

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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

primary purposes of sustainable forestry or wildlife management and may be used for other scientific and educational uses that are related to, and must allow for public recreational use that is compatible with, these primary purposes.

Sec. 4. Notification. Resolved: That the Baxter State Park Director shall notify owners of property on Long Reach Lane in the Town of Harpswell abutting the parcel described in section 1 and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over parks and lands matters at least 14 days in advance of any public meeting at which the Baxter State Park Authority will consider a proposed conveyance of the Austin Cary Lot described in section 1.

Sec. 5. Opportunity for review by legislative committee. Resolved: That a member of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over parks and lands matters who receives notification under section 4 may notify the Baxter State Park Director of concerns and may in writing request review of the proposed conveyance by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over parks and lands matters. A member who requests review under this section shall notify the chairs of the joint standing committee of the request.

When a request for legislative review is received under this section, the director may not finalize the conveyance until the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over parks and lands matters has held a public meeting to review the proposed conveyance.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 56

H.P. 1258 - L.D. 1887

Resolve, To Improve Air Quality and Ventilation in Newly Constructed Schools

Sec. 1. Resolve 2021, c. 114, §1, amended. Resolved: That Resolve 2021, c. 114, §1 is amended to read:

Sec. 1. Department of Education to amend rules. Resolved: That the Department of Education shall amend its rules Chapter 60: New School Siting Approval, Chapter 61: State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects and Chapter 125: Basic Approval Standards: Public Schools and School Administrative Units to require standards governing air quality and ventilation for all newly constructed public schools, including schools with mechanical and nonmechanical ventilation systems. These standards must apply to all newly constructed public schools and must apply ~~no earlier than July 1, 2022 and~~ no later than July 1, 2026. The rules

adopted pursuant to this section are major substantive rules pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, and the department shall submit the provisionally adopted rules for final adoption to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 4, ~~2022~~ 9, 2026.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 57

S.P. 84 - L.D. 197

Resolve, to Direct the Governor's Energy Office to Conduct a Study Regarding the Future of Electric Transmission Infrastructure in the State

Sec. 1. Study of future electric transmission infrastructure needs. Resolved: That the Governor's Energy Office, referred to in this resolve as "the office," shall conduct a study of matters related to the State's future electric transmission infrastructure needs. The study must include a review of:

1. Existing processes for the siting and permitting of new and upgraded electric transmission infrastructure in the State, including opportunities for public engagement and methods for efficiently meeting permitting or regulatory requirements;

2. Best practices related to electric transmission planning, siting, permitting and community engagement from other states or regions, including consideration of different types of state siting authorities and consideration of the potential for the sharing of electric transmission infrastructure costs with other states;

3. Existing analyses of future electric transmission needs in the State necessary to integrate new renewable resources as well as to ensure reliability, improve market efficiency or support the achievement of the State's policy goals, including the goals established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3210, subsection 1-A; Title 35-A, section 3404; Title 35-A, chapter 38; and Title 38, section 576-A;

4. Types of existing rights-of-way and opportunities for potential use of those rights-of-way for siting of electric transmission infrastructure in the State, including colocation with transportation, electric transmission and railway rights-of-way; and

5. Existing and emerging technology and construction methods, such as grid-enhancing technologies, advanced conductors and so-called strategic undergrounding, including a cost-benefit analysis comparing buried high-voltage direct current lines with aerial high-voltage alternating current lines and aerial high-voltage direct current lines.

Sec. 2. Stakeholder coordination. Resolved:

That the office shall coordinate with state agencies involved in the siting, permitting and regulation of electric transmission infrastructure and solicit information from a stakeholder group to assist in conducting the study under section 1. The office shall hold at least 3 meetings to solicit information and comments from the stakeholder group. Each meeting must allow stakeholder group members to participate remotely. The office shall hold the first meeting with the stakeholder group prior to commencing the study required by section 1 and, if the office issues a request for proposals for consulting services to assist in conducting the study, the first meeting must be before the issuance of the request for proposals. At the first meeting, the office shall provide to the stakeholder group a description of the scope and anticipated timeline for the completion of the study. The office shall provide an opportunity for the stakeholder group members to provide comments on any request for proposals the office develops in connection with the study and the office shall consider such comments when finalizing a request for proposals. The office shall hold at least 2 meetings with the stakeholder group during the course of the study to solicit information and comments from the stakeholder group. The stakeholder group must include, but is not limited to:

1. A representative of the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future;
2. A representative of the Public Utilities Commission;
3. A representative of the Department of Economic and Community Development;
4. A representative of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry;
5. A representative of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife;
6. A representative of the Department of Environmental Protection;
7. An individual who is a licensed engineer employed by the Department of Transportation;
8. An individual who is a licensed engineer employed in the private sector;
9. An individual who is a licensed real estate appraiser employed in the private sector;
10. An individual representing the Northern Maine Independent System Administrator;
11. An individual representing the equity subcommittee of the Maine Climate Council established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 577-A;
12. An individual representing the interests of private landowners in the State;

13. Two individuals representing each of the 2 investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities in the State;

14. An individual representing consumer-owned transmission and distribution utilities in the State;

15. An individual representing an electric transmission line developer; and

16. The Public Advocate or the Public Advocate's designee.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That, by September 1, 2026, the office shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology that includes an overview of the study findings pursuant to section 1 along with any recommendations. The office shall include any comments provided by the stakeholder group as an appendix to the report. The committee may report out a bill related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 58

H.P. 172 - L.D. 269

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 375: No Adverse Environmental Effect Standards of the Site Location of Development Act, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A requires legislative authorization before major substantive agency rules may be finally adopted by the agency; and

Whereas, a major substantive rule has been submitted to the Legislature for review; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this resolve is necessary to record the Legislature's position on final adoption of the rule; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it