

STATE OF MAINE
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

October 2023

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Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

SUBJECT INDEX

Agricultural Development

Enacted	LD 315	An Act to Provide Funding for Programs Benefiting Maine Farmers	PUBLIC 427
	LD 901	Resolve, to Establish a Stakeholder Group to Inform the Development of a Farm Apprenticeship Pilot Program	RESOLVE 110
	LD 1670	An Act to Strengthen Maine's Agriculture, Food and Forest Economy by Funding the Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund and Amending Related Provisions of Law	PUBLIC 470
	LD 1767	An Act to Require the University of Maine to Provide Education Regarding Meat and Poultry Processing	PUBLIC 473
Not Enacted	LD 220	An Act to Support Maine's Farmers in the Development of Sustainable Irrigation	CARRIED OVER
	LD 579	An Act to Support Farmland Conservation and Transition Planning for Farmers	CARRIED OVER
	LD 1511	An Act to Update the Laws Governing the University of Maine System's Board of Agriculture and to Rename the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station	CARRIED OVER

Animal Welfare

Enacted	LD 595	An Act to Establish the Companion Animal Sterilization Program in the Maine Revised Statutes	PUBLIC 484
Not Enacted	LD 1121	An Act to Change Responsibility for Animal Control Officer Training to the Department of Public Safety	ONTP
	LD 1216	An Act to Create the Animal Cruelty Task Force	ONTP

Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Enacted	LD 289	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Advisory Committee on the Fund to Address PFAS Contamination	PUBLIC 212
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	LD 782	An Act to Support Statewide Economic Opportunities Through Strategic Investments of Property and Funds, Including Emergency Relief Funds	PUBLIC 120
	LD 1678	Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Study and Report on Soil Carbon Sequestration Incentive Programs	RESOLVE 43
Not Enacted	LD 606	An Act Regarding Development of a Program to Assist Farmers Affected by Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination	ONTP
	LD 1150	Resolve, Requiring the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Document, Disclose and Publish All Best Management Practices Regarding the Use of Noise Devices to Control Birds at Orchards	ONTP
	LD 1916	An Act to Classify Meat and Poultry Products Inspections as Essential Services	CARRIED OVER

Food Policy

Enacted	LD 1947	An Act to Amend the Maine Food Sovereignty Act	PUBLIC 420
Not Enacted	LD 568	An Act to Provide Funding for the Fund to Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives	CARRIED OVER
	LD 650	An Act to Improve Maine Agriculture and Food Systems	CARRIED OVER
	LD 682	An Act Regarding Labeling of Packaged Foods for Genetically Modified Organisms	ONTP
	LD 1612	An Act to Address Food Insecurity and Support Local Agriculture	Died On Adjournment
	LD 1812	An Act to Provide a Source of Funding for the Construction and Implementation of a Food Security Hub	ONTP
	LD 1823	An Act to Respect and Protect the Right to Food	CARRIED OVER

Harness Racing

Not Enacted	LD 403	An Act to Improve Harness Racing in Maine by Repealing the Law Governing Standardbred Horses Eligible for Registration	Majority (ONTP) Report
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Maine Forest Service

Enacted	LD 24	An Act to Prohibit Certain Open Burning Under a Red Flag Warning and Regulate Recreational Campfires	PUBLIC 56
Not Enacted	LD 993	An Act to Facilitate Stakeholder Input Regarding Forest Policy in Maine	CARRIED OVER
	LD 1886	Resolve, to Construct a New District Headquarters Building for the Bureau of Forestry in Fort Kent	CARRIED OVER
	LD 1985	An Act to Authorize Removal of Requirements of Forest Certification Systems from the State's Forest Management Plans	CARRIED OVER

Miscellaneous

Enacted	LD 574	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Working Waterfront Covenants	PUBLIC 70
	LD 1881	An Act Regarding Compensation Fees and Related Conservation Efforts to Protect Soils and Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat from Solar and Wind Energy Development and High-impact Electric Transmission Lines Under the Site Location of Development Laws	PUBLIC 448
Not Enacted	LD 1068	An Act to Ban the Hunting of Animals in Enclosed Areas	ONTP
	LD 1110	An Act Regarding Calibration Requirements for Certain Testing and Measurement Equipment	ONTP
	LD 1201	Resolve, Requiring the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Interest in a Parcel of Land at the Newfield Wildlife Management Area to a Private Landowner	ONTP
	LD 1227	An Act to Balance Renewable Energy Development with Natural and Working Lands Conservation	CARRIED OVER
	LD 1274	An Act to Increase Land Access for Historically Disadvantaged Populations	CARRIED OVER
	LD 1441	An Act to Enhance State Oversight of Water Use and Water Resources	CARRIED OVER
	LD 1682	An Act to Create the Maine Experiential Education Program	CARRIED OVER

