

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 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

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County, which is a portion of a site known as the Eastern Surplus Company Superfund site that has been designated a Superfund site due to the presence of hazardous substances, materials or wastes. The law also allows the Passamaquoddy Tribe to take ownership of the land without assuming liability for historical contamination that the tribe did not cause and permits continued access to the land by the State and the United States to address remaining and future contamination at this or nearby lands.

LD 1611 An Act To Amend Maine's Harness Racing Laws Regarding Race Dates and Pari-mutuel Pools

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 406 amends the definition of "commercial track" to include tracks at which fewer than the statutory minimum number of days of racing is conducted pursuant to a determination by the State Harness Racing Commission that the lesser number is in the best interest of the State's harness horse racing industry and the lesser number of days receives the express written approval of the track and a statewide association of horsemen.

The law also authorizes a person licensed to conduct harness horse racing with pari-mutuel betting to sell pari-mutuel pools and common pari-mutuel pools for simulcast races at a facility that is approved by the State Harness Racing Commission.

The law provides that a facility approved by the commission must be within the same county as the commercial track but may not be within the same municipality as an off-track betting facility. It also authorizes the person to conduct at the facility any other activities incidental to and permitted by the person's license.

The law also provides that a facility must obtain municipal approval prior to the sale of the pari-mutuel pools or common pari-mutuel pools and must provide the municipality in which the facility is located 5% of the track share of the commission allocated by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8, section 286, subsection 5. The law further specifies that the municipal officers of a municipality must approve the sale of pari-mutuel pools and common pari-mutuel pools at a facility located in that municipality before the sale may be approved by the State Harness Racing Commission.

LD 1690 Resolve, To Modify the Deed for a Parcel of Property in the Town of Carrabassett Valley

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2021, chapter 43 amends the deed transferring land from the State to the Town of Carrabassett Valley to remove the prohibition against using the land for a commercial purpose.