

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 4, 2024 to March 21, 2025

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
March 25, 2025 to June 25, 2025

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 20, 2025

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2025

extended limitation periods established in these provisions should apply to any other sexual offense crimes in the State. The commission shall submit a report, including any recommendations, to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary no later than December 15, 2025. The committee may report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Sec. 3. Application. This Act applies to the crime of aggravated sex trafficking under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17-A, section 852 committed on or after the effective date of this Act or for which the prosecution has not yet been barred by the statute of limitations in force immediately prior to the effective date of this Act.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 480

H.P. 982 - L.D. 1498

An Act to Address Maine's Housing Crisis by Limiting Municipal Impact Fees on Housing Development

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4354, first ¶, as repealed and replaced by PL 1991, c. 722, §8 and affected by §11, is amended to read:

A Subject to the requirements and restrictions set forth in this section, a municipality may enact an ordinance under its home rule authority requiring the construction of ~~off-site capital~~ infrastructure improvements or the payment of impact fees instead of the construction of infrastructure improvements. Notwithstanding section 3442, subsection 2, an impact fee may be imposed that results in a developer or developers paying the entire cost of an infrastructure improvement. A municipality may impose an impact fee either before or after completing the infrastructure improvement. The municipality shall establish a policy document, accessible at the office of the municipality or on the publicly accessible website of the municipality, that describes the manner by which the municipality determines that a development necessitates an infrastructure improvement and how the developer's share of the cost of that improvement is determined.

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §4354, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1999, c. 776, §11, is further amended to read:

1. Construction or fees may be required. The requirements may include construction of ~~capital~~ infrastructure improvements or impact fees instead of ~~capital~~ infrastructure improvements including the expansion or

replacement of existing infrastructure facilities and the construction of new infrastructure facilities. A municipality shall demonstrate that a required infrastructure improvement is necessary to accommodate the development and that the impact fee is based on the cost of the infrastructure improvement and proportionate to the development's use of the infrastructure improvement.

A. For the purposes of this subsection, infrastructure facilities include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Waste water collection and treatment facilities;
- (2) Municipal water facilities;
- (3) Solid waste facilities;
- (4) Public safety equipment and facilities;
- (5) Roads and traffic control devices;
- (6) Parks and other open space or recreational areas; and
- (7) School facilities.

Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §4354, sub-§2, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 and Pt. C, §10, is amended to read:

C. The ordinance must establish a reasonable schedule under which the municipality is required to ~~use~~ encumber the funds within 360 days of receipt and in a manner consistent with the capital investment component of the comprehensive plan.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 481

S.P. 613 - L.D. 1529

An Act to Enhance the Protection of High-value Natural Resources Statewide

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §685-C, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2021, c. 676, Pt. A, §§23 and 24, is further amended to read:

1. Comprehensive land use plan. The commission shall prepare an official comprehensive land use plan, referred to in this subsection as "the plan," for the unorganized and deorganized areas of the State.

The commission must use the plan as a guide in developing specific land use standards and delineating district boundaries and guiding development and generally fulfilling the purposes of this chapter.

The plan may consist of maps, data and statements of present and prospective resource uses that generally delineate the proper use of resources, and recommendations for its implementation.

The commission shall hold public hearings to collect information to be used in establishing the plan. The public hearings must be conducted according to commission rules adopted in accordance with procedures for the establishment of rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2.

The commission may, on its own motion or petition of any state agency or regional planning commission, hold such other hearings as the commission considers necessary from time to time for the purpose of obtaining information helpful in the determination of its policies, the carrying out of its duties or the formulation of its land use standards or rules.

A. The commission may not finalize a plan or a portion of a plan without:

(1) Submitting a draft copy of the tentative plan to each regional planning commission and other appropriate planning or state resource agencies, which shall forward their comments and recommendations, if any, to the commission within 30 days;

(2) Submitting a draft copy of the tentative plan to the Director of the Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning, as described in Title 7-A, section 206, subsection 4, or its the director's successor, which who shall forward its the director's comments and recommendations, if any, to the commission within 30 days; and

(3) Considering all comments and recommendations submitted under paragraphs A and B-1; and subparagraphs (1) and (2).

(4) Submitting the tentative plan to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over conservation matters and the committee reviewing the plan at a public meeting. The commission shall brief the committee on any anticipated changes to land use districts and subdistricts based on revisions in the comprehensive land use plan and a projected timetable for rulemaking to adopt these changes.

B-1. After the commission has finalized provisionally adopted a plan or a portion of a plan, but prior to final adoption, the commission shall provide a copy to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, who shall submit the finalized provisionally adopted plan or a portion of the plan to the Governor for comments. The commissioner shall submit the finalized provisionally adopted

plan or ~~a~~ portion of the plan, including the Governor's comments, ~~to the Legislature within 30 days after the convening of for approval during the next regular legislative session for approval.~~ The Legislature shall, by act or resolve, approve, disapprove or require changes to the provisionally adopted plan or ~~any~~ portion of the plan prior to adjournment. If the provisionally adopted plan or a portion of the plan is approved or the Legislature fails to act on the provisionally adopted plan or a portion of the plan before adjournment, the provisionally adopted plan or a portion of the plan may be finally adopted by the commission. If the provisionally adopted plan or a portion of the plan is disapproved or revisions are required, the provisionally adopted plan or a portion of the plan must be revised by the commission and resubmitted to the Legislature for approval by act or resolve. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over conservation matters may submit legislation to implement the provisions of this paragraph.

