

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

C. The scope of the authorities and responsibilities of the center, which may include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Supporting businesses and other institutions in the State to build on the blue economy advantages of and reduce the obstacles to further development of the blue economy in the State identified by the prior task force in its report submitted pursuant to Resolve 2023, chapter 119, section 6;
- (2) Advancing research and development and supporting innovation in the blue economy, including the financing of innovations and growth in blue economy output and employment;
- (3) Promoting communication and collaboration among blue economy institutions and businesses;
- (4) Providing common services to blue economy businesses and institutions, including research support and access to journals and technologies such as laboratories, 3-D printing and data management; and
- (5) Supporting the development of blue economy sectors as outlined in current or future sector-specific development plans and roadmaps.

2. The task force shall recommend improvements and expansions of blue economy workforce education and training to encompass the elementary and secondary school system and public and private institutions of higher education.

Sec. 5. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the Department of Economic and Community Development shall provide necessary staffing assistance to the task force. At the request of the task force, other state agencies and state entities shall provide information and analysis to assist the task force in its deliberations and reporting.

Sec. 6. Funding. Resolved: That the task force may accept grants, private contributions and any other outside funding to support the task force in carrying out its duties.

Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That the task force shall prepare and submit a written report containing its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development no later than December 3, 2025. After reviewing the report, the committee may report out legislation relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Blue Economy Task Force N546

Initiative: Provides one-time funds to match funds for research, development and other support to the blue economy.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$100,000	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$100,000	\$0

Maine Technology Capacity Fund N545

Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize expenditures of money received from public or private sources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$100,000	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$500	\$500
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$100,500	\$500

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 115

H.P. 854 - L.D. 1279

Resolve, Establishing the Biotoxin Testing of Cultured Scallops Pilot Program

Sec. 1. Biotoxin Testing of Cultured Scallops Pilot Program established. Resolved: That the Biotoxin Testing of Cultured Scallops Pilot Program, referred to in this resolve as "the program," is established until December 31, 2027. The Department of Marine Resources, referred to in this resolve as "the department," shall oversee the program. The purpose of the program is to conduct biotoxin testing of whole cultured scallops or the roe of cultured scallops in the same manner as the testing for other cultured mollusks under the Marine Shellfish Toxins Monitoring Program, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 6076, including using high-performance liquid chromatography testing. The department shall provide

logistical support to a commercial fisheries business engaged in scallop aquaculture in conducting the testing under this section, including providing transportation of samples to be tested from a facility in the municipality in which the grower is located to the testing site. For the purposes of this section, "high-performance liquid chromatography testing" means a testing technique in analytical chemistry that uses high-pressure pumps to separate, identify and quantify specific components in mixtures. The program may not conduct testing on cultured scallops or the roe of cultured scallops grown on limited-purpose aquaculture license sites.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That the department shall submit a report on each year of the program, by January 1, 2027 and January 1, 2028, respectively, detailing the number of commercial fisheries businesses using the testing under section 1, the overall impact on the scallop aquaculture industry, including economic growth and cultured scallop landings, and recommendations for further improvements or expansions of the testing under section 1 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters. The committee may report out a bill based on the 2028 report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF

Bureau of Public Health Z154

Initiative: Provides funding for a pilot program testing scallops for biotoxins for fiscal year 2025-26 and fiscal year 2026-27.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$50,000	\$50,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$50,000	\$50,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 116

H.P. 878 - L.D. 1355

Resolve, to Require the Governor's Energy Office to Study Taxation of Renewable Energy Infrastructure

Sec. 1. Governor's Energy Office to examine and evaluate system of taxation of renewable energy infrastructure and possible adoption of uniform capacity tax for renewable energy infrastructure. Resolved: That the Governor's Energy Office shall examine and evaluate the current system of taxation of renewable energy infrastructure and

possible adoption of a uniform capacity tax for renewable energy infrastructure. The study must include an examination and evaluation of:

1. The current statutory framework for the application of personal and real property taxes on renewable energy infrastructure, including, but not limited to, solar photovoltaic systems, wind energy development and battery energy storage systems;

2. The history of municipal and county taxation of renewable energy infrastructure in the State, as well as in other states;

3. How tax revenue from new renewable energy infrastructure projects may affect state-municipal revenue-sharing formulas, including the effect of renewable energy infrastructure value depreciation;

4. Whether renewable energy infrastructure presents special difficulties with identifying just value;

5. What tax amount per megawatt of electric generation capacity of renewable energy infrastructure projects, if any, would fairly compensate municipalities without making such projects unviable;

6. The current use, complexity, cost and appropriateness of programs such as tax increment financing and credit enhancement agreements for renewable energy infrastructure and whether an alternative program may benefit municipalities, counties and renewable energy infrastructure development in the State; and

7. Whether a uniform taxation of renewable energy infrastructure and exclusion of such revenue from state-municipal revenue-sharing formulas may encourage renewable energy infrastructure development, advance the State's clean energy goals and benefit municipalities and counties in the State.

The Governor's Energy Office shall consult with the Office of Tax Policy, representatives from the renewable energy industry and other experts in the State and municipal and county officials with relevant experience and solicit public comments on the study. No later than November 4, 2026, the Governor's Energy Office shall submit a report, including findings, recommendations and any suggested legislation, based on the study to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over taxation matters. The joint standing committee may report out legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Sec. 2. Funding. Resolved: That the Governor's Energy Office may receive funds, grants or contributions from public or private sources to carry out the study required under section 1. The Governor's Energy Office shall disclose its sources of funding as part of the report required in section 1. The Governor's Energy Office is not required under this resolve to undertake work