

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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*Committee member and House Chair
for a portion of the session

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3. No later than July 1, 2026, funding must be acquired by the authority sufficient to cover the anticipated costs of completely purging all fire suppression systems and any other systems containing aqueous film-forming foam that are located on any property leased or owned by the authority so that those systems no longer contain any aqueous film-forming foam or any residue containing aqueous film-forming foam.
4. No later than December 31, 2026, all fire suppression systems and any other systems containing aqueous film-forming foam that are located on any property leased or owned by the authority must be completely purged so that those systems no longer contain any aqueous film-forming foam or any residue containing aqueous film-forming foam.

LD 465 An Act to Update Waste Discharge License Fees

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 62 adds marine finfish aquaculture facilities and general permit coverage for municipal separate storm sewer systems as waste discharge license groups and establishes the basis for the annual fees for those license groups. It changes the basis for the annual fee for the general permit coverage for the marine aquaculture facilities waste discharge license group and increases the median fee for that license group. It also clarifies that the fish-rearing facility waste discharge license group covers terrestrial fish-rearing facilities.

LD 497 An Act Regarding the Regulation of Significant Vernal Pools Under the Natural Resources Protection Act

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 338 amends provisions of the Natural Resources Protection Act regarding significant wildlife habitat to require the following provisions in the Department of Environmental Protection's rules regulating significant vernal pools.

1. It requires that the rules include definitions for "critical terrestrial habitat," "significant vernal pool habitat" and "significant vernal pool protection zone." "Significant vernal pool protection zone" must be defined to mean that portion of the critical terrestrial habitat within 100 feet of the spring or fall high-water mark of a significant vernal pool depression. With respect to habitat management standards for significant vernal pool habitat, the rule must require no disturbance within the significant vernal pool depression and the significant vernal pool protection zone to the greatest extent practicable.
2. It provides that, where the critical terrestrial habitat for a significant vernal pool is bisected by one or more property boundaries, the critical terrestrial habitat located on a property that does not contain the vernal pool depression must be afforded the same habitat protections under the rule as the critical terrestrial habitat located on the property that contains the vernal pool depression. Public Law 2025, chapter 338 also repeals a provision of law providing that a

ENACTED LAW SUMMARIES

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landowner proposing to cause an impact on the buffer area defined for a significant vernal pool habitat is not subject to regulation pursuant to the rule if the significant vernal pool habitat depression is not on property owned or controlled by that landowner.

3. It provides that, when a vernal pool habitat has not previously been determined to be significant and the Department of Environmental Protection or the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife makes a determination concerning whether the vernal pool habitat is significant, the rule must provide that either department may determine that the vernal pool habitat is not significant if the vernal pool is located in northern Maine and dries out after filling and before July 15th or the vernal pool is located in southern Maine and dries out after filling and before July 1st.

LD 529 An Act to Establish the Alamoosook Lake Watershed Management District

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Subject to approval by the voters of the Town of Orland at referendum, Private and Special Law 2025, chapter 10 establishes the Alamoosook Lake Watershed Management District for the purposes of acquiring ownership of, owning, maintaining and operating the dam on Alamoosook Lake and engaging in other related activities. The costs of operations of the Alamoosook Lake Watershed Management District are to be funded as follows: 50% of the costs by municipal contribution from the Town of Orland, if approved by its voters; and the remainder of the costs by assessments on the owners of waterfront property abutting Alamoosook Lake as determined based on the shoreline frontage of each waterfront property owner.

Private and Special Law 2025, chapter 10 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 18, 2025.

LD 531 An Act to Establish the Toddy Pond Watershed Management District

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Subject to approval by the voters at referendum conducted by at least one of the Town of Orland, the Town of Penobscot, the Town of Blue Hill and the Town of Surry, Private and Special Law 2025, chapter 9 establishes the Toddy Pond Watershed Management District for the purposes of acquiring ownership of, owning, maintaining and operating the dam on Toddy Pond and engaging in other related activities. The costs of operations of the Toddy Pond Watershed Management District are to be funded as follows: 50% of the costs by municipal contribution from the Town of Orland, the Town of Penobscot, the Town of Blue Hill and the Town of Surry, if approved by the voters of those towns; and the remainder of the costs by assessments made on the owners of waterfront property abutting Toddy Pond as determined based on the shoreline frontage of each property owner.