

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 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

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;

2. Identify and consider mechanisms that could be used to overcome the obstacles identified in subsection 1 and to support the child care providers that currently operate in this State, including, but not limited to, state funding, grant programs, workforce incentives and tax credits; and

3. Conduct a review of other states that have faced child care obstacles similar to those in this State, identify the measures taken by those states to address the obstacles and determine whether similar measures may be effectively implemented in this State.

To the extent any task identified in this section is already being conducted by one or more state entities, the council may, instead of completing the task on its own, identify the entities conducting the task, review the work being conducted by those entities and evaluate whether there is a need for increased resources or coordination related to that task.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, no later than January 15, 2024, the Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business summarizing its findings and recommendations related to the tasks identified in section 1. The Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business may report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 29

H.P. 128 - L.D. 207

**Resolve, Directing the
Commissioner of Public Safety
to Establish a Stakeholder
Group to Examine the
Responsibilities, Fees and
Duties of the Technical
Building Codes and Standards
Board**

Sec. 1. Stakeholder group. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Public Safety shall convene a stakeholder group to examine the responsibilities, fees and duties of the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board, as established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 5-A.

1. The commissioner shall invite, at a minimum, the participation in the stakeholder group of the following:

A. The Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation or the commissioner's designee;

B. The Director of the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future or the director's designee;

C. The State Fire Marshal or the marshal's designee;

D. The Executive Director of the Efficiency Maine Trust or the executive director's designee;

E. The director of the Maine State Housing Authority or the director's designee;

F. A representative of a statewide association of real estate developers;

G. A representative of a trade association of engineers;

H. A representative of a trade association of architects;

I. A representative of a trade association of residential building contractors;

J. A representative of a trade association of commercial construction contractors;

K. A representative of a trade association of lumber dealers;

L. A representative of a statewide association of fire chiefs;

M. A representative of a statewide chamber of commerce;

N. A representative of a trade association of building officials and inspectors; and

O. A representative of a statewide association of municipalities.

2. At a minimum, the stakeholder group shall examine the following subjects relating to the responsibilities, fees and duties of the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board:

A. The administration of the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board and the budget and fees required to support the board's duties;

B. The timeline for the adoption of building codes and standards;

C. The appropriate legislative committee of jurisdiction for legislation concerning building codes and standards;

D. Cost-benefit analyses associated with the adoption of building codes and standards including consideration of the effect of such adoption on housing costs;

E. The adoption of so-called stretch codes;

F. The responsibilities and feasibility of technical advisory groups; and