

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND AND ELEVEN

S.P. 52 - L.D. 159

**An Act To Foster Economic Development by Improving Administration of
the Laws Governing Site Location of Development and Storm Water
Management**

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §420-D, sub-§7, ¶H is enacted to read:

H. Trail management activities that are part of the development and maintenance of the statewide snowmobile trail system developed as part of the Maine Trails System under Title 12, section 1892, including new construction and maintenance of trails, do not require review pursuant to this section if, for each trail being managed:

- (1) The trail is constructed and maintained in accordance with best management practices for motorized trails established by the Department of Conservation;
- (2) The trail is the minimum feasible width for its designated use; and
- (3) No lane exceeds 12 feet in width and no trail includes more than 2 lanes.

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §420-D, sub-§9, as amended by PL 2009, c. 602, §1, is further amended to read:

9. Rules. ~~Rules~~ With the exception of minor clerical corrections and technical clarifications that do not alter the substance of requirements applying to projects, rules adopted pursuant to this section after January 1, 2010 and before January 1, 2012 are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Any rules adopted by the department pursuant to this section on or after January 1, 2012 are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, except that those rules that qualify as state mandates pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 21 are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §484, sub-§3, ¶H is enacted to read:

H. In making a determination under this subsection regarding a development's effects on significant vernal pool habitat, the department shall apply the same standards applied to significant vernal pool habitat under rules adopted pursuant to the Natural Resources Protection Act. The department may not require a buffer strip adjacent to

significant vernal pool habitat unless the buffer strip is established for another protected natural resource as defined in section 480-B, subsection 8.

Sec. 4. 38 MRSA §489-E, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 602, §3, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§489-E. Rulemaking

Rules adopted by the department pursuant to this article are routine technical rules except that rules adopted by the department after January 1, 2010 pursuant to section 484, subsections 1, 3, 4, 4-A, 5, 6 and 7 are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 5. High and moderate value waterfowl and wading bird habitat; rulemaking. The Department of Environmental Protection shall amend its rules concerning permit by rule under the Natural Resources Protection Act to allow an activity occurring in, on or over high and moderate value waterfowl and wading bird habitat to be eligible for permit by rule. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are major substantive rules as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 6. High and moderate value waterfowl and wading bird habitat. The Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources may report out a bill relating to high and moderate value waterfowl and wading bird habitat to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.

In House of Representatives, 2011

Read twice and passed to be enacted.

..... Speaker

In Senate, 2011

Read twice and passed to be enacted.

..... President

Approved 2011

..... Governor