

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

December 2021

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

The law requires the Director of the Bureau of Forestry, prior to undertaking mitigation or remediation activities that will result in use of the fund, to use all reasonable efforts to notify the responsible party of mitigation and remediation activities needed and to provide a reasonable time frame for the responsible party to implement those activities.

The law allows the bureau to recover costs incurred through the use of this fund and to place a lien on a property when the responsible party is unwilling or unable to repay such costs. The law also requires the director to notify the responsible party that a lien may be imposed on real estate owned by the responsible party if the department undertakes mitigation and remediation activities that will result in the use of the fund.

LD 36 An Act To Amend the Definition of “Timber Harvesting”

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 30 amends the definition of "timber harvesting" to clarify that timber harvesting means any cutting or removal of trees or forest products that when cut or removed are transported to a roundwood processing operation. The law further clarifies that, for purposes of the laws governing forest practices, timber harvesting does not include reclaiming trees, logs or bark left over from timber harvesting or other operations, including but not limited to retrieving submerged timbers from log drives or bark from bark piles. The law also adds bark to the definition of "forest products" and log yards and bark processors to the definition of "roundwood processing operation" in the laws governing forest landowner and wood processor reporting requirements.

Public Law 2021, chapter 30 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 7, 2021.

LD 63 An Act Regarding the Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private and Special Law 2021, chapter 6 extends liability protection for the State and firefighters who travel to fight wildfires or other emergencies outside of the Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact area. Currently, all the New England states, New York and the Canadian provinces of Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador and the Maritimes make up the Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact.

Private and Special Law 2021, chapter 6 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 11, 2021.