

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 7, 2022 to March 30, 2023

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
April 5, 2023 to July 26, 2023

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 29, 2023

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
OCTOBER 25, 2023

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

Augusta, Maine
2023

98-21. The Maine Public Employees Retirement System shall consult and collaborate with any applicable retirement associations, such as the National Association of State Retirement Administrators, as necessary. The Maine Public Employees Retirement System shall submit a report with its recommendations, including any suggested legislation, no later than December 6, 2023 to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing. The committee may report out a bill based upon the report and recommendations to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 24

S.P. 537 - L.D. 1318

Resolve, Directing the Maine Technology Institute to Review Targeted Technology Sectors and Industry Clusters

Sec. 1. Maine Technology Institute review.

Resolved: That the Maine Technology Institute, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 33-D, shall review the effectiveness and relevancy of the targeted technology sectors and the industry clusters that have developed within those sectors to determine whether the laws governing the sectors and clusters should be amended. The institute shall solicit public input during the review. By January 15, 2024, the institute shall submit a report on the results of the review, including findings, recommendations and suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. The committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 25

H.P. 1064 - L.D. 1652

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 119: Motor Vehicle Fuel Volatility Requirements, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A requires legislative authorization before major substantive agency rules may be finally adopted by the agency; and

Whereas, a major substantive rule has been submitted to the Legislature outside the legislative rule acceptance period; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this resolve is necessary to record the Legislature's position on final adoption of the rule; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Adoption. Resolved: That final adoption of portions of Chapter 119: Motor Vehicle Fuel Volatility Requirements, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Environmental Protection that has been submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A outside the legislative rule acceptance period, is authorized.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective June 5, 2023.

CHAPTER 26

H.P. 308 - L.D. 491

Resolve, to Require the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Develop a Plan for Communication Regarding Certain Municipal Regulation

Sec. 1. Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to develop a plan for communication regarding municipal regulation. Resolved: That the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall develop a plan to inform municipalities about the limits on local regulation of hunting, fishing and trapping and the operation of watercraft, snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles. The department shall coordinate with a statewide organization representing municipalities to create a distribution scheme for the information. The department shall submit a report with the plan and distribution scheme, together with any necessary legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife no later than January 1, 2024. The committee is authorized to report out a bill based on the

report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 27

H.P. 547 - L.D. 881

Resolve, Directing the University of Maine System to Study the Barriers to Use of Cross-laminated Timber

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the viability and stability of local, regional and state economies depend upon our heritage industries, and the regional catastrophic losses in the timber industry, a heritage industry in our State, constitutes an emergency; and

Whereas, a transition to cross-laminated timber and other climate-friendly building materials in our region, country and world is under way, and this transition would be a tremendous economic driver in this State, especially for timber producers, with the resultant boost benefiting the economic, education, health, housing and other goals of the entire State for decades; and

Whereas, in other parts of the country and world, buildings up to 25 stories in height and up to the size of a city block in area have proven that cross-laminated timber is structurally sound and can outperform the fire-resistant qualities of concrete and steel construction; and

Whereas, an increase in demand for cross-laminated timber in this part of the country would help attract manufacturers to this State, revitalizing mill communities and all components of the timber sector in this State; and

Whereas, this State could have the first cross-laminated timber manufacturing plant in New England, and a manufacturing plant based in this State could supply countless building projects in these densely populated regions that otherwise would forgo cross-laminated timber due to transportation costs; and

Whereas, the University of Maine System is a world leader in forestry and advanced building materials, and this resolve directs the University of Maine System to study and make recommendations for more widespread use of cross-laminated timber; and

Whereas, the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative session; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. University of Maine System study.

Resolved: That the University of Maine System, within existing resources, shall study the barriers to more widespread use of cross-laminated timber and make recommendations for any professional training or other measures that would promote its use in construction. The University of Maine System may apply for and receive funds, grants or contributions from public or private sources to carry out the study as provided in this resolve as long as the person providing the funds, grants or contributions does not have a vested pecuniary interest in the outcome of the study.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:

That, by December 6, 2023, the University of Maine System shall submit a report based on its study in section 1 to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business and the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The joint standing committees may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective June 8, 2023.

CHAPTER 28

H.P. 71 - L.D. 103

Resolve, Directing the Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council to Study Incentives for the Provision of Child Care in Maine

Sec. 1. Directive to study incentives for employers. Resolved:

That the Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council, as established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 24051, shall complete the following tasks:

1. Identify and review obstacles to the availability of child care in this State, including, but not limited to, the relevant costs for parents and providers and the difference between the amount of child care that is available in this State and the amount of child care that is needed;