MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1787

H.P. 1150

House of Representatives, April 25, 2023

Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Convene a Stakeholder Group Tasked with a Comprehensive Overhaul and Modernization of the State Subdivision Statutes

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

ROBERT B. HUNT

R(+ B. Hunt

Clerk

Presented by Representative DUCHARME of Madison.

Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and

Representatives: CARMICHAEL of Greenbush, COSTAIN of Plymouth, CRAY of Palmyra, GUERRETTE of Caribou, HALL of Wilton, JACKSON of Oxford, MILLETT of Waterford, THERIAULT of Fort Kent.

Sec. 1. Subdivision laws review required. Resolved: That the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in coordination with the Department of Environmental Protection, shall convene a stakeholder group to review the subdivision laws in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, chapter 206-A and Title 38, chapter 3, subchapter 1, article 6. The stakeholder group shall recommend a comprehensive overhaul and modernization of the subdivision laws that promotes development in growth areas; reduces development pressure in rural areas; protects public health, safety and welfare; advances state goals to produce affordable housing; and streamlines the development review process. At a minimum, the stakeholder group must include representatives from municipal government, municipal planners, real estate developers, municipal law attorneys and representatives of conservation organizations. By December 6, 2023, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in coordination with the Department of Environmental Protection, shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. The joint standing committees may report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

18 SUMMARY

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This resolve requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in coordination with the Department of Environmental Protection, to convene a stakeholder group to review and recommend a comprehensive overhaul and modernization of the subdivision laws in the Maine Revised Statutes, Titles 12 and 38. The departments must submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, and the joint standing committees may report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.