

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

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

June 2024

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STATE OF MAINE

131ST LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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 Second Regular Session 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 Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature is Friday, August 9, 2024. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

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LD 1274 Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Support Commercial Dairy Farms in the State

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 146 directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convene the Task Force to Support Commercial Dairy Farms in the State. It directs the task force to review and provide recommendations on potential investments and policies to support the long-term sustainability and resiliency of the State’s dairy sector. The task force is required, no later than January 6, 2025, to submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters. The joint standing committee is authorized to report out a bill to the 132nd Legislature in 2025 based on the recommendations of the task force.

Resolve 2023, chapter 146 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective March 25, 2024.

LD 2033 Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey a Parcel of Land in the Town of Woodstock

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 128 authorizes the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convey the State's interest in a 0.34-acre parcel of land in Woodstock.

LD 2038 An Act to Amend the Law Regarding the Land for Maine’s Future Board to Allow for Proxy Designees

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 494 allows each permanent member of the Land for Maine’s Future Board to designate a proxy for board meetings. The permanent members of the board are the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Commissioner of Marine Resources and the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

LD 2061 Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Peacock Beach State Park to the Town of Richmond

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 172 authorizes the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convey to the Town of Richmond all the State’s interest in a parcel of land approximately 32 acres in size in Richmond known as Peacock

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Beach State Park. Future use of the property must be for noncommercial public recreational use. The department retains a right of first refusal regarding future property conveyances.

Resolve 2023, chapter 172 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective April 22, 2024.

LD 2063 An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing Disclosure of Wood Processing Data

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 495 amends the confidentiality provisions of the laws governing wood processor reports to authorize limited sharing of the information submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry with the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station, as long as the bureau enters into a confidentiality agreement with that entity. It also adds penalties to ensure that the information is used only for purposes authorized by the director of the bureau.

LD 2091 An Act Regarding Businesses' and Consumers' Use of Returnable, Reusable and Refillable Containers for Food, Beverages and Nonfood Items

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 528 requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to ensure that its rules and guidelines allow a business, on a voluntary basis, to allow consumers to supply their own containers or packaging for shelf-stable food and nonfood items as provided in current law, but also other food as determined by the department by rule.

It also requires the department to ensure that its rules and guidelines do the following:

1. Explicitly provide that a returnable, reusable or refillable container or packaging may be reclaimed by the business or a third party, restored to standards for health and safety and reused in the packaging and selling of a nonfood item, a shelf-stable item or other food to the same or another consumer;
2. Explicitly provide that allowing consumers to supply their own containers or packaging for the purchase of nonfood items, shelf-stable items and other food is voluntary for the business;
3. Explicitly provide that allowing a business to sell nonfood items, shelf-stable items and other food to consumers in returnable, reusable or refillable containers and packaging, which may be supplied by either the business or a third party, is voluntary; and
4. Explicitly establish the right of a business to refuse any returnable, reusable or refillable container or packaging supplied by a consumer.