

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

July 2022

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resources matters a report containing its findings and recommendations, including any suggested legislation, resulting from that study. After receiving the report, the joint standing committee may report out legislation to implement any such recommendations.

LD 1940 An Act To Ensure That Building Codes Allow the Installation and Use of Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Products and Equipment That Use Certain Federally Regulated Refrigerants

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 524 amends the law regarding municipal building codes to provide that building codes, including the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, may not prohibit the installation or use of “acceptable refrigeration or air conditioning products or equipment.” The term “acceptable refrigeration or air conditioning products or equipment” is defined to mean refrigeration or air conditioning products or equipment that use a refrigerant listed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency in regulations adopted pursuant to the federal Clean Air Act as acceptable, acceptable subject to use conditions or acceptable subject to narrowed use limits and that are installed in accordance with any applicable conditions or limitations imposed by those regulations.

LD 1964 An Act To Update Certain Water Quality Standards and To Reclassify Certain Waters of the State

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 551 implements recommendations of the Board of Environmental Protection resulting from its review of the State’s water quality classification system and related water quality standards pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 464, subsection 3, paragraph B, including specific updates to certain water quality standards and water quality classifications based on water quality data and the recommendations of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Environmental Protection and other parties. It also includes technical clarifications to certain board reporting responsibilities and the corresponding authority for legislation of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters.

LD 1970 An Act To Implement Agency Recommendations Relating to Sea Level Rise and Climate Resilience Provided Pursuant to Resolve 2021, Chapter 67

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 590 implements the following agency recommendations resulting from a review by multiple agencies of their respective laws and rules to determine changes necessary to

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incorporate into those laws and rules sea level rise projections and measures designed to enhance community resilience to flooding and other climate impacts as required by Resolve 2021, chapter 67.

1. It amends the requirements of the Maine Land Use Planning Commission permit exception for the repair and maintenance or replacement of existing road culverts to incorporate similar requirements for such activities imposed under the Natural Resources Protection Act.
2. It amends Maine Land Use Planning Commission permit approval criteria for proposed developments to provide that, in making a determination regarding whether an applicant has made adequate provision for fitting the proposal harmoniously into the existing natural environment, the commission may consider the effects of sea level rise as specified by the commission by rule.
3. It amends the laws governing municipal planning and land use regulation to define “local climate action plan”; to incorporate such plans into a municipality's or multimunicipal region's growth management program through the preparation of a climate vulnerability assessment and by addressing in its program the climate risks identified in such assessments; and to require that the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's technical and financial assistance program for the implementation of growth management programs provide priority in the making of grants under the technical and financial assistance program to municipalities and multimunicipal regions that have adopted local climate action plans and prepared climate vulnerability assessments.
4. It amends the site location of development laws to authorize the Department of Environmental Protection to consider the effects of sea level rise in determining whether a developer has made adequate provision for fitting a proposed development harmoniously into the existing natural environment.
5. It amends solid waste facility siting laws to authorize the Department of Environmental Protection to consider the effects of sea level rise in determining whether an applicant for a solid waste facility license has made adequate provision for fitting a proposed facility harmoniously into the existing natural environment.

LD 1974 An Act To Establish and Fund the Maine Climate Corps Program Pursuant to Recommendations in the Report Required by Resolve 2021, Chapter 25

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 728 implements recommendations regarding the establishment and funding of the Maine Climate Corps Program made pursuant to the report required by Resolve 2021, chapter 25. It establishes the Maine Climate Corps Program under the Maine Commission for Community Service and also provides one-time and ongoing General Fund appropriations to fund the Maine Climate Corps Program and one-time General Fund appropriations to fund the