

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



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

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

August 2025

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

LD 65 An Act to Update the Definition of “Coastal Wetlands” Under the Natural Resources Protection Act and the Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Laws

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 128 amends the definition of “coastal wetlands” in the Natural Resources Protection Act and makes corresponding changes to the definition of “coastal wetlands” in the mandatory shoreland zoning laws.

LD 138 An Act Regarding the Permitting of Projects Affecting Public-use Airports Under the Natural Resources Protection Act and the Site Location of Development Laws

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 329 amends the Natural Resources Protection Act and the site location of development laws to provide that the Department of Environmental Protection may not include in any permit issued pursuant to either article any conditions that, as determined by the department, would decrease safety within the air operations area at a public-use airport. “Public-use airport” is defined to have the same meaning as in 49 United States Code, Section 47102(22), “airport security program” means a security program approved by the United States Transportation Services Administration under 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1542.101 and “air operations area” is defined to have the same meaning as in 14 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 153.3, except as otherwise specified for a public-use airport that does not have an airport security program.

LD 228 An Act to Allow Coastal Seawalls to Be Raised by up to 2 Feet in Order to Accommodate Predicted Sea Level Rise

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 122 amends the Natural Resources Protection Act to authorize the Department of Environmental Protection to approve a permit for a one-time increase by up to 2 feet in the height of a seawall or similar structure in a coastal sand dune system, as long as certain specified conditions are met. The law provides a similar allowance for a height increase of up to 2 feet where a seawall has been destroyed or threatened and is replaced after emergency action. The law also makes additional clarifications to the provision of the Natural Resources Protection Act regarding coastal sand dune system restoration projects with respect to existing seawalls.

Public Law 2025, chapter 122 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 29, 2025.