisory Council	Pluecker, Bill	OTP	3/11/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	15		R1
ACF	311	An Act to Improve Efficiency of Meat and Poultry Processing Facilities by Requiring the Designation of State Inspectors as Essential	Foster, Steven	OTP-AM	4/15/2025	Carried On Approps Table					S1
ACF	356	Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Prohibit the Use of Rodenticides in Outdoor Residential Settings	Bennett, Richard	OTP-AM	5/15/2025		Finally Passed	RESLV	47		S1
ACF	379	An Act Regarding Confidential Information Gathered for Forest Fire Emergency Response and Planning	Black, Russell	OTP	5/1/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	72		S1
ACF	398	An Act to Amend the Definition of "Transient Occupancy" in the Laws Governing the Maine Land Use Planning Commission	Guerrette, Timothy	OTP	4/23/2025		Emergency Enacted	ACTPUB	61		S1
ACF	402	An Act to Move the Natural Areas Program from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and to Amend the Law Governing Administration of the Bureau of Resource Management Within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife	Dill, Jim	OTP-AM/OTP-AM	5/30/2025		Died Between Houses				S1
ACF	415	An Act to Support Hunger Prevention in Maine	Graham, Anne	OTP-AM	4/7/2025	Carried On Approps Table					S1
ACF	417	An Act Regarding the Confidentiality of Certain Records Belonging to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Related to the Bureau of Forestry	Poirier, Jennifer	ONTP/OTP-AM	5/7/2025		Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report				S1
ACF	468	An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food	Ingwersen, Henry	OTP-AM	4/7/2025	Carried On Approps Table					S1
ACF	473	An Act to Support Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry in Maine	Talbot Ross, Rachel		5/19/2025	Carried Over					S1
ACF	491	Resolve, Requiring the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Certain Real Property in the Town of Richmond	Cluchey, Sally	OTP-AM	4/22/2025		Finally Passed	RESLV	24		S1

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Comm	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Date of Last Committee Action	Carried Over?	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst note?	Session
ACF	498	Resolve, to Improve Standards for Animal Rescue Entities	Perkins, Chad	ONTP	3/18/2025		Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				R1
ACF	510	An Act to Require the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to Maintain the Weld to Byron Road in Township 6 North of Weld	Black, Russell	OTP-AM	4/15/2025	Carried On Approps Table					S1
ACF	528	An Act to Address the Rise in Rabies in Animals by Appointing Certified Rabies Vaccine Administrators	Doudera, Victoria	OTP-AM	5/21/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	141		S1
ACF	550	An Act to Support Outdoor, Agricultural-based and Hands-on Experiential Learning in Public Schools	Guerin, Stacey	OTP-AM	5/15/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	183		S1
ACF	593	An Act to Extend Funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program	Black, Russell	OTP-AM	5/15/2025	Carried On Approps Table					S1
ACF	606	Resolve, to Study Barriers to Financial Assistance Programs for Farmers and Food Producers	Pluecker, Bill	OTP-AM	4/22/2025		Emergency Finally Passed	RESLV	26		S1
ACF	750	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 27: Standards for Timber Harvesting and Timber Harvesting Related Activities Within Unorganized and Deorganized Areas of the State, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry		OTP-AM	4/15/2025		Finally Passed	RESLV	19		S1
ACF	758	Resolve, to Conduct a Study to Update Flood Hazard Data in the Sandy River Watershed	Black, Russell	OTP-AM	5/15/2025		Finally Passed	RESLV	42		S1
ACF	761	An Act to Support the Maintenance, Preservation and Promotion of State Historic Sites	Grohoski, Nicole	OTP-AM	5/7/2025	Carried On Approps Table					S1
ACF	870	An Act Regarding the Membership of the Maine Land Use Planning Commission	Bridgeo, William	OTP-AM/ONTP	5/28/2025		Held by Governor				S1
ACF	895	An Act to Support Immersive Outdoor Education by Establishing the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program	Bennett, Richard	OTP-AM	5/8/2025		Emergency Enacted	ACTPUB	84		S1
ACF	932	An Act to Require the Issuance of Maine Agricultural Fair Licenses Every 4 Years	Hall, Randy	OTP-AM	4/15/2025		Emergency Enacted	ACTPUB	51		S1