LD 1700	An Act to Protect Agricultural Lands by Creating a Permitting Process for Solar Development on Those Lands	ONTP
LD 1817	An Act to Support Outdoor Education by Establishing the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program	CARRIED OVER

Parks and Public Lands

Enacted

LD 797	Resolve, to Authorize the Conveyance of Real Property to the Capitol Area Recreation Association	RESOLVE 109
LD 1346	Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands Within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Lease Certain Land Within Somerset County	RESOLVE 18
LD 1659	Resolve, Authorizing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to Enter into Certain Leases	RESOLVE 46
LD 1930	Resolve, to Authorize the Exchange of Interest in Certain Lands Owned by the State in Piscataquis County	RESOLVE 50
LD 1969	An Act to Expand the Use of Funds to Support Land Conservation	PUBLIC 284

Not Enacted

LD 25	An Act to Provide Indigenous Peoples Free Access to State Parks	CARRIED OVER
LD 56	An Act to Provide Free Admission to State Parks and Historic Sites for the Immediate Family Members of Veterans and Active Military Personnel	CARRIED OVER
LD 294	An Act to Include a Tribal Member in the Baxter State Park Authority	CARRIED OVER
LD 791	An Act to Support the Maintenance, Preservation and Promotion of Historic Sites	CARRIED OVER
LD 806	Resolve, to Study the Issue of Persons Who Go Missing in State Parks	ONTP
LD 988	Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Conduct an Accessibility Study of All Maine State Parks and Historic Sites and to Develop a Plan to Remove Access Barriers	CARRIED OVER
LD 1218	An Act Establishing a System to Appeal Administrative Actions or Management Plans of the Bureau of Parks and Lands	Minority (ONTP) Report
LD 1219	An Act to Establish Rights for Holders of Certain Leases and Easements on Land Managed by the Bureau of Parks and Lands	Majority (ONTP) Report

LD 1285	An Act to Extend Funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program	CARRIED OVER
LD 1349	An Act to Review State Lands and Waterways That Have Sacred, Traditional or Other Significance to the Wabanaki People	CARRIED OVER
LD 1989	Resolve, to Modify the Deed for a Parcel of Property in the Town of Carrabassett Valley to Allow for Workforce Housing	CARRIED OVER

Pest Management

**Not
Enacted**

LD 1021	An Act to Support Research, Education and Outreach Efforts at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory	CARRIED OVER
LD 1162	An Act to Increase Support for the Community Forestry Fund	CARRIED OVER

Pesticides

Enacted

LD 8	An Act to Increase Support for the Modernization of the Board of Pesticides Control by Increasing the Annual Pesticide Registration Fee	PUBLIC 22
LD 1770	Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Transition to Electronic Submission of Pesticides Sales and Use Data	RESOLVE 71

Regulated Products

Enacted

LD 285	An Act to Remove the Requirement for Wild Blueberry Transportation Permits	PUBLIC 18
LD 384	An Act to Provide Emergency Aid to Dairy Farmers Affected by the Crisis in Production Costs	PUBLIC 429
LD 415	An Act to Allow Nonalcoholic Sparkling Cider to Be Sold in Maine	PUBLIC 175
LD 834	An Act to Ensure Transparency in the Labeling of Meat as Grass-fed	PUBLIC 74

**Not
Enacted**

LD 1996	An Act to Regulate Synthetic Hemp-derived Cannabinoids	CARRIED OVER
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Timber Harvesting

Enacted	LD 390	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 25: Standards for Placing Wood into Stream Channels to Enhance Cold Water Fisheries Habitat, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry	RESOLVE 6
	LD 1849	An Act to Ensure Fair and Timely Payment in the Harvesting of Forest Products	PUBLIC 357
	LD 1874	An Act to Support Maine Forest Workers' Right to Work in Maine by Improving Labor Standards	PUBLIC 380
Not Enacted	LD 1048	An Act Regarding the Authority of Municipalities to Regulate Timber Harvesting	Died On Adjournment

