

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
132<sup>ND</sup> 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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**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 1323 Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Evaluate the Impact of  
Neonicotinoids on Pollinators, Humans and the Environment**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2025, chapter 69 requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control to study the impact of neonicotinoids, including neonicotinoid-treated seeds, on pollinators, humans and the environment. The law requires the board to solicit feedback regarding ideas and insights on the topic of the study from the public, stakeholders and interested parties through either a public hearing or a request for information document. The law also requires the board to submit a preliminary report by January 15, 2026 and a final report by January 15, 2027 with findings and recommendations relating to the subject matter of the study to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters.

**LD 1450 An Act Regarding the Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 216 reduces the minimum term of a qualified easement for farm support arrangements from 20 years to 10 years and allows the municipal officers or a municipal employee or committee appointed by the municipal officers to review and approve farm support arrangements. The law also provides that rules adopted by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry under the Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program statutes are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**LD 1525 An Act to Promote Firewood Banks in Maine**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 170 authorizes the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to donate timber for use as firewood to a firewood bank if certain conditions are met. The law also directs the bureau to promote the development and public awareness of firewood banks in this State and to develop and dispense informational resources to promote the successful operation of firewood banks in this State. In fulfilling its obligations, the bureau may collaborate with the University of Maine System.

**LD 1529 An Act to Enhance the Protection of High-value Natural Resources Statewide**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 481 provides that the Maine Land Use Planning Commission may not finalize a comprehensive land use plan under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 685-C,

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subsection 1 or portion of a plan without submitting a draft copy of the plan to each regional planning commission and other appropriate planning or state resource agencies and to the Director of the Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

It requires the Director of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to include information regarding late-successional forests and old-growth forests in the director's report on the state of the State's forests beginning January 1, 2031.

It directs the Maine Land Use Planning Commission, as part of the next update to the comprehensive land use plan, to consider the effectiveness of its lake management program and whether changing circumstances and new trends warrant an update to the program.

The law also authorizes the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to develop a report on statewide strategies to enhance the conservation of late-successional forests and old-growth forests, subject to availability of funds.

**LD 1655 An Act to Allow the Keeping of Chickens on Private Residential Property**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 174 provides that a county or municipality may not adopt a regulation or ordinance that prohibits a person from keeping chickens on that person's residential property. The law defines "chicken" as a domesticated bird that is raised for meat or eggs and does not include a fully mature domesticated male chicken.

**LD 1697 An Act to Increase Penalties to Deter Violations of the Laws Regarding Improper Pesticide Use**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 292 increases the maximum fine that may be adjudged for a violation of the laws and rules governing pesticides from \$1,500 to \$10,000, except in a case for an unauthorized pesticide application in which the preponderance of the evidence demonstrates that the violator benefited substantially from the violation, in which case the maximum fine is \$50,000. Maximum fines for subsequent violations are increased to \$75,000 and \$150,000, respectively. The law clarifies that this fine does not apply to a private applicator or a private applicator of general use pesticides as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 1471-C.

The law provides that clear and convincing evidence that only one person benefited substantially from an unauthorized pesticide application constitutes prima facie evidence that the person is responsible for the unauthorized pesticide application. The law increases the maximum fine for a private applicator who violates rules regarding the maintenance of records from \$500 to \$1,000