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Comm	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Date of Last Committee Action	Carried Over?	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst note?	Session
ACF	939	An Act to Increase the Maximum Permissible Size of Recreational Campfires	Jackson, Caldwell	ONTP/OTP-AM	4/10/2025		Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report				S1
ACF	942	An Act to Safeguard Sustainable Food Sources Provided by Certain Maine Farmers	Collamore, Amanda	ONTP	4/4/2025		Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
ACF	1019	An Act to Provide Funding for Fort McClary	Lawrence, Mark	ONTP	4/10/2025		Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
ACF	1043	An Act to Provide Free Admission to State Parks and Historic Sites for the Immediate Family Members of Veterans and Active Military Personnel	Hepler, Allison	OTP-AM	5/27/2025	Carried On Approps Table					S1
ACF	1057	Resolve, to Aid Municipalities, Animal Control Officers and Other Parties in Complying with Electronic Dog Licensing Requirements	Greenwood, Randall	ONTP/OTP-AM	5/22/2025		Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report				S1
ACF	1072	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Land for Maine's Future Program and to Authorize the Use of Options to Purchase at Agricultural Value	Brenner, Stacy	OTP-AM	5/29/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	471		S1
ACF	1093	An Act Regarding Day Use Passes That May Be Used at Any State Park or Historic Site	Warren, Sophia		6/12/2025	Carried Over					S1
ACF	1141	An Act to Increase the Procurement of Maine Foods by Certain State Institutions	Hickman, Craig	OTP-AM	6/11/2025		Held by Governor				S1
ACF	1198	Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Assess Its Current Meat and Poultry Inspection Programs	Black, Russell	OTP-AM	5/15/2025		Emergency Finally Passed	RESLV	41		S1
ACF	1213	An Act Regarding Apportionment of Stipends to Agricultural Fairs	Hickman, Craig	OTP-AM	5/21/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	161		S1
ACF	1252	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment Advisory Board	Hepler, Allison	OTP-AM	5/21/2025	Carried On Approps Table					S1

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ACF	1257	An Act to Ban the Sale of Cell-cultured Meat	Quint, Tracy	OTP-AM	5/29/2025		Died Between Houses				S1
ACF	1264	Resolve, Requiring the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Modify the Deed That Conveyed Montpelier, the General Henry Knox Museum in Thomaston, to the Friends of Montpelier	Matlack, Ann	OTP-AM	5/6/2025		Finally Passed	RESLV	36		S1
ACF	1297	Resolve, to Establish the Committee to Study the Use of Sunflower Crops to Produce Biofuels and Other Products	Stewart, Trey	OTP-AM	5/2/2025	Carried on Study Table					S1
ACF	1323	Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Evaluate the Impact of Neonicotinoids on Pollinators, Humans and the Environment	Doudera, Victoria	OTP-AM	5/29/2025		Finally Passed	RESLV	69		S1
ACF	1450	An Act Regarding the Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program	Tipping, Michael	OTP-AM	5/28/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	216		S1
ACF	1525	An Act to Promote Firewood Banks in Maine	Ray, Mike	OTP-AM	5/21/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	170		S1
ACF	1528	An Act to Support Farmland Conservation	Bennett, Richard	OTP-AM	5/15/2025	Carried On Approps Table					S1
ACF	1529	An Act to Enhance the Protection of High-value Natural Resources Statewide	Bennett, Richard	OTP-AM	6/4/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	481		S1
ACF	1547	An Act to Use a Portion of the Sales Tax on Snowmobiles to Fund Maine's Snowmobile Trail Programs	Black, Russell		6/25/2025	Carried Over					S1
ACF	1601	An Act to Create Parity in Poultry Processing and Farming Licenses and Inspections	Collamore, Amanda	ONTP	5/1/2025		Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
ACF	1605	An Act to Support Farmers and Food Banks Affected by Federal Funding Cuts to Their Existing Contracts	Brenner, Stacy		5/19/2025	Carried Over					S1
ACF	1655	An Act to Allow the Keeping of Chickens on Private Residential Property	Poirier, Jennifer	OTP-AM	5/15/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	174		S1
ACF	1661	An Act to Establish a Comprehensive and Interagency Approach to Invasive Species Management	Frost, Sharon		5/19/2025	Carried Over					S1
ACF	1697	An Act to Increase Penalties to Deter Violations of the Laws Regarding Improper Pesticide Use	Doudera, Victoria	OTP-AM/ONTP	6/4/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	292		S1

