

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
January 6, 2016 to April 29, 2016

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
JULY 29, 2016

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

Augusta, Maine
2016

CHAPTER 76
H.P. 294 - L.D. 427

**Resolve, Directing Certain
State Agencies To Consider the
Effects of Marine Debris**

Preamble. Whereas, the ocean environment and its resources are vital to the economy, cultural identity and daily lives of many Maine citizens and communities; and

Whereas, coastal residents and communities in Maine depend on healthy and abundant ocean resources for their livelihoods, recreation and ways of life; and

Whereas, the oceans annually receive an estimated 4,800,000 to 12,700,000 metric tons of plastic waste; and

Whereas, there is a projected increase in the amount of plastic marine debris based on current production and consumption; and

Whereas, plastics of all sizes have been shown to adsorb micropollutants and organic contaminants in the environment; and

Whereas, large pieces of plastic, including plastics from recreational and commercial fishing, marine vessels and marine fishing gear, degrade into progressively smaller fragments through chemical and physical processes, eventually resulting in microscopic particles of plastic that remain in the environment indefinitely; and

Whereas, plastics are a recognized contaminant of concern that threatens wildlife and human health; and

Whereas, a wide range of organisms, from zooplankton to mussels to fish to baleen whales, are capable of ingesting contaminated microplastics; and

Whereas, consumption of contaminated species is thought to increase the potential for harm to human health from hazardous chemicals; and

Whereas, Maine persons who fish commercially land approximately 305,500,000 pounds of seafood annually for human consumption and one study estimates European shellfish consumers consume between 1,800 and 11,000 microplastics per year; and

Whereas, marine debris can be large but difficult to see in the ocean if partially or totally submerged, and a vessel that encounters marine debris at sea can suffer costly damage, either to its structure or through a tangled propeller or clogged intake; and

Whereas, marine debris can be a vector for invasive species, which can have a devastating impact on local fisheries and ecosystems and can be costly to manage or eradicate; and

Whereas, increasing marine debris has the potential to threaten livelihoods and activities that have been at the core of Maine's coastal communities for hundreds of years; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Department of Marine Resources, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to consider the effects of marine debris. Resolved: That, until January 1, 2019, when the Department of Marine Resources, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry takes any action, that department shall consider the marine debris that may be generated by that action, the effects of marine debris that may be generated by that action and how the potential marine debris may be managed and mitigated.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 77
H.P. 1093 - L.D. 1602

**Resolve, To Implement the
Recommendations of the
Commission To Strengthen
and Align the Services
Provided to Maine's Veterans
To Address the Transportation
Needs of Maine's Veterans**

Sec. 1. Veterans transportation study to determine need. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation, in conjunction with the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Labor, shall conduct a study, using available federal funds, to determine the need for locally available transportation services that convey veterans to and from employment or employment-related services, medical appointments, mental health services, social services and community activities; and be it further

Sec. 2. Study purpose. Resolved: That the purpose of the study is to inform the development of a pilot project to be established in a location served by a regional transportation network to provide transportation for veterans. The goal of the study and the pilot project is to improve access to essential programs and services for veterans, including, but not limited to, employment or employment-related services, medical appointments, mental health services, social services and community activities, and to inform potential future development of a long-term transportation policy designed to enable the delivery of cost-effective, sustainable and veteran-focused transportation services to