

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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

MEMBERS:

SEN. RACHEL TALBOT ROSS, CHAIR
SEN. HENRY INGWERSEN
SEN. RUSSELL J. BLACK

REP. WILLIAM D. PLUECKER, CHAIR
REP. TIMOTHY GUERRETTE
REP. ALLISON HEPLER
REP. JAMES F. DILL
REP. DEAN A. CRAY
REP. CALDWELL JACKSON
REP. STEPHAN M. BUNKER
REP. MARK C. COOPER
REP. SHARON C. FROST

STAFF:

KAREN S. NADEAU, SENIOR LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla>

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

LD 1072 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Land for Maine’s Future Program and to Authorize the Use of Options to Purchase at Agricultural Value

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 471 amends the laws governing the Land for Maine’s Future program and the Land for Maine’s Future Board within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry in the following ways.

1. It defines “interest in property” to include both fee and less-than-fee simple interest for purposes of acquiring property and interests in property.
2. It requires the board to provide public notice of its intent to determine the final award for the land offered for acquisition.
3. It authorizes the board to use its discretion in determining whether to make an award.
4. It provides that the board may not fund the acquisition of a fee interest in land used for commercially harvested or harvestable forest land.
5. It requires that land acquired by the board have clear title.
6. It authorizes the creation of an option to purchase at agricultural value, which is defined as an agreement between a fee owner of working farmland property and a governmental entity or nonprofit organization that permits the governmental entity or nonprofit organization to control the purchase price of working farmland property for the purpose of making available and affordable and preserving the permanent availability and affordability of that property as working farmland.
7. It amends the reporting requirements for conservation easements and parcels of land owned in fee for conservation purposes.
8. It also clarifies that fee interests in land acquired under the Land for Maine’s Future Program in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 353 and held by the State may not be sold or used for purposes other than those stated in chapter 353, unless approved by a 2/3 majority of the Legislature.

LD 1198 Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Assess Its Current Meat and Poultry Inspection Programs

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 41 directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to conduct a review of programs and processes related to meat and poultry inspections, including

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

processes related to exemptions from inspections, to determine areas for possible improvements, efficiencies and enhanced flexibility to benefit agricultural producers, processors and retail and public customers. The law also specifies that the department, as part of the review, is required to conduct a survey of meat and poultry producers and processors to obtain feedback on rules, regulations, policies and practices affecting the regulated community and to develop strategies to ensure uniform interpretation of the United States Department of Agriculture's regulations and exemptions.

The department is required to submit a report based on its evaluation by January 15, 2026 to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, which may submit legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Resolve 2025, chapter 41 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective May 30, 2025.

LD 1213 An Act Regarding Apportionment of Stipends to Agricultural Fairs

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 161 modifies the provisions of law governing distribution of stipends to persons or entities licensed to hold an agricultural fair.

The law makes technical changes to the statutes relating to the Stipend Fund and the amount distributed among fair licensees. The law specifically adds educational agricultural talks, workshops and demonstrations to the list of competitions and events that may be considered in the calculation of apportionment for stipends. The law also specifies that any agricultural event approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may be used to determine the apportionment.

LD 1264 Resolve, Requiring the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Modify the Deed That Conveyed Montpelier, the General Henry Knox Museum in Thomaston, to the Friends of Montpelier

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 36 directs the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to modify the deed that conveyed Montpelier, the General Henry Knox Museum, including 4.2 acres, more or less, of historic site land and related improvements, structures and historical collections, in the Town of Thomaston, Knox County, to the Friends of Montpelier, a nonprofit corporation, to remove the requirement that Montpelier be used for historic preservation and remove any requirement that Montpelier be preserved, rehabilitated or restored in a manner as required by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.