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 HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

August 2025

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LD 788 An Act to Promote an Innovation-driven Economy by Increasing Research and Development Spending

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 146 amends the laws governing the Maine Economic Growth Council by adding to the responsibilities of the Maine Economic Growth Council supporting the goal of increasing research and development spending as a percentage of the State's economy to meet the national average by 2030. The law directs the council to track the progress toward the research and development spending goal and submit an annual accountability update by December 1st each year that includes data from the most recently available year on the commercialization of laboratory-based innovation projects that occurred in the annual accountability update year to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over research and economic development matters and appropriations and financial affairs. Each joint standing committee may report out legislation upon review of the annual accountability report.

LD 901 Resolve, Directing the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority to Take Appropriate Actions to Identify Opportunities for the Beneficial Reuse of the Buildings and Land Commonly Known as the Bangor Mall

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 80 requires the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority to work with the City of Bangor to develop a comprehensive plan for the redevelopment of the property in the City of Bangor commonly known as the Bangor Mall. The plan must include a mix of uses for the property that promotes the economic revitalization of the Bangor Mall as a vital hub in the City of Bangor and creates affordable housing for the city and surrounding regions. By January 15, 2026, the authority must submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development on the plan. The committee may report out legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

LD 907 An Act to Amend the Law Governing Zoning Ordinance Variances for Persons with Permanent Disabilities

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 103 amends the municipal land use law governing zoning adjustments by removing the weight limit on the vehicle a homeowner with a permanent disability or a responsibility to transport a person with a permanent disability may park and store on their property. Public Law 2025, chapter 103 also removes the size restriction on the structure the homeowner may build on the property to store and park the vehicle.