

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 6/1/7

(Filing No. H- 411)

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
123RD LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 710, L.D. 935, Bill, "An Act To Continue To Ensure the Long-term Capacity of Municipal Landfills"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §1303-C, sub-§6, as amended by PL 2005, c. 612, §2, is further amended to read:

**6. Commercial solid waste disposal facility.** "Commercial solid waste disposal facility" means a solid waste disposal facility except as follows:

~~A. Beginning January 1, 2007, a solid waste facility owned by a public waste disposal corporation under section 1304-B, subsection 5 as long as the public waste disposal corporation controls the decisions regarding the type and source of waste that is accepted, handled, treated and disposed of at the facility;~~

A-2. A solid waste facility that is owned by a public waste disposal corporation under section 1304-B, subsection 5:

(1) As long as the public waste disposal corporation controls the decisions regarding the type and source of waste that is accepted, handled, treated and disposed of at the facility; and

(2) If the facility is a solid waste landfill, the facility accepts only waste that is generated within the State unless the commissioner finds that the acceptance of waste that is not generated within the State provides a substantial public benefit pursuant to section 1310-AA, subsection 1-A;

~~B. Beginning January 1, 2007 a solid waste facility owned by a municipality under section 1305 as long as the municipality controls the decisions regarding the type and source of waste that is accepted, handled, treated and disposed of at the facility;~~

B-2. A solid waste facility that is owned by a municipality under section 1305:

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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1           (1) As long as the municipality controls the decisions regarding the type and  
2           source of waste that is accepted, handled, treated and disposed of at the facility;  
3           and

4           (2) If the facility is a solid waste landfill, the facility accepts only waste that is  
5           generated within the State unless:

6                   (a) The commissioner finds that the acceptance of waste that is not generated  
7                   within the State provides a substantial public benefit pursuant to section  
8                   1310-AA, subsection 1-A; and

9                   (b) Acceptance of waste that is not generated within the State is approved by  
10                  a majority of the voters of the municipality by referendum election;

11           ~~C.— Beginning January 1, 2007, a solid waste facility owned by a refuse disposal~~  
12           ~~district under chapter 17 as long as the refuse disposal district controls the decisions~~  
13           ~~regarding the type and source of waste that is accepted, handled, treated and disposed~~  
14           ~~of at the facility;~~

15           C-2. A solid waste facility that is owned by a refuse disposal district under chapter  
16           17;

17                   (1) As long as the refuse disposal district controls the decisions regarding the  
18                   type and source of waste that is accepted, handled, treated and disposed of at the  
19                   facility; and

20                   (2) If the facility is a solid waste landfill, the facility accepts only waste that is  
21                   generated within the State unless the commissioner finds that the acceptance of  
22                   waste that is not generated within the State provides a substantial public benefit  
23                   pursuant to section 1310-AA, subsection 1-A;

24           D. Beginning January 1, 2007, a solid waste facility owned and controlled by the  
25           office under chapter 24;

26           E. A solid waste facility owned and controlled by a single entity that generates at  
27           least 85% of the solid waste disposed of at the facility, except that the facility may  
28           accept from other sources, on a nonprofit basis, an amount of solid waste that is no  
29           more than 15% of all solid waste accepted on an annual basis. For purposes of this  
30           paragraph, "single entity" means an individual, partnership, corporation or limited  
31           liability company that is not engaged primarily in the business of treating or  
32           disposing of solid waste or special waste. This paragraph does not apply if an  
33           individual partner, shareholder, member or other ownership interest in the single  
34           entity disposes of waste in the solid waste facility. A waste facility receiving ash  
35           resulting from the combustion of municipal solid waste or refuse-derived fuel is not  
36           exempt from this subsection solely by operation of this paragraph; or

37           F. A private corporation that accepts material-separated, refuse-derived fuel as a  
38           supplemental fuel and does not burn waste other than its own.

39           ~~Until January 1, 2007, for~~ For purposes of this subsection, "waste that is generated  
40           within the State" includes residue and bypass generated by incineration, processing and  
41           recycling facilities within the State or waste whether generated within the State or outside

1 of the State if it is used for daily cover, frost protection or stability or is generated within  
2 30 miles of the solid waste disposal facility.

3 **Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §1310-AA**, as corrected by RR 1995, c. 1, §33, is amended to  
4 read:

5 **§1310-AA. Public benefit determination**

6 **1. Application for public benefit determination.** Prior to submitting an application  
7 under section 1310-N for a license for a new or expanded solid waste disposal facility, a  
8 person must apply to the commissioner for a determination of whether the proposed  
9 facility provides a substantial public benefit.

10 **1-A. Public benefit determination for acceptance by publicly owned solid waste**  
11 **landfills of waste generated out of state.** Prior to accepting waste that is not generated  
12 within the State, a solid waste facility that is subject to this subsection shall apply to the  
13 commissioner for a determination of whether the acceptance of the waste provides a  
14 substantial public benefit.

