

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

Legislative Document

No. 2223

H.P. 1498

House of Representatives, February 24, 2026

**An Act to Increase Funding for Construction Plan Reviews and
Clarify Rule-making Authority for Municipal Reviews of
Development**

Reported by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield for the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety pursuant to Resolve 2025, chapter 103, section 4.

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

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

2 **Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2448-A, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 94, §3, is further
3 amended to read:

4 **2. Registration.** A municipality shall comply with all rules adopted by the
5 commissioner pursuant to this section as a condition of registration. The commissioner
6 shall register municipalities to grant permits for projects under subsection 1 if the
7 commissioner finds that the municipality meets all of the following criteria.

8 A. A municipal building official has been appointed pursuant to section 2351-A.

9 B. The municipality has an employee that is certified as a plan reviewer by the National
10 Fire Protection Association.

11 C. The municipality has adopted by reference the fire codes adopted by the Office of
12 the State Fire Marshal pursuant to sections 2452 and 2465.

13 D. The municipality has adequate resources to administer and enforce the provisions
14 of the fire codes under paragraph C.

15 E. The procedures for public hearing and notification have been established including:

16 (1) Notice to the commissioner upon receipt of an application, including a
17 description of the project;

18 (2) Notice of issuance and denial to the applicant and commissioner, including the
19 reason for denial;

20 (3) Public notification of the application and any hearings; and

21 (4) Procedures for public hearing.

22 F. The procedures for appeal of local decisions by aggrieved parties are defined.

23 G. A registration form, provided by the commissioner, has been completed and
24 submitted by the municipality, demonstrating compliance with the criteria under this
25 subsection.

26 H. The municipality is currently enforcing the Maine Uniform Building and Energy
27 Code.

28 The Department of Public Safety shall publish on its publicly accessible website a list of
29 those municipalities that are registered pursuant to this subsection.

30 **Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §2448-A, sub-§2-A** is enacted to read:

31 **2-A. Memoranda of understanding.** The commissioner may enter into a
32 memorandum of understanding with any municipality to facilitate the purposes of this
33 section.

34 **Sec. 3. 25 MRSA §2448-A, sub-§11** is enacted to read:

35 **11. Rulemaking.** The commissioner may adopt rules to implement, administer and
36 enforce the provisions of this section, including, but not limited to, procedures for
37 registration, suspension and revocation of registrations, notifications, technical assistance
38 and appeals. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined
39 in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

1 municipalities that have authority to issue construction permits and requires that a
2 municipality must comply with these rules as a condition of their registration. The bill also
3 modifies the permitting requirement for fire sprinkler contractors. Current law requires a
4 fire sprinkler contractor to obtain a permit from the commissioner prior to construction.
5 The bill adds the option of obtaining that permit from a registered municipality. The bill
6 increases the fee for new construction, reconstruction, repairs or renovations from 1.5/10
7 of 1% of the cost to construct or reconstruct the portion of the project that is subject to State
8 Fire Marshal review to 1/5 of 1% of that cost. The bill provides funding for 2 public safety
9 inspector positions within the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

10 The committee has not taken a position on the substance of the bill, and by reporting
11 this bill out, the committee is not suggesting and does not intend to suggest that it agrees
12 or disagrees with any aspect of this bill. The committee is reporting the bill out for the sole
13 purpose of obtaining a printed bill that can be referred to the committee for a public hearing
14 and subsequent committee action in the normal course.