This subsection also applies to any material alteration in the plan.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §8879, sub-§1-B is enacted to read:

1-B. Report on conservation of late-successional forests and old-growth forests. Beginning with the report due on January 1, 2031, the report must include information regarding the status of late-successional forests and old-growth forests in the State and actions that have been taken since the previous report under this section to enhance the conservation of late-successional forests and old-growth forests on public and private land statewide.

Sec. 3. Maine Land Use Planning Commission; comprehensive land use plan. The Maine Land Use Planning Commission, referred to in this section as "the commission," shall, as part of the next update to the comprehensive land use plan under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 685-C, subsection 1, consider the effectiveness of its lake management program and whether changing circumstances and new trends warrant an update to the program, including an evaluation as to whether all lakes or a subset of lakes should be reclassified, what methods should be used to revise lake classifications if needed, the cost of the reclassifications, possible funding sources and the priority for implementation. The evaluation must consider whether additional measures are required to protect the character and natural resource values of the commission's current Management Class 7 lakes that are undeveloped and have one or more natural resources classified as outstanding by the Department of Conservation, Land Use Regulation Commission's Maine Wildlands Lake Assessment published in 1987 in accordance with

the commission's goal of maintaining an appropriate balance between conservation and development.

Sec. 4. Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to develop comprehensive report on statewide strategies to enhance conservation of late-successional forests and old-growth forests. Subject to the availability of funds, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, referred to in this section as "the department," may develop a comprehensive report on statewide strategies to enhance the conservation of late-successional forests and old-growth forests, including the management of transitioning late-successional forests. In developing the strategies, the department may incorporate ecological values, carbon sequestration methods and economic considerations from a broad range of perspectives to include forest landowners, forest industry representatives, logging contractors, conservation interests and local economies. By November 4, 2026, the department may submit the report, including any recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters, which may report out legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027. In completing the report under this section, the department may solicit and use resources from other state agencies and outside sources.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 482

H.P. 1033 - L.D. 1575

An Act to Allow a Legislator to Choose to Be Paid on an Annual Basis

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

Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §2, first ¶, as amended by PL 2023, c. 446, §1, is further amended to read:

Each member of the Senate and House of Representatives, beginning with the first Wednesday of December 2000 until the day before the first Wednesday of December 2024, is entitled to \$10,815 in the first year and \$7,725 in the 2nd year of each biennium, except that if a Legislator who is a recipient of retirement benefits from the federal Social Security Administration files a written request with the Executive Director of the Legislative Council within one week after the biennium commences, the Legislator is entitled to \$9,270 in each year of the biennium. Beginning with the first Wednesday of December 2024, each member of the Senate and House of Representatives is entitled to \$25,000 in the first year and \$20,000 in the 2nd year of each biennium, except that if a Legislator who is a recipient of retire-

ment benefits from the federal Social Security Administration files a written request with the Executive Director of the Legislative Council within one week after the biennium commences, the Legislator is entitled to \$22,500 in each year of the biennium. Each member of the Senate and the House of Representatives must receive a cost-of-living adjustment in annual legislative salary, except that the percentage increase may not exceed 5% in any year, and except that the percentage increase may not exceed 3% beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. Beginning December 1, 2001, the salary for each legislative session must be adjusted each December 1st by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for the most recently concluded fiscal year; except that a member of the Senate or the House of Representatives may not receive a cost-of-living adjustment in annual legislative salary for the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature, and except that a member of the Senate or the House of Representatives may not receive a cost-of-living adjustment in annual legislative salary for the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature and the First Regular Session and the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature, and any percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2011, June 30, 2012 and June 30, 2013 may not be applied to the base salary. In addition, each Legislator is entitled to be paid mileage for travel at each legislative session to and from that Legislator's place of abode at a rate of 55¢ per mile or the federal standard mileage rate, whichever is lower, the mileage to be determined by the most reasonable direct route, except that Legislators may be reimbursed for tolls paid for travel on the Maine Turnpike as long as they have a receipt for payment of the tolls, such tolls to be reimbursed when Legislators use the Maine Turnpike in traveling to and from sessions of the Legislature or in performance of duly authorized committee assignments. Each Legislator is entitled to mileage on the first day of the session, and those amounts of salary and expenses at such times as the Legislature may determine during the session, and the balance at the end of the session, except that, effective January 1, 2026, a Legislator may choose to be paid the salary for each year of the biennium to which that Legislator is entitled pursuant to this section in approximately equal payments over that corresponding year of the biennium, and a Legislator who chooses this option must do so prior to the beginning of each regular session.

See title page for effective date.
