

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
130<sup>TH</sup> 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**

**LD 820 Resolve, To Convene a Working Group To Develop Plans To Protect Maine's Agricultural Lands When Siting Solar Arrays**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2021, chapter 26 directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convene a working group of stakeholders to develop plans and consider ways to discourage the use of land of higher agricultural value and encourage the use of more marginal agricultural lands when siting a solar array. The department must submit its report and recommendations, including any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology; and the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources no later than January 14, 2022.

**LD 870 Resolve, Resolving, Directing the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations To Study the Impact of Policies Regarding Agriculture, Access to Land, Access to Grants and Access to Financing on African-American and Indigenous Farmers in the State**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2021, chapter 27 directs the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations to study the impact of policies regarding agriculture, access to land, access to grants and access to financing on African-American and indigenous farmers in the State. The law directs the commission to report its findings and recommendations from the study required by the resolve to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry by January 17, 2022. The Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature relating to the subject matter of the report.

The law also provides one-time funds, \$20,000 in fiscal year 2021-22, for the study.

**LD 937 Resolve, To Direct the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife To Jointly Develop Recommendations Regarding Carbon Storage Programs and Policies**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2021, chapter 28 directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to jointly develop recommendations for the establishment of programs and policies to promote and incentivize, where appropriate, practices that increase sequestration of soil carbon on natural and working lands by farmers, landowners and land managers.

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

The law directs the departments to submit an interim report, on or before March 1, 2022, to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and provides that the joint standing committee may submit a bill to the 130th Legislature relating to the subject matter of the report. The law also directs the departments to submit a final report, on or before September 1, 2022, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural, conservation and forestry matters and provides that the joint standing committee may submit a bill to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature relating to the subject matter of the report.

### **LD 1159 An Act To Amend the Membership Requirements of the Board of Pesticides Control**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2021, chapter 179 amends the membership requirements of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control. The law provides that the member of the Board of Pesticides Control who is a scientist from the University of Maine having practical experience and expertise in integrated pest management must specialize in agronomy, entomology or plant pathology. The law provides that the two members appointed to represent the public must have a demonstrated interest in environmental protection. The law further specifies that a member of the board appointed to represent the public may not have a financial interest in activities regulated by the board and may not be an individual who has been or is currently licensed, certified or given a permit in this or any other state for activities regulated by the board.

### **LD 1407 Resolve, Regarding Authority of Municipalities To Regulate Timber Harvesting**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2021, chapter 70 requires the Director of the Maine Forest Service within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convene a stakeholder group to review and assess the law and corresponding process relating to a municipal proposal to adopt or amend a timber harvesting ordinance. The law requires the director to report the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and authorizes the joint standing committee to submit a bill relating to the subject matter of the report to the 130th Legislature.

### **LD 1560 Resolve, Authorizing the State To Convey to the Passamaquoddy Tribe the State's Interest in a Certain Parcel of Land in the Town of Meddybemps**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2021, chapter 31 authorizes the State to convey to the Passamaquoddy Tribe a certain parcel of land located on the northern side of State Route 191 in Meddybemps, Washington

ENACTED LAW SUMMARIES

130<sup>TH</sup> FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS – 2021