



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1940

S.P. 789

In Senate, May 16, 2023

**An Act to Promote Consistent Policies within Growth Management
Programs in Order to Increase Food Security and Economic
Resiliency in Local Communities**

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4312, sub-§2, ¶G**, as amended by PL 2001, c. 578, §7, is
3 further amended to read:

4 G. Encourage the widest possible involvement by the citizens of each municipality in
5 all aspects of the planning and implementation process, in order to ensure that the plans
6 developed by municipalities have had the benefit of citizen input; ~~and~~

7 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §4312, sub-§2, ¶I**, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 578, §8, is
8 amended to read:

9 I. Encourage the development and implementation of multimunicipal growth
10 management programs; ~~and~~

11 **Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §4312, sub-§2, ¶J** is enacted to read:

12 J. Encourage municipalities to ensure that the language and requirements in charters,
13 policies, codes, regulations, bylaws and fees align with each other and meet the overall
14 intent of the comprehensive plan approved by the legislative body.

15 **Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §4312, sub-§3, ¶L**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 657, §3, is
16 further amended to read:

17 L. To encourage municipalities to develop policies that accommodate older adults with
18 aging in place and that encourage the creation of age-friendly communities; ~~and~~

19 **Sec. 5. 30-A MRSA §4312, sub-§3, ¶N**, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 153, §3 and
20 reallocated by RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §39, is amended to read:

21 N. To plan for the effects of the rise in sea level on buildings, transportation
22 infrastructure, sewage treatment facilities and other relevant state, regional, municipal
23 or privately held infrastructure, property or resources; ~~and~~

24 **Sec. 6. 30-A MRSA §4312, sub-§3, ¶O** is enacted to read:

25 O. To encourage municipalities to develop policies that assess community needs and
26 environmental, food security and economic resiliency effects of municipal regulations,
27 lessen the effect of excessive parking requirements for buildings in downtowns and on
28 main streets and provide for alternative approaches for compliance relating to the reuse
29 of upper floors of buildings in downtowns and on main streets.

30 **Sec. 7. 30-A MRSA §4323, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 and
31 Pt. C, §10, is amended to read:

32 **3. Other.** Do all other things necessary to carry out the purposes of this subchapter,
33 including ensuring that the language and requirements in charters, policies, codes,
34 regulations, bylaws and fees align with each other and meet the overall intent of the
35 comprehensive plan approved by the legislative body.

36 **Sec. 8. 30-A MRSA §4324, sub-§11** is enacted to read:

37 **11. Language and requirements align and meet intent of comprehensive plan.** A
38 municipality or multimunicipal region shall ensure that the language and requirements in
39 charters, policies, codes, regulations, bylaws and fees align with each other and meet the
40 overall intent of the comprehensive plan approved by the legislative body.

1 1. Municipalities to ensure that the language and requirements in charters, policies,
2 codes, regulations, bylaws and fees align with each other and meet the overall intent of the
3 comprehensive plan approved by the legislative body;

4 2. Municipalities to develop policies that assess community needs and environmental,
5 food security and economic resiliency effects of municipal regulations, lessen the effect of
6 excessive parking requirements for buildings in downtowns and on main streets and
7 provide for alternative approaches for compliance relating to the reuse of upper floors of
8 buildings in downtowns and on main streets; and

9 3. In the development of affordable housing, municipalities and multimunicipal regions
10 to establish policies that assess food security and economic resiliency effects of municipal
11 regulations.