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Comm	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Date of Last Committee Action	Carried Over?	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst note?	Session
ACF	1724	Resolve, Authorizing the Baxter State Park Authority to Convey Certain Land in Cumberland County	Golek, Cheryl	OTP-AM	5/28/2025		Emergency Finally Passed	RESLV	55		S1
ACF	1762	An Act to Protect Recreational Trails by Establishing the Trails for the Future Program	Blier, Mark	ONTP	5/27/2025		Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
ACF	1771	An Act to Strengthen Oversight of Kennels by Changing the Licensing Authority from Municipalities to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry	Bailey, Donna	OTP-AM/ONTP	6/2/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	414		S1
ACF	1920	An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Potentially Intoxicating Hemp Products to a Person Under 21 Years of Age	Strout, Tiffany	OTP-AM/ONTP	6/9/2025		Emergency Enacted	ACTPUB	416		S1
ACF	1925	An Act to Improve Access to Grant Funding for the Maine Farms for the Future Program	Osher, Laurie	OTP-AM	5/29/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	254		S1
ACF	1953	An Act to Ensure Public Access to Conservation Land by Providing Protections from Liability to Landowners	Brenner, Stacy	OTP-AM	5/29/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	256		S1

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

**LD 24 Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Public Land Parcels in Lincoln Plantation and Sandy River Plantation**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2025, chapter 22 authorizes the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to implement land transactions at 2 locations. The director is authorized to convey 47 leased lots and an additional 14 lots that are vacant and adjacent to these 47 leased lots in Lincoln Plantation. Proceeds from the sale must be used to purchase conservation land in Oxford County. In addition, the director is authorized to exchange a small leased parcel and additional land up to 0.25 acres in Sandy River Plantation in a value-for-value transaction for a deeded right-of-way across an adjacent parcel. The law also specifies that a survey must be completed to determine the boundaries of the lots to be conveyed.

**LD 39 An Act to Require Landowners to Report Their Participation in a Forest Carbon Program or Project**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 96 requires that a landowner or the landowner's designated agent report participation in a forest carbon program or project to the Director of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

**LD 40 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Commercial Large Game Shooting Area License Transfer Process**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 29 provides the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry with the final authority on approving a transfer of a commercial large game shooting area license. The law provides that the proposed new licensee must meet the requirements for licensure.

**LD 88 An Act Regarding Penalties for Violating the Maine Weights and Measures Law**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 193 authorizes the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to assess administrative penalties for each violation of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, chapter 501, known as the Maine Weights and Measures Law, for which a specific penalty has not been prescribed, with certain exceptions. Penalties may not exceed \$5,000 for each occurrence and may not exceed \$50,000 in total. The law requires that a person be given notice of the penalties assessed and be given an opportunity to request a hearing before the penalty is imposed. The law

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establishes procedures for providing notice, holding hearings and remedies that the commissioner may use when a person fails to pay a penalty.

The law also clarifies that a person who violates provisions of the Maine Weights and Measures Law relating to the sale of firewood commits a civil violation for which a fine must be adjudged in an amount not less than \$50 nor more than \$2,000, which is the penalty under current law applicable to violations for which there is no specific penalty. Finally, the law provides that administrative penalties do not apply to violations of the Maine Weights and Measures Law relating to the sale of firewood under Title 10, subchapter 7-A or the sale of commodities under Title 10, subchapter 2-A and that the civil penalties for a violation of those provisions under current law are unchanged.

**LD 103 An Act to Reorganize and Simplify Certain Exemptions in the Use Regulation Law**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 11 reorganizes and simplifies certain exceptions in the use regulation law and the provisions in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12 that address procedures for the Land Use Planning Commission and the Department of Environmental Protection to streamline cross-jurisdictional projects and processes.

**LD 124 An Act to Protect the Right to Food**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 309 does the following.

