

# 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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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

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for an initial violation and from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for subsequent violations. The law clarifies that fines under Title 7, section 616-A, subsection 2, paragraph B apply only to a private applicator or a private applicator of general use pesticides.

Public Law 2025, chapter 292 also directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control to adopt a routine technical rule that includes the following requirements.

1. It must establish a penalty schedule for violations of the laws and rules governing pesticides to create transparency for future penalties assessed.
2. It must provide the means by which separate civil suits may be brought against the same violator of the laws and rules governing pesticides if pesticide migration through soil or bedrock occurs affecting more than one property.
3. It must provide for the restoration of affected property and replacement of vegetation as penalties for violations of the laws and rules governing pesticides in addition to monetary penalties.
4. It must designate pesticides with the active ingredient tebuthiuron as state restricted use pesticides.

**LD 1724 Resolve, Authorizing the Baxter State Park Authority to Convey Certain Land in Cumberland County**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2025, chapter 55 authorizes the Baxter State Park Authority to convey the State's interest in the Austin Cary Lot in the Town of Harpswell subject to certain restrictions. The law provides that all money received from the sale of the lot must be deposited into the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands, Public Reserved Lands Acquisition Fund rather than entrusting the funds to Baxter State Park.

The resolve requires the Baxter State Park Director to notify owners of property on Long Reach Lane in the Town of Harpswell abutting the Austin Cary Lot and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over parks and lands matters at least 14 days in advance of any public meeting at which the Baxter State Park Authority will consider a proposed conveyance of the Austin Cary Lot. It also provides that a member of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over parks and lands matters who receives notification may notify the Baxter State Park Director of concerns and may in writing request review of the proposed conveyance by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over parks and lands matters. When a request for legislative review is received, the director may not finalize the