

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 ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

December 2021

STAFF:

DANIEL TARTAKOFF, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
DEIRDRE SCHNEIDER, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla/>

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*Committee member for a portion of the session

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

LD 722 Resolve, To Study the Establishment of the Maine Climate Corps

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2021, chapter 25 directs the Maine Commission for Community Service to study and identify short-term projects and tasks in state agencies that could be made into service projects for residents of the State. It also directs the commission to provide the basis for the establishment of a Maine Climate Corps as proposed in the Maine Climate Council's climate action plan, "Maine Won't Wait: A Four-year Plan for Climate Action," to study existing service programs to identify potential hosts for the Maine Climate Corps, along with identifying possible public and private partnerships and to include in its study how to best structure a Maine Climate Corps program to address shifting and expanding climate challenges that can be addressed by the Maine Climate Corps in the future and also to allow for long-term service projects. The commission is required to submit a report based on its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources by January 31, 2022.

LD 771 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certification

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 173 modifies the laws governing the wastewater treatment plant operator certification program administered by the Department of Environmental Protection. It changes the procedure for revocation of a wastewater treatment plant operator certification, provides authority for suspension of a wastewater treatment plant operator certification, clarifies how the department may administer the program, updates outdated terminology and eliminates outdated provisions. It clarifies the department's existing authority with respect to licenses and its authority with respect to wastewater treatment plant operator certificates. It makes a violation of the chapter and rules governing sewage treatment operators a Class E crime, instead of a misdemeanor, consistent with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17-A, section 4.

LD 780 An Act Regarding Uncontrolled Hazardous Substance Sites

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 117 makes the following changes to the State's uncontrolled hazardous substance sites law.

1. It amends the definition of "hazardous substance" by including substances defined as hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980.

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2. It provides a limited exemption from liability for publicly owned treatment works based on the contribution by the publicly owned treatment works of effluent or sewage sludge to an uncontrolled hazardous substance site.
3. It provides a limited exemption for public water systems based on the contribution by the public water system of water treatment residuals to an uncontrolled hazardous substance site.

Public Law 2021, chapter 117 also requires that, on or before January 15, 2023, the Department of Environmental Protection report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters regarding the uncontrolled hazardous substance sites where the department has used its authority to require responsible parties to investigate or remove hazardous substances that are pollutants or contaminants and, for each site, provide information identifying the substance involved.

LD 802 An Act To Ensure Decommissioning of Solar Energy Developments

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 151 requires a person to obtain approval of a decommissioning plan from the Department of Environmental Protection or, in the case of a solar energy development located in the unorganized and deorganized areas, from the Maine Land Use Planning Commission before constructing or operating a solar energy development with ground-mounted solar panels occupying three or more acres.

LD 872 An Act Concerning Motor Vehicle Emissions Control System Tampering

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 119 prohibits a person from tampering with the emission control system of a motor vehicle and also prohibits the sale, lease or rental or transfer of title or right of possession of a motor vehicle by a dealer if a person has tampered with the vehicle's emission control system.

LD 909 An Act Regarding the Depth of Phillips Lake in the Town of Dedham

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Private and Special Law 2021, chapter 7 authorizes the Lucerne-in-Maine Village Corporation to adopt a water level ordinance pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, chapter 187, subchapter 6 to regulate water level regimes and minimum flow requirements for Phillips Lake in the Town of Dedham. It also authorizes the Lucerne-in-Maine Village Corporation to enter into an interlocal agreement with the Town of Dedham to regulate water level regimes and minimum flow requirements for Phillips Lake.