1. It amends the law governing edible landscaping throughout Capitol Park to allow collaboration with local, state or regional entities in developing and maintaining edible landscaping.
2. It provides that strategies to end hunger in the State by 2030 must include protecting the right to food as declared in the Constitution of Maine, Article I, Section 25.
3. It amends the Maine Food Sovereignty Act to:
  - A. Require the State, instead of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, to support certain policies, including promoting self-reliance and personal responsibility and enhancing rural economic development, and add as a policy protecting the right to food as declared in the Constitution of Maine, Article I, Section 25;
  - B. Establish food sovereignty principles;

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- C. Apply the provisions of the Maine Food Sovereignty Act to all local food ordinances, including those in place before that Act was enacted; and
  - D. Specify that the Maine Food Sovereignty Act does not require a specific form or framework for local food ordinances.
4. It establishes the Maine Vegetable Garden Protection Act to:
- A. Allow an individual to cultivate vegetable gardens on the individual's property or on the private property of another with the permission of the owner of that property anywhere in the State without interference;
  - B. Allow a municipality, county, village or plantation to develop and implement a program to promote permaculture and to establish edible landscaping, food forests and community gardens in public spaces, including publicly owned properties, rights-of-way, school grounds, parks and parking lots, in collaboration with local, state or regional public or private entities; and
  - C. Allow a municipality, county, village or plantation to adopt ordinances to regulate matters related to the cultivation of vegetable gardens, permaculture, edible landscaping, food forests and community gardens.
5. It requires the Maine Farms for the Future Program review panel, to the extent practicable, to give priority to applications from applicants who have a history of generational poverty or land dispossession in the United States or from applicants who are veterans.
6. It allows the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to lease land and parcels of land in parks and historic sites, nonreserved public land and public reserved land for purposes of cultivating edible crops, hay or pasturage for livestock and allows the bureau to give priority consideration in establishing those leases to individuals with a history of generational poverty or land dispossession in the United States or to individuals who are veterans.
7. It clarifies that a plantation has the same powers and duties and is subject to the same restrictions as a municipality with respect to ordinances regarding traditional foodways and direct producer-to-consumer transactions under the Maine Food Sovereignty Act.

**LD 130 An Act to Establish the PFAS Response Program and to Modify the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 65 requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to establish the PFAS Response Program for the purpose of abating, cleaning up and mitigating



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threats and hazards posed by PFAS that affect agricultural producers in the State and the food supply; providing support to affected commercial farms; supporting critical PFAS research; and allowing for the department to strategically and effectively respond to PFAS concerns and issues. The program includes establishing maximum PFAS levels in farm products in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and, when maximum levels are being exceeded, prohibiting commercial sale of the products affected. The program may provide testing support and technical and financial assistance to PFAS-impacted producers while establishing baseline criteria for producers to adhere to for the receipt of such assistance. The program may also undertake research efforts via department staff, state agency partners or contracted third parties that inform on-farm management recommendations or regulatory decisions. The Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources within the department must administer the program. The department may adopt routine technical rules and shall report annually to the Legislature about the program's activities.

The law modifies the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination by authorizing the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to sell, grant, lease, transfer or otherwise convey any real or personal property acquired under its existing authority to buy and sell agricultural land found to be contaminated by PFAS, and to deposit the proceeds of such transactions into the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination. Additionally, the law updates the requirement that the Advisory Committee on the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination hold two hearings annually to require one public meeting annually. The law also requires that the cochairs of the advisory committee must be elected by the advisory committee's members.

The law also specifies that health care information obtained by the department in the course of providing access to health services under its existing authority must be treated as confidential.

**LD 261 An Act Regarding the Authority of Municipalities to Regulate Timber Harvesting**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 274 provides that a municipal timber harvesting ordinance adopted on or after January 1, 2026 must meet the process requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 8869, subsection 8. The law provides that a municipal timber harvesting ordinance may be adopted only after certification by the bureau that the municipality adopted the timber harvesting ordinance in accordance with the process requirements. Municipal ordinances subject to review by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry are limited to ordinances that regulate timber harvesting activities.

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**LD 308 An Act to Update the Laws Governing the Administration of the Animal Welfare Advisory Council**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 15 authorizes the Animal Welfare Advisory Council to meet more frequently than the required meeting every other month. The law also allows the chair of the council to delegate council duties to individual council members or subcommittees.

