

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 1564 An Act to Delay Implementation of Certain Recent Changes to the Beverage Container Redemption Law and to Make Other Necessary Changes to That Law

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 241 amends the law governing manufacturers, distributors and dealers of beverage containers in a number of provisions recently amended by Public Law 2023, chapter 482, to amend certain time frames for implementation of the law, including requiring the commingling cooperative to implement a plan for a single commingling program approved by the Department of Environmental Protection. It also makes a number of additional changes to that law, including the following.

1. It clarifies the obligation for a commingling group and for the commingling cooperative to pick up and recycle beverage containers processed by dealers and redemption centers.
2. It clarifies the commingling requirement under the law to provide that beverage containers must be sorted by like deposit value, product group, material and size and that initiators of deposit may not require dealers or redemption centers to further sort containers that belong to a commingling group. It further provides that dealers or redemption centers that process beverage containers using a reverse vending machine or account-based bulk processing program are not required to sort material by color, deposit value or size but must comply with the requirements to preserve container value.
3. It provides that commingling of beverage containers by like materials includes sorting by color for certain plastic beverage containers composed of polyethylene terephthalate and high-density polyethylene.
4. It provides that the plan for the single commingling program to be submitted by the commingling cooperative must include the method by which the program will facilitate and by October 1, 2026 complete the transition from beverage container sorting at redemption centers by brand to sorting by material type further by size and deposit value for manually sorted containers.
5. It clarifies that, beginning July 15, 2025, when the cooperative is required to provide to a dealer or redemption center the plastic bags to be used by the dealer or redemption center to contain redeemed beverage containers, or to reimburse the dealer or redemption center for the cost of those bags, if the dealer or redemption center submits a request to the cooperative for reimbursement of those costs, the cooperative must provide that reimbursement within 6 weeks of receipt of the request.
6. It clarifies that portion of the law regulating unclaimed deposits for nonrefillable beverage containers in the event that a department-approved program plan for the single commingling program is not implemented by the cooperative.

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

7. It removes the provisions of law that repeal on July 15, 2025 the requirement for initiators of deposit and pick-up agents to report annually to the department certain information regarding deposit transactions and redemptions.
8. It amends that portion of the law regarding the relicensing of redemption centers to provide that any such relicensing is not subject to the population requirements for licensing.
9. It clarifies that, prior to determining whether to approve or reject a plan submitted by the cooperative for the establishment of the single commingling program, the department must hold a public meeting on the plan. This change to the law is retroactive to January 1, 2025.

Public Law 2025, chapter 241 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 10, 2025.

LD 1604 An Act to Protect Groundwater and Surface Waters from Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances from Landfill Leachate

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 172 requires a person licensed by the Department of Environmental Protection to discharge wastewater to groundwater or any waters of the State to maintain a record of and annually report to the department, in a manner determined by the department, regarding the origin, volume and final disposition of leachate collected from a solid waste landfill delivered to or otherwise accepted by the licensee for treatment or other management.

Public Law 2025, chapter 172 also requires a solid waste landfill that collects and manages leachate to integrate into the landfill's department-approved water quality monitoring plan the sampling and analysis of leachate for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances and to provide the results from that leachate testing to the department in accordance with the water quality monitoring plan and as part of the landfill's annual report. On an annual basis, the department is required to make results from this leachate testing conducted by solid waste landfills available on its publicly accessible website.

Public Law 2025, chapter 172 also requires that, upon written request to the department from the owner of a property abutting a solid waste landfill that collects and manages leachate, the department shall require the landfill to conduct a one-time sampling and analysis for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances of a private water supply well used by the owner for drinking water purposes. If the analysis indicates possible perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances contamination of the private water supply well from the solid waste landfill, the department shall require the solid waste landfill to conduct additional sampling and analysis of the private water supply well for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in a manner directed by the department.