

LD 2139, "Resolve, Authorizing the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to Convey the Interests of the State in Certain Real Property in East Millinocket"

Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government
January 28, 2026

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government:

I am Trey Stewart; and I represent Senate District 2, which includes several communities in Penobscot and Aroostook Counties. I am here today to present LD 2139, "*Resolve, Authorizing the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to Convey the Interests of the State in Certain Real Property in East Millinocket*," a bill of great interest to the Town of East Millinocket.

This bill is the culmination of a years-long dialogue between the Department of Administrative and Financial Services (DAFS) and the Town of East Millinocket. In 2019, the 129th Legislature passed LD 744, a Resolve that granted a Right of First Refusal to East Millinocket at such time that the State might decide to sell portions of the 3,300-plus acre parcel associated with the State-owned Dolby Landfill. The five-year legislative authorization of such a sale expired in 2024; but throughout that time, town officials have remained in contact with the Bureau of General Services, continually reaffirming their interest in portions of the property. It is my understanding that the State does not have a pressing interest in selling the property in question and has been willing to wait until such time that East Millinocket is financially prepared to acquire their desired sections.

LD 2139 would provide East Millinocket with a renewed opportunity and mechanism to move forward with such a deal. Unlike LD 744, the previous legislation, which employed a Right of First Refusal, this bill would provide East Millinocket up to one year from the Resolve's effective date to enter into an Option Agreement with the State for the portions of interest to the Town and five years thereafter to complete the purchase. This legally formalizes and secures East Millinocket's interests for the next five years.

For those curious about the Dolby Landfill, the State intends to retain all land essential to its maintenance and monitoring, along with an ample buffer. A survey of the larger property is underway and identifying the precise boundaries of the subdivided parcels will be completed once the snow melts.

In closing, I want to emphasize the importance of this bill to the Town of East Millinocket. The parcel of land we are talking about represents a significant percentage of East Millinocket's total property area, and the community recognizes the potential for residential expansion and business development that acquiring strategic portions of the property presents. I am proud to help facilitate this opportunity for the future of East Millinocket.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Those who follow behind me, including a representative of DAFS, will provide greater detail and may be better able to answer Committee questions.