**LD 356 Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Prohibit the Use of Rodenticides in Outdoor Residential Settings**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2025, chapter 47 requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control to prohibit the use of rodenticides, including rodenticidal baits, in outdoor residential settings. A person who is certified by the board pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 1471-D and authorized to use or supervise the use of any pesticides is exempt from the prohibition on the use of rodenticides in outdoor residential settings. The law requires the board to submit a report with an update on the prohibition on the use of rodenticides in outdoor residential settings to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry no later than January 15, 2026.

**LD 379 An Act Regarding Confidential Information Gathered for Forest Fire Emergency Response and Planning**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 72 modifies the provisions of law governing forest fire control to clarify that certain emergency plans of action formulated by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry are considered confidential and are exempt from public records requests under the Freedom of Access Act if the plans contain any of the following: personal contact information; information related to gaining access to gates, locks or roads; proprietary information of a landowner; and emergency response information acquired by the Director of the Bureau of Forestry. The director may disclose confidential information to another state agency for the purposes of emergency incident response and planning.

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**LD 398 An Act to Amend the Definition of “Transient Occupancy” in the Laws Governing the Maine Land Use Planning Commission**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 61 changes the definition of “transient occupancy” in the laws governing the Maine Land Use Planning Commission to mean occupancy that does not exceed 150 days, rather than 120 days as in prior law, in a calendar year.

Public Law 2025, chapter 61 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 9, 2025.

**LD 491 Resolve, Requiring the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Certain Real Property in the Town of Richmond**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2025, chapter 24 requires the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convey certain property, approximately seven acres, in the Town of Richmond to Wilhelmine Dennis Oakes or the estate of Wilhelmine Dennis Oakes. The law provides that any legal or closing costs related to the conveyance of the property may not be paid by the bureau.

**LD 528 An Act to Address the Rise in Rabies in Animals by Appointing Certified Rabies Vaccine Administrators**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 141 directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to appoint one or more persons in each county to administer rabies vaccines to animals and to develop a training program for this purpose. The law also explicitly adds licensed veterinary technicians under the indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian to those persons authorized to administer rabies vaccinations.

**LD 550 An Act to Support Outdoor, Agricultural-based and Hands-on Experiential Learning in Public Schools**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 183 establishes the Maine Experiential Education Program within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to develop and manage a grant program that provides support for public schools and school administrative units to create staff positions that provide outdoor and experiential hands-on learning opportunities, including opportunities

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related to gardens, food and agriculture, to improve the health of and academic, physical and emotional development of students. The program also supports professional development opportunities for public school educators engaged in experiential hands-on learning initiatives.

The law establishes the Maine Experiential Education Program Fund to provide funding for the program including funds to cover the cost of salary and benefits for the staff positions funded by the program, the funding of which must be phased-out after the third year of funding, and funding to create a position within the department to administer the program and the fund.

The law also authorizes the department to provide support to the Maine Farm and Sea to School Institute.

Public Law 2025, chapter 183 is contingent upon funding from the United States Congress, United States Department of Agriculture or other public or private entity being available and secured for the purpose of implementing and managing the program and the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and other specified individuals being notified.

**LD 606 Resolve, to Study Barriers to Financial Assistance Programs for Farmers and Food Producers**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2025, chapter 26 requires the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to direct staff of the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to study the bureau's financial assistance programs for farmers and food producers to identify barriers to these programs and methods to eliminate those barriers and increase the effectiveness of the programs in addressing farmer and food producer needs. The commissioner is required to submit a report by January 15, 2026 to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, which may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Resolve 2025, chapter 26 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective May 13, 2025.

**LD 750 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 27: Standards for Timber Harvesting and Timber Harvesting Related Activities Within Unorganized and Deorganized Areas of the State, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2025, chapter 19 authorizes final adoption of portions of Chapter 27: Standards for Timber Harvesting and Timber Harvesting Related Activities Within Unorganized and Deorganized Areas of the State, a major substantive rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry as long as the effective date of the amended rule is January 1, 2026.