DIGEST OF BILLS
131ST LEGISLATURE FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS – 2023

Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Comm	LD	Title	Comm Action		Carried over?	Date of last Comm Action	Final Disposition	Enacted Law		Analyst Note?	Session
								Law	Ch		
ACF	8	An Act to Increase Support for the Modernization of the Board of Pesticides Control by Increasing the Annual Pesticide Registration Fee	Reported Out	OTP-AM		3/20/23	Enacted	PL	22		S1
ACF	24	An Act to Prohibit Certain Open Burning Under a Red Flag Warning and Regulate Recreational Campfires	Reported Out	OTP-AM/OTP-AM		4/20/23	Enacted	PL	56		S1
ACF	25	An Act to Provide Indigenous Peoples Free Access to State Parks	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1
ACF	56	An Act to Provide Free Admission to State Parks and Historic Sites for the Immediate Family Members of Veterans and Active Military Personnel	Reported Out	OTP-AM	Carried On Approps Table	3/23/23					S1
ACF	77	An Act to Require the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Maintain Public Restrooms at State Parks	Reported Out	ONTP		2/6/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				R1
ACF	108	An Act to Establish a Logger Relations Advocate Within the Maine Forest Service	Reported Out	ONTP		2/27/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				R1
ACF	157	Resolve, to Improve Standards for Animal Rescue Entities	Reported Out	ONTP		2/27/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				R1
ACF	159	An Act to Facilitate the Construction of a Firehouse by Sinclair Township	Reported Out	ONTP		2/27/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				R1

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Comm	LD	Title	Comm Action		Carried over?	Date of last Comm Action	Final Disposition	Enacted Law Law Ch	Analyst Note?	Session
ACF	180	An Act to Allow a Person to File a Paper Copy of a Timber Harvest Notification Form	Reported Out	ONTP		3/17/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			R1
ACF	220	An Act to Support Maine's Farmers in the Development of Sustainable Irrigation	Reported Out	OTP-AM	Carried On Approps Table	5/24/23				S1
ACF	285	An Act to Remove the Requirement for Wild Blueberry Transportation Permits	Reported Out	OTP		3/8/23	Emergency Enacted	PL 18		R1
ACF	289	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Advisory Committee on the Fund to Address PFAS Contamination	Reported Out	OTP-AM		6/5/23	Enacted	PL 212		S1
ACF	294	An Act to Include a Tribal Member in the Baxter State Park Authority	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23				S1
ACF	315	An Act to Provide Funding for Programs Benefiting Maine Farmers	Reported Out	OTP-AM		4/13/23	Enacted	PL 427		S1
ACF	384	An Act to Provide Emergency Aid to Dairy Farmers Affected by the Crisis in Production Costs	Reported Out	OTP-AM		4/20/23	Enacted	PL 429		S1
ACF	390	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 25: Standards for Placing Wood into Stream Channels to Enhance Cold Water Fisheries Habitat, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry	Reported Out	OTP-AM		3/22/23	Emergency Finally Passed	RESLV 6		S1
ACF	403	An Act to Improve Harness Racing in Maine by Repealing the Law Governing Standardbred Horses Eligible for Registration	Reported Out	ONTP/OTP		4/4/23	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report			S1
ACF	415	An Act to Allow Nonalcoholic Sparkling Cider to Be Sold in Maine	Reported Out	OTP		3/30/23	Enacted	PL 175		S1

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								Law	Ch		
ACF	562	An Act to Ensure Maine Residents Have Priority Access to State Park Campsites	Reported Out	ONTP		3/8/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				R1
ACF	568	An Act to Provide Funding for the Fund to Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives	Reported Out	OTP-AM	Carried On Approps Table	3/28/23					S1
ACF	574	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Working Waterfront Covenants	Reported Out	OTP-AM		4/13/23	Enacted	PL	70		S1
ACF	579	An Act to Support Farmland Conservation and Transition Planning for Farmers	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1
ACF	595	An Act to Establish the Companion Animal Sterilization Program in the Maine Revised Statutes	Reported Out	OTP-AM		6/5/23	Enacted	PL	484		S1
ACF	606	An Act Regarding Development of a Program to Assist Farmers Affected by Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Contamination	Reported Out	ONTP		4/13/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
ACF	634	An Act to Allow Open Burning in the Snow Without a Permit	Reported Out	ONTP		3/8/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				R1
ACF	644	An Act to Include Cats in the Laws Governing Animal Trespass	Reported Out	ONTP		3/8/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				R1
ACF	650	An Act to Improve Maine Agriculture and Food Systems	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1

