

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
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

August 2025

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

threats and hazards posed by PFAS that affect agricultural producers in the State and the food supply; providing support to affected commercial farms; supporting critical PFAS research; and allowing for the department to strategically and effectively respond to PFAS concerns and issues. The program includes establishing maximum PFAS levels in farm products in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and, when maximum levels are being exceeded, prohibiting commercial sale of the products affected. The program may provide testing support and technical and financial assistance to PFAS-impacted producers while establishing baseline criteria for producers to adhere to for the receipt of such assistance. The program may also undertake research efforts via department staff, state agency partners or contracted third parties that inform on-farm management recommendations or regulatory decisions. The Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources within the department must administer the program. The department may adopt routine technical rules and shall report annually to the Legislature about the program's activities.

The law modifies the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination by authorizing the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to sell, grant, lease, transfer or otherwise convey any real or personal property acquired under its existing authority to buy and sell agricultural land found to be contaminated by PFAS, and to deposit the proceeds of such transactions into the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination. Additionally, the law updates the requirement that the Advisory Committee on the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination hold two hearings annually to require one public meeting annually. The law also requires that the cochairs of the advisory committee must be elected by the advisory committee's members.

The law also specifies that health care information obtained by the department in the course of providing access to health services under its existing authority must be treated as confidential.

LD 261 An Act Regarding the Authority of Municipalities to Regulate Timber Harvesting

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 274 provides that a municipal timber harvesting ordinance adopted on or after January 1, 2026 must meet the process requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 8869, subsection 8. The law provides that a municipal timber harvesting ordinance may be adopted only after certification by the bureau that the municipality adopted the timber harvesting ordinance in accordance with the process requirements. Municipal ordinances subject to review by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry are limited to ordinances that regulate timber harvesting activities.