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**LD 758 Resolve, to Conduct a Study to Update Flood Hazard Data in the Sandy River Watershed**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2025, chapter 42 directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning, Division of Geology, Natural Areas and Coastal Resources, Maine Geological Survey, in coordination with the United States Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency and relevant state agencies, to contract for a geomorphic study within the Sandy River watershed to update flood hazard data within the watershed. The study must include an assessment of river movement, erosion and sedimentation and the impacts of those factors on flood risk and river health and provide information about flood risks and management options to individuals who reside within the Sandy River watershed or the watersheds of similar river systems. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in collaboration with relevant state agencies, is required to seek funding to support the costs of the study.

**LD 895 An Act to Support Immersive Outdoor Education by Establishing the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 84 establishes the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program to provide immersive outdoor education to serve students enrolled in grade 4 to grade 8 in the State. It also establishes the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program Fund within the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service. The law requires an outdoor education program provider to comply with the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, chapter 927 regarding licensed guides, youth camp trip leaders or educational trip leaders, as appropriate. The law also clarifies that the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service is not required to provide grants to implement the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program, develop an evaluation and longitudinal study on current and future demographics of students participating in the program, convene an advisory committee or provide any other services for which the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service does not have sufficient funding.

Public Law 2025, chapter 895 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 23, 2025.

**LD 932 An Act to Require the Issuance of Maine Agricultural Fair Licenses Every 4 Years**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 51 changes the term of issuance for an agricultural fair license from three years to four years.

Public Law 2025, chapter 51 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 25, 2025.

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**LD 1072 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Land for Maine’s Future Program and to Authorize the Use of Options to Purchase at Agricultural Value**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 471 amends the laws governing the Land for Maine’s Future program and the Land for Maine’s Future Board within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry in the following ways.

1. It defines “interest in property” to include both fee and less-than-fee simple interest for purposes of acquiring property and interests in property.
2. It requires the board to provide public notice of its intent to determine the final award for the land offered for acquisition.
3. It authorizes the board to use its discretion in determining whether to make an award.
4. It provides that the board may not fund the acquisition of a fee interest in land used for commercially harvested or harvestable forest land.
5. It requires that land acquired by the board have clear title.
6. It authorizes the creation of an option to purchase at agricultural value, which is defined as an agreement between a fee owner of working farmland property and a governmental entity or nonprofit organization that permits the governmental entity or nonprofit organization to control the purchase price of working farmland property for the purpose of making available and affordable and preserving the permanent availability and affordability of that property as working farmland.
7. It amends the reporting requirements for conservation easements and parcels of land owned in fee for conservation purposes.
8. It also clarifies that fee interests in land acquired under the Land for Maine’s Future Program in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 353 and held by the State may not be sold or used for purposes other than those stated in chapter 353, unless approved by a 2/3 majority of the Legislature.

**LD 1198 Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Assess Its Current Meat and Poultry Inspection Programs**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2025, chapter 41 directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to conduct a review of programs and processes related to meat and poultry inspections, including

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processes related to exemptions from inspections, to determine areas for possible improvements, efficiencies and enhanced flexibility to benefit agricultural producers, processors and retail and public customers. The law also specifies that the department, as part of the review, is required to conduct a survey of meat and poultry producers and processors to obtain feedback on rules, regulations, policies and practices affecting the regulated community and to develop strategies to ensure uniform interpretation of the United States Department of Agriculture's regulations and exemptions.

The department is required to submit a report based on its evaluation by January 15, 2026 to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, which may submit legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Resolve 2025, chapter 41 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective May 30, 2025.

**LD 1213 An Act Regarding Apportionment of Stipends to Agricultural Fairs**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 161 modifies the provisions of law governing distribution of stipends to persons or entities licensed to hold an agricultural fair.

The law makes technical changes to the statutes relating to the Stipend Fund and the amount distributed among fair licensees. The law specifically adds educational agricultural talks, workshops and demonstrations to the list of competitions and events that may be considered in the calculation of apportionment for stipends. The law also specifies that any agricultural event approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may be used to determine the apportionment.

