

Date:

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INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 636, L.D. 976, “Resolve, to Restore Accessible Public Transportation to Swan Island in Perkins Township”

Amend the resolve by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'Resolve, to Establish a Working Group to Facilitate Public Access and Resilience Planning for Swan Island'

Amend the resolve by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. Swan Island access and resilience working group convened. Resolved: That the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, referred to in this resolve as "the department," shall convene a working group to develop a comprehensive plan to enhance public access to Swan Island in Perkins Township in Sagadahoc County. The working group must include, but is not limited to:

1. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or the commissioner's designee;
2. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the commissioner's designee;
3. The Director of the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future or the director's designee;
4. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or the commissioner's designee;
5. A municipal official from the Town of Richmond responsible for tax increment financing allocations; and
6. A representative from a local nonprofit organization with an interest in outdoor recreation access, conservation or community development related to Swan Island.

Sec. 2. Plan development; working group meetings. Resolved: That the working group convened pursuant to section 1 shall:

1 1. Identify barriers to public access to Swan Island and strategies for removing those
2 barriers;

3 2. Evaluate accessible transportation options for the public, including operation and
4 maintenance of a ferry or alternative public transportation systems that may be conducted
5 through public-private partnerships;

6 3. Assess infrastructure needs, such as the creation and upkeep of docks, campgrounds,
7 educational facilities and historic sites;

8 4. Recommend roles and responsibilities among state and municipal partners for
9 operations, maintenance and land stewardship;

10 5. Explore funding sources, including, but not limited to, land and water conservation
11 funds, tax increment financing allocations and public and private funds or resilience-related
12 programs;

13 6. Develop a coordinated implementation timeline and cost estimates;

14 7. Identify any necessary changes to statute or rule; and

15 8. Produce a detailed Swan Island public access plan with supporting documentation
16 and an implementation date on or before May 1, 2026.

17 The working group shall provide public notice for its meetings.

18 **Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That the department shall submit a report that includes
19 the finalized Swan Island public access plan produced pursuant to section 2, along with any
20 recommended legislation from the working group convened pursuant to section 1, to the
21 Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife no later than January 1, 2026.
22 The committee may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature
23 based on the report. This resolve may not be construed to prevent the department from
24 initiating implementation of the public access plan prior to or following January 1, 2026.'

25 Amend the resolve by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
26 section number to read consecutively.

27 SUMMARY

28 This amendment replaces the resolve and changes the title. The amendment directs the
29 Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to convene a working group to develop a
30 comprehensive plan to enhance public access to Swan Island in Perkins Township in
31 Sagadahoc County. The amendment outlines working group duties and directs the working
32 group to provide public notice for its meetings. The Department of Inland Fisheries and
33 Wildlife, on or before January 1, 2026, must submit a Swan Island public access plan to
34 the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, which is authorized to
35 report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

36 FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

37 (See attached)