

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
131<sup>ST</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



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

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

October 2023

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**STAFF:**

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

**STATE OF MAINE**  
131<sup>ST</sup> LEGISLATURE  
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**LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILLS AND  
SUMMARIES OF ENACTED LAWS**

This *Legislative Digest of Bills and Summaries of Enacted Laws* provides the disposition of all LDs and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Maine Legislature. Please note that all LDs and proposed amendments may be found through the Legislature’s webpage, and each includes a summary of what the bill or amendment proposed.

The *Legislative Digest of Bills and Summaries of Enacted Laws* is arranged alphabetically by committee. Within each committee section is a subject index of all LDs considered by that committee as well as a digest of the LDs, arranged by LD number. Also included are enacted law summaries of the LDs enacted or finally passed. Brief analyst notes on certain LDs are also included: a committee digest will indicate if additional notes are provided for an LD. These notes add information staff found useful and may provide useful information to users of this *Digest*; please note that most LDs do not have a note and lack of a note should not be interpreted as having any significance. A separate section of the *Digest* provides a digest of the relatively few LDs that were not referred to a committee or reported from a committee as a committee bill; enacted law summaries of the LDs enacted or finally passed are provided. Finally, an appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

The final disposition of each LD is noted in the relevant summary digest and index. The following describes the various final actions.

*CARRIED OVER*..... carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature  
*CON RES XXX*..... chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses  
*CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*..... Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died  
*DIED BETWEEN HOUSES*..... House & Senate disagreed; legislation died  
*DIED IN CONCURRENCE*.....defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died  
*DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died  
*EMERGENCY*.....enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment  
*FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE*.....emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote  
*FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE*..... failed to receive final majority vote  
*FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT*..... legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote  
*HELD BY GOVERNOR*..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session  
*LEAVE TO WITHDRAW*.....sponsor’s request to withdraw legislation granted  
*NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY*.....ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died  
*INDEF PP*..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died  
*ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X*.....ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died  
*P&S XXX*..... chapter # of enacted private & special law  
*PUBLIC XXX*.....chapter # of enacted public law  
*RESOLVE XXX*..... chapter # of finally passed resolve  
*VETO SUSTAINED*..... Legislature failed to override Governor’s veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular and First Special Sessions of the 131st Legislature is Thursday, June 29, 2023 and Wednesday, October 25, 2023, respectively. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

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

the Site Location of Development law in Title 38, also known as Site Law, to construct or cause to be constructed a solar energy development located on high-value agricultural land to pay a compensation fee or other form of compensation for any portion of the development, including associated facilities, that is located on high value agricultural land. The law requires the Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, to calculate the compensation fee for solar energy development that is located on high-value agricultural land.

The law also requires the Department of Environmental Protection to establish a compensation fee program to fund a compensation project as an alternative means of satisfying requirements related to off-site habitat improvement or preservation that the department determines necessary to mitigate the adverse effects of renewal energy development on wildlife and fisheries habitat to comply with Site Law.

The law directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to initiate major substantive rulemaking to define terms such as “high-value agricultural land” and “dual-use agricultural and solar production” and the Department Environmental Protection to initiate major substantive rulemaking to establish a compensation fee program to accept and administer compensation fees under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, sections 484-C and 484-D and to define "wildlife and fisheries habitats" under Title 38, section 484-D, subsection 1, which must include but not be limited to large undeveloped habitat blocks, important wildlife corridors and other habitat types identified in consultation with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

The law also provides that a person may not construct, cause to be constructed or operate a solar energy development without a permit from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The law defines “solar energy development” as a development that uses ground-mounted solar arrays and installations to convert solar energy to electrical energy; occupies 5 acres or more; and is wholly or partially located on high-value agricultural land. This requirement applies to solar energy developments on which construction begins after September 1, 2024.

**LD 1930 Resolve, to Authorize the Exchange of Interest in Certain Lands Owned by the State in Piscataquis County**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2023, chapter 50 authorizes the exchange of interest in certain state-owned land in Piscataquis County. The law provides that the cost of a survey of the property boundaries and recording costs may not be paid by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands.