

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LAWS**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF MAINE**

**AS PASSED BY THE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND SPECIAL SESSION**  
**September 29, 2021**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**  
**January 5, 2022 to May 9, 2022**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**SECOND SPECIAL SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**DECEMBER 29, 2021**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**AUGUST 8, 2022**

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

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**Augusta, Maine**  
**2022**

**2. Contents of notification.** A notification under ~~this section subsection 1 or 1-A~~ must include the vehicle's make, model, year, body type, vehicle identification number and any registration and plates on the vehicle. This notification also must include the date the vehicle came into possession of the owner, the owner's agent or person in charge of the premises where the vehicle is located, under what circumstances the vehicle came into that person's possession and whether the vehicle is salvage.

**3. Response.** On receipt of a notification under ~~this section subsection 1 or 1-A~~, the Secretary of State shall inform the vehicle owner and lienholder, if any, by regular mail that the vehicle is being claimed under the abandoned vehicle law. The notice to the vehicle owner and lienholder, if any, must identify the vehicle by the year, make, model and vehicle identification number, give the name and address of the party claiming ownership, state the charges against the vehicle that the owner and lienholder, if any, must pay to retrieve the vehicle, and the date that the title or letter of ownership will pass to the new owner. If the party is claiming ownership of the vehicle pursuant to section 603, subsection 6, the notice must inform the vehicle owner and lienholder that the owner must pay to the Secretary of State the fee required in section 603 to transfer the title. A copy of this letter must be provided to the person claiming ownership.

**4. Publication.** If the Secretary of State finds no record of ~~the~~ a vehicle with respect to which the ~~Secretary of State is notified under subsection 1 or 1-A~~, the owner of the premises where the vehicle is located shall publish a notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the premises is located. That notice must clearly:

A. Describe the vehicle by the year, make, model and vehicle identification number;

B. State that if the owner of the vehicle or lienholder has not properly retrieved it and paid all reasonable charges for its towing, storage and repair within 14 days from the publication, ownership of the vehicle passes to the owner of the premises where the vehicle is located; and

C. State how the owner of the premises may be contacted.

**Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §1857**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 240, §6, is further amended to read:

#### **§1857. Limits**

If the notification to the Secretary of State required by section 1854 is made more than 14 days after receipt of a vehicle described in section 1851 or if notification is not submitted to the Secretary of State, the person holding the vehicle may not collect more than 14 days

of storage fees. Daily storage charges must be reasonable and total storage charges may not exceed \$900 \$1,500 for a 30-day period.

See title page for effective date.

## **CHAPTER 516**

### **H.P. 541 - L.D. 736**

#### **An Act To Enhance the Ecological Reserve System**

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

**Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §1805**, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 592, §3 and amended by PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 and PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §24, is further amended 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 ecological reserves published in the July 1998 report of the Maine Forest Biodiversity Project, "An Ecological Reserves System Inventory: Potential Ecological Reserves on Maine's Existing Public and Private Conservation Lands."~~ The director may designate additional ecological reserves or remove the designation of a parcel of land as an ecological reserve only in conjunction with the adoption of a management plan for a particular parcel of land, and the process for adoption of that management plan must provide for public review and comment on the plan. When a proposed management plan includes the removal of a parcel of land of 10 acres or more as an ecological reserve, the director shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public lands matters prior to the bureau's updating the accompanying management plan for the parcel of land. The report must include a description of the parcel of land, the reasons for the removal of the designation as an ecological reserve, the intended uses of the parcel of land and the benefits to the public as a result of the removal of the designation as an ecological reserve. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public lands matters may report out a bill relating to the subject matter of the report.