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Comm	LD	Title	Comm Action		Carried over?	Date of last Comm Action	Final Disposition	Enacted Law		Analyst Note?	Session
								Law	Ch		
ACF	682	An Act Regarding Labeling of Packaged Foods for Genetically Modified Organisms	Reported Out	ONTP		4/13/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
ACF	782	An Act to Support Statewide Economic Opportunities Through Strategic Investments of Property and Funds, Including Emergency Relief Funds	Reported Out	OTP-AM		5/11/23	Enacted	PL	120		S1
ACF	791	An Act to Support the Maintenance, Preservation and Promotion of Historic Sites	Reported Out	OTP-AM	Carried On Approps Table	4/13/23					S1
ACF	797	Resolve, to Authorize the Conveyance of Real Property to the Capitol Area Recreation Association	Reported Out	OTP-AM		5/15/23	Finally Passed	RESLV	109		S1
ACF	806	Resolve, to Study the Issue of Persons Who Go Missing in State Parks	Reported Out	ONTP		3/24/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
ACF	834	An Act to Ensure Transparency in the Labeling of Meat as Grass-fed	Reported Out	OTP-AM		4/19/23	Enacted	PL	74		S1
ACF	901	Resolve, to Establish a Stakeholder Group to Inform the Development of a Farm Apprenticeship Pilot Program	Reported Out	OTP-AM		5/24/23	Finally Passed	RESLV	110		S1
ACF	970	An Act to Provide for the Humane Treatment of Chickens	Reported Out	ONTP		3/22/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				R1
ACF	988	Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Conduct an Accessibility Study of All Maine State Parks and Historic Sites and to Develop a Plan to Remove Access Barriers	Reported Out	OTP-AM	Carried On Approps Table	5/2/23					S1

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Comm	LD	Title	Comm Action		Carried over?	Date of last Comm Action	Final Disposition	Enacted Law Law Ch	Analyst Note?	Session
ACF	993	An Act to Facilitate Stakeholder Input Regarding Forest Policy in Maine	Reported Out	OTP- AM/ONTP	Carried On Approps Table	5/15/23				S1
ACF	1021	An Act to Support Research, Education and Outreach Efforts at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory	Reported Out	OTP-AM	Carried On Approps Table	4/26/23				S1
ACF	1048	An Act Regarding the Authority of Municipalities to Regulate Timber Harvesting	Reported Out	OTP-AM		4/13/23	Died On Adjournment			S1
ACF	1068	An Act to Ban the Hunting of Animals in Enclosed Areas	Reported Out	ONTP		4/12/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			S1
ACF	1110	An Act Regarding Calibration Requirements for Certain Testing and Measurement Equipment	Reported Out	ONTP		4/13/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			S1
ACF	1121	An Act to Change Responsibility for Animal Control Officer Training to the Department of Public Safety	Reported Out	ONTP		4/12/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			S1
ACF	1150	Resolve, Requiring the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Document, Disclose and Publish All Best Management Practices Regarding the Use of Noise Devices to Control Birds at Orchards	Reported Out	ONTP		4/6/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			S1
ACF	1162	An Act to Increase Support for the Community Forestry Fund	Reported Out	OTP- AM/ONTP	Carried On Approps Table	4/26/23				S1

