

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
132<sup>ND</sup> 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**

of displaying and awarding premiums. The law also provides that the commissioner may suspend the license of a licensee that violates these provisions.

It amends the law governing the distribution of funds from the Stipend Fund to agricultural fair licensees by allowing prizes paid by a licensee at any competition or event judged up to 48 hours prior to the licensed fair dates to be considered in calculating the distribution. The law also provides that this provision does not apply to livestock and poultry competitions or events, youth livestock and pulling competitions or events, pulling competitions or events or educational agricultural talks, workshops and demonstrations.

It also authorizes the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to use funds from the Stipend Fund to provide allowances to licensees for payments made for educational agricultural talks, workshops and demonstrations without regard to premiums paid for competitions or events in this category.

The law directs the commissioner, in consultation with the State Harness Racing Commission, to review rules regarding standards for setting harness racing dates to determine if rule changes are necessary and to report the commissioner's findings to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters.

Public Law 2025, chapter 582 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 23, 2026.

**LD 2118 An Act to Eliminate the Natural Areas Program and Reassign Certain Responsibilities Under the Program to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and to Amend the Law Governing Administration of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Bureau of Resource Management**

Public Law 2025, chapter 706 repeals the laws governing the Natural Areas Program administered by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and reassigns certain responsibilities under the program to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The law updates relevant definitions in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12 and cross-references in Titles 36 and 38 to reflect these changes. The law also reestablishes the Natural Areas Conservation Fund, which is administered by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

The law repeals on September 30, 2029 the provision that prohibits the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife from adopting rules to protect plants and plant communities except when required for the conservation of rare fish or wildlife species, threatened fish or wildlife species or endangered fish or wildlife species.

It also directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to provide a report, including any findings and recommendations, to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters and agriculture, conservation and forestry matters regarding the effect of this prohibition. Each joint standing committee may submit legislation based on the report to the 134th Legislature in 2029.