

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 848

H.P. 647

House of Representatives, February 23, 2007

An Act To Encourage Greater Public Input into the State Environmental Licensing Process

Submitted by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative ANNIS of Dover-Foxcroft.
Cosponsored by Senator BARTLETT of Cumberland and
Representatives: DUCHESNE of Hudson, KOFFMAN of Bar Harbor, Senators: MILLS of
Somerset, SMITH of Piscataquis.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §345-A, sub-§5** is enacted to read:

3 **5. Public meetings.** At the board's or commissioner's discretion, the board or
4 commissioner may schedule and hold public meetings in the geographic area of a
5 proposed project for the purpose of collecting comments that become part of the record in
6 a pending action. Any such meeting must be held during the period when written public
7 comments may be submitted to the department. This subsection and the conduct of a
8 public meeting do not change any other obligation the department has to hold public
9 hearings that are mandatory by statute or required after a timely request is filed.

10 **SUMMARY**

11 This bill provides the authority to the Department of Environmental Protection to
12 hold a public forum at which comments will be accepted and included as part of the
13 official record in a pending proceeding. The purpose of this bill is to fill a gap between
14 the receipt of written comments and the holding of an adjudicatory proceeding by
15 allowing an additional means by which the public can provide comments.