**LD 1264 Resolve, Requiring the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Modify the Deed That Conveyed Montpelier, the General Henry Knox Museum in Thomaston, to the Friends of Montpelier**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2025, chapter 36 directs the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to modify the deed that conveyed Montpelier, the General Henry Knox Museum, including 4.2 acres, more or less, of historic site land and related improvements, structures and historical collections, in the Town of Thomaston, Knox County, to the Friends of Montpelier, a nonprofit corporation, to remove the requirement that Montpelier be used for historic preservation and remove any requirement that Montpelier be preserved, rehabilitated or restored in a manner as required by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

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**LD 1323 Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Evaluate the Impact of  
Neonicotinoids on Pollinators, Humans and the Environment**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2025, chapter 69 requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control to study the impact of neonicotinoids, including neonicotinoid-treated seeds, on pollinators, humans and the environment. The law requires the board to solicit feedback regarding ideas and insights on the topic of the study from the public, stakeholders and interested parties through either a public hearing or a request for information document. The law also requires the board to submit a preliminary report by January 15, 2026 and a final report by January 15, 2027 with findings and recommendations relating to the subject matter of the study to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters.

**LD 1450 An Act Regarding the Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 216 reduces the minimum term of a qualified easement for farm support arrangements from 20 years to 10 years and allows the municipal officers or a municipal employee or committee appointed by the municipal officers to review and approve farm support arrangements. The law also provides that rules adopted by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry under the Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program statutes are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**LD 1525 An Act to Promote Firewood Banks in Maine**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 170 authorizes the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to donate timber for use as firewood to a firewood bank if certain conditions are met. The law also directs the bureau to promote the development and public awareness of firewood banks in this State and to develop and dispense informational resources to promote the successful operation of firewood banks in this State. In fulfilling its obligations, the bureau may collaborate with the University of Maine System.

**LD 1529 An Act to Enhance the Protection of High-value Natural Resources Statewide**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 481 provides that the Maine Land Use Planning Commission may not finalize a comprehensive land use plan under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 685-C,



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subsection 1 or portion of a plan without submitting a draft copy of the plan to each regional planning commission and other appropriate planning or state resource agencies and to the Director of the Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

It requires the Director of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to include information regarding late-successional forests and old-growth forests in the director's report on the state of the State's forests beginning January 1, 2031.

It directs the Maine Land Use Planning Commission, as part of the next update to the comprehensive land use plan, to consider the effectiveness of its lake management program and whether changing circumstances and new trends warrant an update to the program.

The law also authorizes the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to develop a report on statewide strategies to enhance the conservation of late-successional forests and old-growth forests, subject to availability of funds.

**LD 1655 An Act to Allow the Keeping of Chickens on Private Residential Property**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 174 provides that a county or municipality may not adopt a regulation or ordinance that prohibits a person from keeping chickens on that person's residential property. The law defines "chicken" as a domesticated bird that is raised for meat or eggs and does not include a fully mature domesticated male chicken.

**LD 1697 An Act to Increase Penalties to Deter Violations of the Laws Regarding Improper Pesticide Use**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 292 increases the maximum fine that may be adjudged for a violation of the laws and rules governing pesticides from \$1,500 to \$10,000, except in a case for an unauthorized pesticide application in which the preponderance of the evidence demonstrates that the violator benefited substantially from the violation, in which case the maximum fine is \$50,000. Maximum fines for subsequent violations are increased to \$75,000 and \$150,000, respectively. The law clarifies that this fine does not apply to a private applicator or a private applicator of general use pesticides as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 1471-C.

The law provides that clear and convincing evidence that only one person benefited substantially from an unauthorized pesticide application constitutes prima facie evidence that the person is responsible for the unauthorized pesticide application. The law increases the maximum fine for a private applicator who violates rules regarding the maintenance of records from \$500 to \$1,000

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for an initial violation and from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for subsequent violations. The law clarifies that fines under Title 7, section 616-A, subsection 2, paragraph B apply only to a private applicator or a private applicator of general use pesticides.

Public Law 2025, chapter 292 also directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control to adopt a routine technical rule that includes the following requirements.

1. It must establish a penalty schedule for violations of the laws and rules governing pesticides to create transparency for future penalties assessed.
2. It must provide the means by which separate civil suits may be brought against the same violator of the laws and rules governing pesticides if pesticide migration through soil or bedrock occurs affecting more than one property.
3. It must provide for the restoration of affected property and replacement of vegetation as penalties for violations of the laws and rules governing pesticides in addition to monetary penalties.
4. It must designate pesticides with the active ingredient tebuthiuron as state restricted use pesticides.