**1. Allowed uses.** ~~Allowed uses~~ The director may within an ecological reserve ~~must be~~ allow uses that are compatible with the purpose of the ecological reserve and ~~may do~~ not cause significant impact on natural community composition or ecosystem processes. ~~Allowed uses~~ Uses that the director may allow include

nonmanipulative scientific research, public education and nonmotorized recreation activities such as hiking, cross-country skiing, primitive camping, gathering of materials for cultural and traditional use by a member of a federally recognized Wabanaki Indian nation, tribe or band in this State, hunting, fishing and trapping. For the purposes of this subsection, "primitive camping" means camping in a location without facilities or where facilities are limited to a privy, fire ring, tent pad, 3-sided shelter and picnic table. The removal of trees and construction of facilities associated with these allowed uses are allowed. The director may allow other uses when their impact remains low and does not compromise the purpose of the ecological reserve. Recreational use of surface waters is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

## **2. Trails and roads for motorized vehicle use.**

The director shall allow the continuing use of an existing snowmobile trail, an all-terrain vehicle trail or a road if the director determines the trail or road is well designed and built and situated in a safe location and its use has minimal adverse impact on the ecological value of an ecological reserve and it cannot be reasonably relocated outside the ecological reserve.

A new snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle trail or a new road is allowed only if the director determines all of the following criteria are met:

- A. No safe, cost-effective alternative exists;
- B. The impact on protected natural resource values is minimal; and
- C. The trail or road will provide a crucial link in a significant trail or road system.

**3. Incompatible uses.** Uses that are incompatible with the purpose of an ecological reserve are not allowed. Incompatible uses include timber harvesting, salvage harvesting, commercial mining and commercial sand and gravel excavation. For the purposes of this subsection, "salvage harvesting" means the removal of dead or damaged trees to recover economic value that would otherwise be lost.

**4. Resource protection measures.** The director shall take action to control a wildfire occurring on an ecological reserve or spreading to bureau lands. The director may authorize a prescribed burn in an ecological reserve if necessary to replicate natural processes that maintain specific natural communities or rare species populations. The director may implement predetermined wildfire tactics to protect the integrity of the landscape and shall use minimal impact suppression tactics to the extent possible.

The director may use pesticides, including herbicides, and sanitation harvests to control insect and disease outbreaks only in response to:

- A. A specific threat to the functioning of a native ecosystem or managed wildlife habitat;

- B. A specific threat to human health or safety; or
- C. A condition that is likely to result in significant damage to adjacent lands if control is not exercised.

For the purposes of this subsection, "sanitation harvest" means the removal of trees that have been attacked or are in imminent danger of attack by insects or disease in order to prevent these insects or diseases from spreading to other trees.

**5. Limits on ~~total land~~ acreage designated as ecological reserves.** The total land acreage designated as ecological reserves may not exceed ~~15% of the total land acreage under the jurisdiction of the bureau or 100,000~~ 115,000 acres, ~~whichever is less~~. No more than ~~6%~~ 8% of the operable timberland acres on public reserved lands and nonreserved public lands may be designated as ecological reserves. For the purposes of this subsection, "operable timberland" means land the bureau considers viable for commercial timber harvest operations and does not include inoperable lands, which are lands not suitable for timber production due to topography or hydrologic setting. Inoperable lands include ledges, steep slopes, nonforested barrens, mountaintops, nonforested wetlands and other nonproductive sites. Lands donated or acquired after the effective date of this section with the condition that the donated or acquired land be designated an ecological reserve are not included when calculating acreage limits under this subsection.

The designation of land as an ecological reserve may not result in a decline in the ~~volume of timber harvested on land under the jurisdiction of the bureau.~~ For the purposes of this subsection, "a decline in the volume of timber harvested" means an annual harvest volume of less than the average annual harvest volume for the preceding 10 years sustainable harvest level on land under the jurisdiction of the bureau to less than the average annual harvest for the preceding 10 years. For purposes of this subsection, "sustainable harvest level" means the amount of forest products that can be harvested over time without reducing timber inventory and is determined by the operable timberland acres of land and the forest growth rate.

**6. Reporting requirements.** The bureau shall report the status of ecological reserves under the reporting requirements of subchapters ~~III~~ 3 and ~~IV~~ 4.

See title page for effective date.