

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
January 5, 2000 to May 12, 2000

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
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PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

J.S. McCarthy Company
Augusta, Maine
2000

CHAPTER 591

H.P. 1758 - L.D. 2464

An Act to Change the Aquaculture Lease Process**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6072, sub-§5, as amended by PL 1987, c. 453, §1, is further amended to read:

5. Application review. The commissioner shall review the application and set a hearing date if ~~he~~ the commissioner is satisfied that the written application is complete, the application indicates that the lease could be granted and the applicant has the financial and technical capability to carry out the proposed activities. ~~When the commissioner has determined that the application is complete, the commissioner shall forward a copy of the completed application and notice of hearing shall be forwarded to the known riparian owners within 1,000 feet of the proposed lease and to the municipality or municipalities in which or adjacent to which the lease is proposed. A municipality shall must be granted intervenor status upon written request.~~

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6072, sub-§6, ¶D is enacted to read:

D. The applicant shall give at least 2 weeks' notice of the hearing by publication of an advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation that serves the area in which or adjacent to which the lease is proposed. The advertisement must state, at a minimum, the location, date, time and purpose of the hearing and must indicate how a copy of the application and the department site review may be obtained.

Sec. 3. Report on aquaculture lease process. The Department of Marine Resources shall submit a report by January 15, 2001 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters regarding its ongoing review of the aquaculture lease process. As part of its review, the department shall consider any changes to the process necessary to address the following issues: the rights of an applicant for an aquaculture lease or an aquaculture license, municipal involvement in the lease process and long-term planning for aquaculture in the State. In developing its report, the department shall consult with persons interested in the aquaculture lease process, including representatives of the aquaculture industry, representatives of municipalities and other interested persons. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having

jurisdiction over marine resources matters may report out a bill to the First Regular Session of the 120th Legislature regarding the aquaculture lease process.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 592

S.P. 157 - L.D. 477

An Act to Establish Standards and Conditions for Designation of Ecological Reserves on Lands Managed by the Bureau of Parks and Lands**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13076, sub-§3, ¶F is enacted to read:

F. The Natural Resources Information and Mapping Center shall maintain a database of areas designated as ecological reserves as defined in Title 12, section 1801, subsection 4-A and other public lands designated and managed for equivalent purposes and shall provide scientific review of areas on state land proposed as ecological reserves.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §1801, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Ecological reserve. "Ecological reserve" means an area owned or leased by the State, under the jurisdiction of the bureau, designated by the director for the purpose of maintaining one or more natural community types or native ecosystem types in a natural condition and range of variation and contributing to the protection of Maine's biological diversity and managed:

A. As a benchmark against which biological and environmental change may be measured;

B. To protect sufficient habitat for those species whose habitat needs are unlikely to be met on lands managed for other purposes; or

C. As a site for ongoing scientific research, long-term environmental monitoring and education.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §1805 is enacted to read:

§1805. Designation of ecological reserve

The director may designate ecological reserves on parcels of land under the jurisdiction of the bureau that were included in the inventory of potential