

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
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

May 2026

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Environmental Protection, Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account and provides a corresponding allocation.

LD 2037 An Act to Update the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Allowances

Public Law 2025, chapter 550 amends certain provisions governing the regional greenhouse gas initiative. The law amends the amount of carbon dioxide emissions allowances the State may auction as a participant in the regional greenhouse gas initiative for the year 2027 and each subsequent year. It also eliminates requirements for establishing and developing carbon dioxide offset project categories.

LD 2063 An Act to Clarify Activities Allowed Under the Natural Resources Protection Act

Public Law 2025, chapter 590 amends several provisions in the Natural Resources Protection Act.

1. It adds the hand planting of native vegetation, the hand planting of native dune vegetation and certain corrective actions to the list of activities for which a permit is not required.
2. It clarifies the provisions regarding the circumstances under which a permit is not required when an emergency activity is conducted to alleviate a threat caused by a flood event.
3. It adds great ponds and habitat for state endangered and state threatened species that is significant wildlife habitat to the list of areas under the Department of Environmental Protection's compensation program and provides the department with 3rd-party enforcement rights to enforce deed restrictions or conservation easements executed to meet a requirement under its compensation program.

LD 2070 An Act to Improve the Management of Landfill Leachate and Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge at Solid Waste Landfills

Public Law 2025, chapter 651 does the following.

1. It provides that a facility requiring an air emission license that processes or incinerates sludge must implement best available control technology for any new source and best practical treatment for any existing source to minimize emissions of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances from the facility to the ambient air.
2. It provides that, in accordance with a schedule approved by the Department of Environmental Protection, a new or expanded solid waste landfill that requires for its construction or expansion a permit under the Natural Resources Protection Act for the alteration of freshwater wetlands must incorporate a leak detection system into the landfill's engineering design; integrate into the landfill's water quality monitoring plan the use of that leak detection system and the sampling and analysis of groundwater on the landfill site for perfluoroalkyl and

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polyfluoroalkyl substances; and provide the results of that groundwater sampling and analysis as part of the landfill's annual report.

3. It prohibits a licensed solid waste facility from processing, beneficially reusing or disposing of sludge at that facility unless the sludge has been characterized by the entity that generated the sludge in accordance with a plan approved by the department, which must include sampling and analysis of the sludge for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.
4. It prohibits the Commissioner of Environmental Protection from finding, for the purposes of a public benefit determination, that a new or expanded solid waste landfill owned by the State provides a substantial public benefit unless the landfill treats the leachate collected from the landfill to reduce the concentrations of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in the leachate in accordance with a license issued by the department.
5. It amends provisions of law regulating State-owned solid waste disposal facilities to provide that the Carpenter Ridge site may not be developed as or used for the operation of a State-owned solid waste disposal facility, including, but not limited to, a State-owned solid waste landfill. It prohibits the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services and other state agencies from applying for, and the Department of Environmental Protection from issuing, a new or expanded license or an amendment to or renewal of an existing license for the operation of a State-owned solid waste disposal facility at the Carpenter Ridge site. It also prohibits the bureau and other state agencies from operating or contracting for the operation of a State-owned solid waste disposal facility at the Carpenter Ridge site. It also provides that the Penobscot Nation has the right of first refusal to purchase the Carpenter Ridge site, or any portion of the Carpenter Ridge site, that may be proposed for sale by the bureau or other state agency having ownership over the site, in a manner consistent with applicable laws or rules regulating the sale of State-owned property.
6. It directs the bureau to procure technical information from waste industry professionals regarding criteria and considerations for siting new solid waste facilities in the State and for the sustainable management of special wastes and municipal solid waste bypass to ensure that sufficient capacity is available for those wastes that are generated in the State until at least 2050. On or before March 1, 2027, the bureau is required to submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters a report setting forth the technical information procured by the bureau. The committee is authorized to report out related legislation to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.
7. It directs the Department of Environmental Protection to conduct an evaluation of its rules regulating solid waste facilities and identify opportunities to develop new or support or improve existing facilities, technologies, programs, initiatives or processes in a manner consistent with the State's solid waste management hierarchy. In conducting that work, the department is required to solicit input from and invite the participation of waste industry stakeholders and the general public. On or before January 15, 2028, the department is required to submit a report setting forth the results of the evaluation, including any recommendations for legislative action, to the committee. The committee is authorized to report out related legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.