

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1172

H.P. 744

House of Representatives, March 14, 2023

An Act to Reestablish Annual Reporting on Solid Waste in Maine

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative BELL of Yarmouth.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DOUDERA of Camden, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, O'NEIL of Saco, ZEIGLER of Montville.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §2124-A, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 291, Pt. B, §3, is
3 further amended to read:

4 By January 1, ~~2024~~ 2024 and ~~biennially~~ annually thereafter, the department shall
5 submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
6 ~~environmental~~ environment and natural resources matters and the Governor setting forth
7 information on statewide generation of solid waste, statewide recycling rates and available
8 disposal capacity for solid waste.

9 **Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §2133, sub-§7**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 291, Pt. B, §4, is
10 further amended to read:

11 **7. Recycling progress reports.** Municipalities shall report ~~biennially~~ annually, on
12 forms provided by the department, on their solid waste management and recycling
13 practices. The ~~biennial~~ annual report must identify the options available to residents and
14 businesses within the municipality for managing solid waste, including any provisions for
15 the separate management of reportable recyclable materials and organic waste and the
16 disposal of other municipal solid waste, including construction and demolition debris. The
17 department shall assist municipalities in developing and tracking a municipal or regional
18 recycling rate by developing a municipal waste stream management assessment model.
19 The model must rely on actual waste data whenever possible, but incorporate default
20 generation estimates when needed. Default generation estimates must incorporate factors
21 such as commercial activity, geographical differences and municipal population.

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection to annually instead of
24 biennially submit reports to the Legislature and Governor setting forth information on
25 statewide generation of solid waste, statewide recycling rates and available disposal
26 capacity for solid waste. The bill also amends the law requiring municipalities to submit
27 biennial progress reports to the department on recycling by making that an annual
28 requirement.