

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

May 2026

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**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

Representatives to jointly appoint one member to the commission and adds qualifications to be considered by the Governor when appointing members to the commission.

Public Law 2025, chapter 534 was finally enacted in both the House and the Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 as an emergency measure but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 534 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

LD 1054 An Act to Amend Certain Definitions in the Laws Governing Conservation Easements

Public Law 2025, chapter 609 changes the definitions of “conservation easement” and “holder” in the provisions of law governing property and the conveyance of real estate. “Conservation easement” means a nonpossessory interest of a holder in real property imposing limitations or affirmative obligations for certain purposes. This law adds preserving the historical, architectural, archaeological or cultural aspects of real property as one of those purposes. The law also clarifies that “holder” includes a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State.

LD 1141 An Act to Increase the Procurement of Maine Foods by Certain State Institutions

Public Law 2025, chapter 521 clarifies existing state policy governing food procurement by state institutions to require rather than encourage the procurement of Maine foods and food products by state institutions.

The law defines “state institutions” as the Department of Corrections; the Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center and the Riverview Psychiatric Center within the Department of Health and Human Services; and the Maine Veterans’ Homes for the purpose of the Maine foods procurement program. It also specifies the responsibilities of the institutional food procurement coordinator within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The law also authorizes the coordinator to convene an annual meeting to the extent practicable and within existing resources.

The law provides that state institutions may negotiate directly with Maine food producers and execute agreements for off-contract purchases of food by commodity type and provides that food or food products purchased under an off-contract purchase agreement may be priced up to 15% higher than the same food or food product available under contract.

Public Law 2025, chapter 521 was finally enacted in both the House and the Senate prior to the adjournment sine die of the First Special Session in 2025 as an emergency measure but was not signed by the Governor. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Public Law 2025, chapter 521 became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.