

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
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

August 2025

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**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
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conveyance until the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over parks and lands matters has held a public meeting to review the proposed conveyance.

Resolve 2025, chapter 55 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective June 9, 2025.

LD 1771 An Act to Strengthen Oversight of Kennels by Changing the Licensing Authority from Municipalities to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 414 moves the responsibility for the issuance of kennel licenses from municipalities to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The law enacts criteria regarding the department's authority to refuse to issue or renew, suspend or revoke a facility license for an animal shelter, kennel, boarding kennel, breeding kennel or pet shop. The law also updates certain definitions, licensing and recording fees and cross-references related to facility licensing.

The law clarifies that kennel licensees are not required to pay individual dog licensing fees and allows a humane agent to conduct an inspection of a kennel without an animal control officer, if the municipality does not have an animal control officer, as determined by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry by rule. The law requires a municipality to pay for the cost of an inspection if a humane agent conducts the inspection.

Finally, Public Law 2025, chapter 414 requires the department to provide annual reports, no later than January 15th in 2026, 2027 and 2028, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over animal welfare matters on the transfer of the issuance of kennel licenses from municipalities to the department. The joint standing committee may submit legislation relating to the subject matter of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature, to the 133rd Legislature in 2027 and to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

LD 1920 An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Potentially Intoxicating Hemp Products to a Person under 21 Years of Age

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 416 prohibits the sale of potentially intoxicating hemp products to a person who has not attained 21 years of age. The law establishes requirements for the packaging of hemp products, including the requirement that all potentially intoxicating hemp products that are not beverages, salves or topical products be packaged in child-resistant and tamper-evident packaging. The law also provides that all hemp products are subject to the requirement that the product not be labeled or packaged in a manner that violates federal trademark law and not be designed in such a way that would cause a person to confuse the product with a different trademarked product.

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Public Law 2025, chapter 416 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 24, 2025.

LD 1925 An Act to Improve Access to Grant Funding for the Maine Farms for the Future Program

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 254 amends eligibility criteria for the Maine Farms for the Future Program to ensure that farmers who lease rather than own land and those who farm on land that is already protected by an agricultural conservation agreement are able to receive grants in the program. The law also allows the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to grant exceptions to eligibility criteria to allow for more flexibility for business plan development and investment support for farms.

Once an applicant is selected to participate in the Maine Farms for the Future Program, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry is required to assist the selected farm business in assembling a services package to develop a business plan within 18 months of the selection. Public Law 2025, chapter 254 clarifies that services may include instruction or classroom training in economics and business planning as available and as required by the department for the owner or operator of the farm business.

LD 1953 An Act to Ensure Public Access to Conservation Land by Providing Protections from Liability to Landowners

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 256 provides additional protection from liability for a landowner or other grantor who grants, and a holder or grantee who accepts, an easement or other legal instrument that includes or makes an express grant of perpetual public access over premises for the public to pursue recreational or harvesting activities. In addition, the law clarifies that additional protection from liability for a landowner or other grantor who grants, and a holder or grantee who accepts, an easement or other legal instrument that includes or makes an express grant of perpetual public access over premises is for the public to pursue one or more, rather than any, recreational or harvesting activities.