

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

Maine Service Fellows Program established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 7506.

LD 1979 An Act Regarding the Development of Comprehensive River Resource Management Plans

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 675 directs the Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Department of Marine Resources, the Governor's Energy Office and other state agencies as needed, to evaluate the current process for the development of comprehensive river resource management plans established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 407 to develop findings and recommendations. The Department of Environmental Protection is directed to submit, on or before January 15, 2023, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters a report outlining those findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, and the joint standing committee is authorized to report out legislation relating to the report to the 131st Legislature in 2023.

Public Law 2021, chapter 675 also amends the current process for the development of comprehensive river resource management plans established under Title 12, section 407 to classify a comprehensive river resource management plan as a major substantive rule.

LD 2018 An Act To Implement Recommendations Regarding the Incorporation of Equity Considerations in Regulatory Decision Making

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 736 implements recommendations regarding methods of incorporating equity considerations in decision making at the Department of Environmental Protection, the Public Utilities Commission and other state agencies made pursuant to the report required by Public Law 2021, chapter 279, section 3. It amends intervenor funding provisions applicable to Public Utilities Commission proceedings to clarify the eligibility requirements for intervenor funding, the sources of the funding and other related requirements and provisions to be adopted by rule, which may include but are not limited to establishment of a process by which the commission will give priority to qualified intervenors representing environmental justice populations. It also requires the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt rules establishing procedures to ensure that persons in environmental justice populations and frontline communities are provided with fair and equitable access to the department's decision-making processes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, sections 341-D and 341-H and establishes definitions for "environmental justice," "frontline communities" and related terminology.