

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

Legislative Document

No. 2089

H.P. 1404

House of Representatives, January 7, 2026

An Act to Amend the Law Governing Agricultural Labor Housing Standards

Submitted by the Department of Labor pursuant to Joint Rule 203.
Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.

R. B. Hunt
ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative PLUECKER of Warren.

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §586, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 387, §2, is amended to read:

§586. Agricultural labor housing standards

The bureau shall adopt rules for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the agricultural laborers and their families who occupy housing provided, owned or controlled by their employers. These rules apply only to housing facilities of employers of agricultural labor who provide housing to more than 5 employees and whose minimum housing habitability standards are not already established under the regulations on housing promulgated by the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration under the federal Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act, 29 United States Code, Sections 1801 et seq. The rules adopted under this subchapter must be identical to the federal housing habitability regulations promulgated to protect seasonal and migrant workers under the authority of the federal Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act. Rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A 2-A.

SUMMARY

This bill removes the requirement that rules adopted by the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards governing agricultural labor housing standards must be identical to the federal housing habitability regulations promulgated to protect seasonal and migrant workers under the authority of the federal Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act.