

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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
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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

meet the current and future needs of veterans in the State; and be it further

Sec. 3. Participants. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation shall invite the participation of various stakeholders in the study and in the development of the pilot project, including, but not limited to, the Public Transit Advisory Council, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 4209-A; and be it further

Sec. 4. Reports. Resolved: That by February 1, 2017 the Department of Transportation shall submit an initial written report on the progress of the study and by January 15, 2018 the Department of Transportation shall submit a final written report, including findings and recommendations, to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation, health and human services and labor matters and veterans and legal affairs. The joint standing committees may each submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature relating to the subject matter of the final report; and be it further

Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

**TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF
Multimodal - Transit 0443**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to conduct a study regarding the availability of transportation services to veterans.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2015-16	2016-17
All Other	\$0	\$40,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES	\$0	\$40,000
FUND TOTAL		

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 78
H.P. 1144 - L.D. 1677**

**Resolve, Directing the
Department of Administrative
and Financial Services and the
Maine Public Employees
Retirement System To Identify
Retirees Whose Retirement
Benefit Calculations Were
Adversely Affected by Certain
Pay Freezes and To Calculate
Costs Associated with
Authorizing Those Retirees To
Include Such Lost Wages in
Retirement Benefit
Calculations**

Preamble. Whereas, the law governing the calculation of member retirement benefits was amended by Public Law 2015, chapter 267, Part CCCC, section 1 and chapter 385 to allow members of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System who retired on or after July 1, 2015 to pay the necessary member contributions to include in their retirement benefit calculations wages lost due to merit pay freezes and longevity pay freezes; and

Whereas, equity requires that the law be similarly amended to allow members of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System who retired prior to July 1, 2015 to pay the necessary member contributions to include in their retirement benefit calculations wages lost due to such pay freezes; and

Whereas, in order to rectify the situation, it is necessary first to determine the population of retirees who are potentially affected by this inequity, and then to calculate the costs associated with expanding the universe of retirees who are permitted to elect to contribute the necessary member contributions to include in their retirement benefit calculations wages lost due to such pay freezes; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Identification of members. Resolved: That the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and the Maine Public Employees Retirement System shall work together to identify retirees who retired prior to July 1, 2015 and whose retirement benefit calculations were adversely affected by merit pay freezes and longevity pay freezes in effect in fiscal years 2011-12 and 2012-13; and be it further

Sec. 2. Calculation of costs. Resolved: That the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and the Maine Public Employees Retirement System shall work together to calculate the projected costs associated with authorizing members of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System who re-