

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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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**

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.