**LD 1724 Resolve, Authorizing the Baxter State Park Authority to Convey Certain Land in Cumberland County**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2025, chapter 55 authorizes the Baxter State Park Authority to convey the State's interest in the Austin Cary Lot in the Town of Harpswell subject to certain restrictions. The law provides that all money received from the sale of the lot must be deposited into the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands, Public Reserved Lands Acquisition Fund rather than entrusting the funds to Baxter State Park.

The resolve requires the Baxter State Park Director to notify owners of property on Long Reach Lane in the Town of Harpswell abutting the Austin Cary Lot and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over parks and lands matters at least 14 days in advance of any public meeting at which the Baxter State Park Authority will consider a proposed conveyance of the Austin Cary Lot. It also provides that a member of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over parks and lands matters who receives notification may notify the Baxter State Park Director of concerns and may in writing request review of the proposed conveyance by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over parks and lands matters. When a request for legislative review is received, the director may not finalize the

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conveyance until the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over parks and lands matters has held a public meeting to review the proposed conveyance.

Resolve 2025, chapter 55 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective June 9, 2025.

**LD 1771 An Act to Strengthen Oversight of Kennels by Changing the Licensing Authority from Municipalities to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 414 moves the responsibility for the issuance of kennel licenses from municipalities to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The law enacts criteria regarding the department's authority to refuse to issue or renew, suspend or revoke a facility license for an animal shelter, kennel, boarding kennel, breeding kennel or pet shop. The law also updates certain definitions, licensing and recording fees and cross-references related to facility licensing.

The law clarifies that kennel licensees are not required to pay individual dog licensing fees and allows a humane agent to conduct an inspection of a kennel without an animal control officer, if the municipality does not have an animal control officer, as determined by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry by rule. The law requires a municipality to pay for the cost of an inspection if a humane agent conducts the inspection.

Finally, Public Law 2025, chapter 414 requires the department to provide annual reports, no later than January 15th in 2026, 2027 and 2028, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over animal welfare matters on the transfer of the issuance of kennel licenses from municipalities to the department. The joint standing committee may submit legislation relating to the subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature, to the 133rd Legislature in 2027 and to the Second Regular Session of the 133<sup>rd</sup> Legislature.

**LD 1920 An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Potentially Intoxicating Hemp Products to a Person under 21 Years of Age**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 416 prohibits the sale of potentially intoxicating hemp products to a person who has not attained 21 years of age. The law establishes requirements for the packaging of hemp products, including the requirement that all potentially intoxicating hemp products that are not beverages, salves or topical products be packaged in child-resistant and tamper-evident packaging. The law also provides that all hemp products are subject to the requirement that the product not be labeled or packaged in a manner that violates federal trademark law and not be designed in such a way that would cause a person to confuse the product with a different trademarked product.

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Public Law 2025, chapter 416 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 24, 2025.

**LD 1925 An Act to Improve Access to Grant Funding for the Maine Farms for the Future Program**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 254 amends eligibility criteria for the Maine Farms for the Future Program to ensure that farmers who lease rather than own land and those who farm on land that is already protected by an agricultural conservation agreement are able to receive grants in the program. The law also allows the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to grant exceptions to eligibility criteria to allow for more flexibility for business plan development and investment support for farms.

Once an applicant is selected to participate in the Maine Farms for the Future Program, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry is required to assist the selected farm business in assembling a services package to develop a business plan within 18 months of the selection. Public Law 2025, chapter 254 clarifies that services may include instruction or classroom training in economics and business planning as available and as required by the department for the owner or operator of the farm business.

**LD 1953 An Act to Ensure Public Access to Conservation Land by Providing Protections from Liability to Landowners**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 256 provides additional protection from liability for a landowner or other grantor who grants, and a holder or grantee who accepts, an easement or other legal instrument that includes or makes an express grant of perpetual public access over premises for the public to pursue recreational or harvesting activities. In addition, the law clarifies that additional protection from liability for a landowner or other grantor who grants, and a holder or grantee who accepts, an easement or other legal instrument that includes or makes an express grant of perpetual public access over premises is for the public to pursue one or more, rather than any, recreational or harvesting activities.