



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 1172

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H.P. 744

House of Representatives, March 14, 2023

### **An Act to Reestablish Annual Reporting on Solid Waste in Maine**

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Reference to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BELL of Yarmouth.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: DOUDERA of Camden, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, O'NEIL of Saco, ZEIGLER of Montville.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §2124-A, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 291, Pt. B, §3, is  
3 further amended to read:

4 By January 1, ~~2024~~ 2024 and ~~biennially~~ annually thereafter, the department shall  
5 submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over  
6 ~~environmental~~ environment and natural resources matters and the Governor setting forth  
7 information on statewide generation of solid waste, statewide recycling rates and available  
8 disposal capacity for solid waste.

9 **Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §2133, sub-§7**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 291, Pt. B, §4, is  
10 further amended to read:

11 **7. Recycling progress reports.** Municipalities shall report ~~biennially~~ annually, on  
12 forms provided by the department, on their solid waste management and recycling  
13 practices. The ~~biennial~~ annual report must identify the options available to residents and  
14 businesses within the municipality for managing solid waste, including any provisions for  
15 the separate management of reportable recyclable materials and organic waste and the  
16 disposal of other municipal solid waste, including construction and demolition debris. The  
17 department shall assist municipalities in developing and tracking a municipal or regional  
18 recycling rate by developing a municipal waste stream management assessment model.  
19 The model must rely on actual waste data whenever possible, but incorporate default  
20 generation estimates when needed. Default generation estimates must incorporate factors  
21 such as commercial activity, geographical differences and municipal population.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection to annually instead of  
24 biennially submit reports to the Legislature and Governor setting forth information on  
25 statewide generation of solid waste, statewide recycling rates and available disposal  
26 capacity for solid waste. The bill also amends the law requiring municipalities to submit  
27 biennial progress reports to the department on recycling by making that an annual  
28 requirement.