

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 1158 An Act to Expand Appliance Energy and Water Standards

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 184 adds the following categories of appliances and products that are manufactured on or after January 1, 2027 to the list of new appliances and products in law that a person may not sell or offer for sale in the State if they are prohibited from sale pursuant to the appliance and product efficiency rules adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection: commercial battery chargers; commercial dishwashers; commercial food steamers; commercial fryers; commercial ovens; computer server power supplies; and residential ventilating fans.

LD 1207 An Act to Amend the Site Location of Development Laws to Require a 100-foot Buffer Between Solar Energy Developments and Rivers, Streams and Brooks

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 106 amends the site location of development laws to provide that a proposed solar energy development may not be constructed within 100 feet of a river, stream or brook. This provision does not apply to vegetation removal activities necessary for shade management or road or utility line crossings within 100 feet of a river, stream or brook.

LD 1306 An Act to Continue the Exemption for Polystyrene Foam Disposable Food Service Containers Prepackaged at Wholesale

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 151 amends the law governing disposable food service containers as follows.

1. It provides that the provision of that law that was set to take effect July 1, 2025, which will define “disposable food service container” to include service ware used to contain, transport or otherwise package raw, uncooked or butchered meat, poultry, fish, seafood or eggs, will instead take effect July 1, 2027.
2. It provides that the provision of that law that was set to be repealed July 1, 2025 and defines “disposable food service container” to not include service ware used to contain, transport or otherwise package raw, uncooked or butchered meat, poultry, fish, seafood or eggs will instead be repealed July 1, 2027.
3. It provides that the provision of that law that was set to be repealed July 1, 2025 and provides an exemption from that law for a covered establishment to sell at retail food or beverages in or on a polystyrene foam disposable food service container that the covered establishment purchases prepackaged at wholesale will instead be repealed July 1, 2027.

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

Public Law 2025, chapter 151 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 30, 2025.

LD 1423 An Act to Improve Recycling by Updating the Stewardship Program for Packaging

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 383 amends the law establishing a stewardship program for packaging material as follows.

1. It amends the definitions under that law for “post-consumer recycled material,” “producer” and “toxicity” and introduces a new definition for “consumer.”
2. It clarifies the producer exemption provisions under that law regarding packaging material for perishable food to provide that a producer is exempt from the requirements and prohibitions of the law with respect to the first 15 tons of packaging material used by the producer to contain, protect, deliver, present or distribute products that were perishable food and that were sold, offered for sale or distributed for sale in or into the State during the prior calendar year.
3. It amends the requirements for the statewide recycling needs assessment to be conducted by the entity selected by the Department of Environmental Protection to serve as the stewardship organization for the packaging stewardship program to include an evaluation of the producer payments schedule adopted by the department by rule and the anticipated effect of that schedule on incentivizing the use by producers of readily recyclable packaging materials and supporting the State’s solid waste management hierarchy. It also provides that, following the execution of a contract between the selected stewardship organization and the department, the stewardship organization, based on the statewide recycling needs assessment and other available information, may recommend to the department that the adopted producer payments schedule be modified to better incentivize the use by producers of readily recyclable packaging materials and support the State’s solid waste management hierarchy and the department may, in its discretion, initiate rulemaking to implement any modifications to that schedule.
4. It clarifies the law regarding the requirements for producers or the stewardship organization to provide or for the department to publish information regarding the UPCs for products for which the producers are in compliance with or not in compliance with the law.
5. It provides that a producer may not be required to pay an increased fee or penalty under the law for packaging material that is not composed of post-consumer recycled material if the packaging material is subject to state or federal laws, rules or regulations that effectively prohibit the use of post-consumer recycled material in that packaging material.
6. It amends the requirements for municipalities to participate in the packaging stewardship program by clarifying that a participating municipality must provide for the collection and recycling of any packaging material that is generated in the municipality and is readily recyclable.