

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 5, 2012 to July 10, 2013

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
OCTOBER 9, 2013

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2013

above, then either the landlord or the tenant may terminate the lease or tenancy at will with a minimum of 30 days' notice. Except as provided in section 6033, a landlord may not retain a security deposit or a portion of a security deposit for a lease or tenancy at will terminated as a result of a radon test in accordance with this subsection.

Sec. 3. Rulemaking. By November 1, 2013, the Department of Health and Human Services shall adopt rules, in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, to implement the requirements of this Act regarding the definition of those residential buildings where a radon test must be conducted by a person registered with the department and standards related to testing equipment that may be used by a landlord or other person. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 4. Prior tests. If a residential building was tested for the presence of radon in accordance with protocols identified by the Department of Health and Human Services prior to November 1, 2013, this Act may not be construed to require a landlord or other person who on behalf of a landlord enters into a lease or tenancy at will agreement for a residential building to conduct another test before March 1, 2014.

Sec. 5. Department of Health and Human Services; modification to disclosure statement form. By November 1, 2013, the Department of Health and Human Services shall modify the standard disclosure statement form required under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 14, section 6030-D, subsection 2 as necessary to reflect the changes made by this Act.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 325

H.P. 260 - L.D. 385

An Act To Improve Wind Energy Development Permitting

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3451, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Best practical mitigation. "Best practical mitigation" means methods or technologies used during construction or operation of a wind energy development that control or reduce to the lowest feasible level impacts to scenic or wildlife resources in accordance with rules adopted by the department. "Best practical mitigation" may include, but is not limited to, turbine and blade coloration to reduce visual impacts, aircraft detection technologies to reduce the need for

aircraft hazard warning lighting, technologies to detect at-risk animal populations and modification or curtailment of operations during specified times or conditions to reduce bird and bat mortality.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3452-A is enacted to read:

§3452-A. Impact on Bicknell's Thrush habitat; adverse effect

If any portion of the generating facilities or associated facilities of a wind energy development is proposed to be located within a conterminus area of coniferous forest that lies above 2,700 feet in elevation, is at least 25 acres in size and provides suitable habitat for Bicknell's Thrush, Catharus bicknelli, and in which sightings of Bicknell's Thrush have been documented to occur during the bird's breeding season within the previous 15 years, there is a rebuttable presumption that the development would constitute a significant adverse effect on natural resources for the purposes of Title 38, section 484, subsection 3. The presumption extends to the entire conterminus area of suitable habitat and is not limited to the parts of the area immediately proximate to where Bicknell's Thrush sightings have been documented.

Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §3459 is enacted to read:
§3459. Best practical mitigation

1. Process. An application for a grid-scale wind energy development must contain, and the primary siting authority shall require, best practical mitigation for all aspects of construction and operation of generating facilities. In determining best practical mitigation options, the primary siting authority shall consider:

- A. The existing state of technology;
- B. The effectiveness of available technologies or methods for reducing impacts; and
- C. The economic feasibility of the type of mitigation under consideration.

2. Rules. The department shall adopt rules governing best practical mitigation under this section. Rules adopted under this subsection are major substantive rules as described in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Any amendments to the rules after final adoption of the major substantive rules are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 4. 38 MRSA §344, sub-§2-A, ¶D is enacted to read:

D. For an application for a permit for a grid-scale wind energy development, as defined in Title 35-A, section 3451, subsection 6, the following procedures apply.

- (1) Except as provided in subparagraph (2), if 5 or more interested persons request in

writing that the commissioner hold a public hearing, a hearing must be held as follows.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of State shall publish a notice of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the State. The published notice must:

(i) State the time and place of any scheduled hearing or state the manner in which a hearing may be requested;

(ii) State the manner and time within which data, views or arguments may be submitted to the department for consideration;

(iii) State the name, address and phone number of the department staff person responsible for providing additional information regarding the hearing; and

(iv) Include a brief and general summary of the purpose of the hearing.

The department shall reimburse the Secretary of State for any costs incurred under this division.

(b) The department shall post a notice of the hearing on its publicly accessible website 17 to 24 days prior to the hearing.

(c) The hearing is not an adjudicatory hearing and is not subject to the requirements of Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 4.

(d) The commissioner or a designee who has decision-making responsibility over the subject matter to be discussed at the hearing shall hold and conduct the hearing.

(e) Written statements and arguments concerning the application must be filed within 10 days after the close of the hearing unless a longer period is established by the commissioner.

(f) All witnesses must be sworn in.

(g) All public comments must be transcribed and included as part of the record.

(2) The commissioner shall hold an adjudicatory hearing under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 4 if 2 or more interested parties who qualify as intervenors request an adjudicatory hearing in writing stating an intent to offer a

witness or cross-examine a witness, unless the commissioner determines and records in writing why an adjudicatory hearing will not assist the commissioner in understanding information relevant to the application.

(3) The commissioner shall accept public comment on an application during the course of processing the application. The commissioner shall set a deadline for receiving public comments.

(4) The commissioner may not issue the final decision until 10 business days after the close of the public comment period. The commissioner's final decision must include responses to the public comments.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 326

H.P. 353 - L.D. 534

An Act To Improve Care Coordination for Persons with Mental Illness

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1711-C, sub-§6, ¶A, as amended by PL 2011, c. 347, §6, is further amended to read:

A. To another health care practitioner or facility for diagnosis, treatment or care of individuals or to complete the responsibilities of a health care practitioner or facility that provided diagnosis, treatment or care of individuals, as provided in this paragraph.

(1) For a disclosure within the office, practice or organizational affiliate of the health care practitioner or facility, no authorization is required.

(2) For a disclosure outside of the office, practice or organizational affiliate of the health care practitioner or facility, authorization is not required, except that in nonemergency circumstances authorization is required for health care information derived from mental health services provided by:

(a) A clinical nurse specialist licensed under the provisions of Title 32, chapter 31;

(b) A psychologist licensed under the provisions of Title 32, chapter 56;

(c) A social worker licensed under the provisions of Title 32, chapter 83;