15 **A. A facility is subject to this subsection if the facility is a solid waste landfill that is**  
16 **not a commercial solid waste disposal facility pursuant to:**

17 **(1) Section 1303-C, subsection 6, paragraph A-2;**

18 **(2) Section 1303-C, subsection 6, paragraph B-2; or**

19 **(3) Section 1303-C, subsection 6, paragraph C-2.**

20 **B. A facility that is subject to this subsection may not accept waste that is not**  
21 **generated within the State unless the commissioner determines that the acceptance of**  
22 **the waste provides a substantial public benefit.**

23 **C. The commissioner shall make the determination of public benefit in accordance**  
24 **with subsections 2 and 3.**

25 **D. For purposes of this subsection, "waste that is generated within the State" includes**  
26 **residue and bypass generated by incineration, processing and recycling facilities**  
27 **within the State; waste whether generated within the State or outside of the State used**  
28 **for daily cover, frost protection or stability; and waste generated within 30 miles of**  
29 **the solid waste disposal facility.**

30 **2. Process.** Determinations by the commissioner under this section are not subject to  
31 Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter ~~W~~ 4. The commissioner shall provide public notice of  
32 the filing of an application under this section and shall accept written public comment on  
33 the application for 20 days after the date of the notice. In making the determination of  
34 whether the facility under subsection 1 or the acceptance of waste that is not generated  
35 within the State under subsection 1-A provides a substantial public benefit, the  
36 commissioner shall consider the state plan, written information submitted in support of  
37 the application and any other written information the commissioner considers relevant.  
38 The commissioner may hold a public meeting in the vicinity of the proposed facility  
39 under subsection 1 or the solid waste landfill under subsection 1-A to take public  
40 comments and shall consider those comments in making the determination. The  
41 commissioner shall issue a decision on the matter within 60 days of receipt of the

1 application. The commissioner's decisions under this section may be appealed to the  
2 board, but the board is not authorized to assume jurisdiction of a decision under this  
3 section.

4 **3. Standards for determination.** The commissioner shall find that the proposed  
5 facility under subsection 1 or the acceptance of waste that is not generated within the  
6 State under subsection 1-A provides a substantial public benefit if the applicant  
7 demonstrates to the commissioner that the proposed facility or the acceptance of waste  
8 that is not generated within the State:

9 A. Meets immediate, short-term or long-term capacity needs of the State;

10 B. Except for expansion of a commercial solid waste disposal facility that accepts  
11 only special waste for landfilling, is consistent with the state waste management and  
12 recycling plan; and

13 C. Is not inconsistent with local, regional or state waste collection, storage,  
14 transportation, processing or disposal; and

15 D. For a determination of public benefit under subsection 1-A only, facilitates the  
16 operation of a solid waste disposal facility that provides a substantial public benefit  
17 and the operation of that solid waste disposal facility would be precluded or  
18 significantly impaired if the waste is not accepted.

19 **4. Application.** This section does not apply to facilities described in section 1310-N,  
20 subsection 3-A, paragraph A or to facilities owned by the State.'

21 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or  
22 section number to read consecutively.

## 23 SUMMARY

24 This amendment changes the provisions in the bill that define "commercial solid  
25 waste disposal facility" by providing that:

26 1. A municipally owned landfill is a commercial landfill if it accepts waste that is not  
27 generated within the State unless the commissioner finds that the acceptance of that waste  
28 provides a substantial public benefit and the acceptance of that waste is approved by a  
29 majority of the voters of the municipality; and

30 2. Other publicly owned landfills, owned by public waste disposal corporations and  
31 refuse disposal districts, are commercial landfills if they accept waste that is not  
32 generated within the State unless the commissioner finds that the acceptance of that waste  
33 provides a substantial public benefit.

34 The amendment does not make any changes to the definition of commercial landfill  
35 relating to state-owned landfills.

36 Under the amendment, "waste that is generated within the State" includes: residue  
37 and bypass generated by incineration, processing and recycling facilities within the State;  
38 waste whether generated within the State or outside of the State used for daily cover, frost  
39 protection or stability; and waste generated within 30 miles of the facility.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 710, L.D. 935

- 1 The amendment adds a new standard to be applied when the Commissioner of
- 2 Environmental Protection makes a public benefit determination relating to the acceptance
- 3 of waste that is not generated within the State.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED  
(See attached)

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**



# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 935

LR 2048(02)

**An Act To Continue To Ensure the Long-term Capacity of Municipal Landfills**

**Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A "**

**Committee: Natural Resources**

**Fiscal Note Required: Yes**

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## Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

The additional costs to the Department of Environmental Protection can be absorbed utilizing existing budgeted resources.