

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1528

H.P. 1101

House of Representatives, May 9, 2013

Resolve, To Provide for Livable, Affordable Neighborhoods

Reference to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington.
Cosponsored by Senator BOYLE of Cumberland and
Representatives: CRAY of Palmyra, HARLOW of Portland, REED of Carmel, TIMBERLAKE
of Turner, Senator: SAVIELLO of Franklin.

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PART A

Sec. A-1. Walkable thoroughfares. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation shall review the report "Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach" published by the Institute of Transportation Engineers and the Congress for the New Urbanism in 2010 and referred to in this Part as "the report" and shall assess the designs and recommendations contained in the report for roadway projects in urban areas in the State. Specifically, the department shall examine those aspects of the report that:

1. Promote a collaborative, multidisciplinary process involving certain transportation facilities; and
2. Focus on applying concepts and principles in the design of urban thoroughfares that emphasize walkable communities in order to facilitate the restoration of the multiple functions of urban streets; and be it further

Sec. A-2. Develop recommendations. Resolved: That, based on its review pursuant to section 1, the Department of Transportation shall develop recommendations regarding the incorporation of the concepts and principles outlined in the report into the Sensible Transportation Policy Act. The department shall submit its recommendations, together with any necessary implementing legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation by December 4, 2013. After receipt and review of the department's recommendations, the committee may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

PART B

Sec. B-1. Conservation developments. Resolved: That the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall develop a conservation development model designed to encourage the productive use of rural lands, provide traditional resource-based industries with opportunities for value-added business, provide rural towns with the financial ability to sustain local services and keep those who work the land free of conflicts with advancing suburban development. The department shall draw upon past work of the Legislature and state agencies and upon the laws, ordinances and regulations of other states and jurisdictions to develop a conservation development model that will encourage controlled-growth land use development that allows limited sustainable development while protecting the area's natural environmental features in perpetuity, including preserving open space landscapes and vistas, protecting farmland and natural habitats for wildlife and maintaining the character of rural communities. The conservation development model developed pursuant to this section must include provisions designed to:

1. Conserve open lands, including those areas containing unique and sensitive natural features such as woodlands, steep slopes, streams, floodplains, wetlands, aquifers and their recharge areas and agricultural lands, by setting them aside from development;
2. Preserve historical and archaeological resources;

1 offices, educational institutions, small-scale retail stores and restaurants, and the
2 preservation of open spaces that are accessible, usable and well-designed and that serve
3 as a community-wide amenity; and be it further

4 **Sec. C-2. Report. Resolved:** That the Department of Agriculture, Conservation
5 and Forestry shall submit its recommendations, together with any necessary
6 implementing legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation
7 and Forestry by December 4, 2013. After receipt and review of the department's
8 recommendations, the committee may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the
9 126th Legislature.

10 **SUMMARY**

11 The purpose of this resolve is to encourage the preservation of and the development
12 of livable, affordable neighborhoods. This resolve requires:

13 1. The Department of Transportation to review recommendations for roadway
14 projects in urban areas that apply concepts and principles in the design of urban
15 thoroughfares that emphasize walkable communities in order to facilitate the restoration
16 of the multiple functions of urban streets and to develop recommendations regarding the
17 incorporation of the concepts and principles into the Sensible Transportation Act. The
18 department is directed to submit its recommendations, together with any necessary
19 implementing legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation by
20 December 4, 2013;

21 2. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to develop a
22 conservation development model designed to encourage the productive use of rural lands,
23 provide traditional resource-based industries with opportunities for value-added business,
24 provide rural towns with the financial ability to sustain local services and keep those who
25 work the land free of conflicts with advancing suburban development. The department is
26 directed to submit its recommendations, together with any necessary implementing
27 legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
28 by December 4, 2013; and

29 3. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to develop a compact
30 village development model designed to promote relatively high residential density with
31 mixed land uses to serve as an alternative to low-density sprawl. The department is
32 directed to submit its recommendations, together with any necessary implementing
33 legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
34 by December 4, 2013.