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ACF	1201	Resolve, Requiring the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Interest in a Parcel of Land at the Newfield Wildlife Management Area to a Private Landowner	Reported Out	ONTP		4/13/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
ACF	1216	An Act to Create the Animal Cruelty Task Force	Reported Out	ONTP		4/12/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
ACF	1218	An Act Establishing a System to Appeal Administrative Actions or Management Plans of the Bureau of Parks and Lands	Reported Out	OTP-AM/ONTP		5/22/23	Accepted Minority (ONTP) Report				S1
ACF	1219	An Act to Establish Rights for Holders of Certain Leases and Easements on Land Managed by the Bureau of Parks and Lands	Reported Out	ONTP/OTP-AM		5/22/23	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report				S1
ACF	1227	An Act to Balance Renewable Energy Development with Natural and Working Lands Conservation	Reported Out	OTP-AM	Carried On Approps Table	6/9/23					S1
ACF	1274	An Act to Increase Land Access for Historically Disadvantaged Populations	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1
ACF	1285	An Act to Extend Funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program	Reported Out	OTP-AM	Carried On Approps Table	5/26/23					S1
ACF	1346	Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands Within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Lease Certain Land Within Somerset County	Reported Out	OTP-AM		5/2/23	Finally Passed	RESLV	18		S1
ACF	1349	An Act to Review State Lands and Waterways That Have Sacred, Traditional or Other Significance to the Wabanaki People	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1

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Comm	LD	Title	Comm Action		Carried over?	Date of last Comm Action	Final Disposition	Enacted Law	Law Ch	Analyst Note?	Session
ACF	1441	An Act to Enhance State Oversight of Water Use and Water Resources	Reported Out	OTP-AM/ONTP	Carried On	5/17/23					S1
ACF	1511	An Act to Update the Laws Governing the University of Maine System's Board of Agriculture and to Rename the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station	Carry Over		Carried in	7/25/23					S1
ACF	1612	An Act to Address Food Insecurity and Support Local Agriculture	Reported Out	OTP-AM		5/11/23	Died On Adjournment				S1
ACF	1659	Resolve, Authorizing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to Enter into Certain Leases	Reported Out	OTP-AM		5/22/23	Finally Passed	RESLV	46		S1
ACF	1670	An Act to Strengthen Maine's Agriculture, Food and Forest Economy by Funding the Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund and Amending Related Provisions of Law	Reported Out	OTP-AM		5/15/23	Enacted	PL	470		S1
ACF	1678	Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Study and Report on Soil Carbon Sequestration Incentive Programs	Reported Out	OTP-AM		5/23/23	Finally Passed	RESLV	43		S1
ACF	1682	An Act to Create the Maine Experiential Education Program	Reported Out	OTP-AM	Carried On	6/2/23					S1
ACF	1700	An Act to Protect Agricultural Lands by Creating a Permitting Process for Solar Development on Those Lands	Reported Out	ONTP		5/31/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
ACF	1767	An Act to Require the University of Maine to Provide Education Regarding Meat and Poultry Processing	Reported Out	OTP-AM		6/13/23	Enacted	PL	473		S1
ACF	1770	Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Transition to Electronic Submission of Pesticides Sales and Use Data	Reported Out	OTP-AM		6/13/23	Finally Passed	RESLV	71		S1

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Comm	LD	Title	Comm Action	Carried over?	Date of last Comm Action	Final Disposition	Enacted Law	Law Ch	Analyst Note?	Session	
ACF	1812	An Act to Provide a Source of Funding for the Construction and Implementation of a Food Security Hub	Reported Out	ONTP		5/16/23	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
ACF	1817	An Act to Support Outdoor Education by Establishing the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program	Reported Out	OTP-AM	Carried On Approps Table	6/6/23					S1
ACF	1823	An Act to Respect and Protect the Right to Food	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1
ACF	1849	An Act to Ensure Fair and Timely Payment in the Harvesting of Forest Products	Reported Out	OTP-AM/ONTP		6/6/23	Enacted	PL	357		S1
ACF	1874	An Act to Support Maine Forest Workers' Right to Work in Maine by Improving Labor Standards	Reported Out	OTP-AM/ONTP		6/8/23	Enacted	PL	380		S1
ACF	1881	An Act Regarding Compensation Fees and Related Conservation Efforts to Protect Soils and Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat from Solar and Wind Energy Development and High-impact Electric Transmission Lines Under the Site Location of Development Laws	Reported Out	OTP-AM/ONTP		6/13/23	Enacted	PL	448		S1
ACF	1886	Resolve, to Construct a New District Headquarters Building for the Bureau of Forestry in Fort Kent	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1
ACF	1916	An Act to Classify Meat and Poultry Products Inspections as Essential Services	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1
ACF	1930	Resolve, to Authorize the Exchange of Interest in Certain Lands Owned by the State in Piscataquis County	Reported Out	OTP-AM		6/2/23	Finally Passed	RESLV	50		S1
ACF	1947	An Act to Amend the Maine Food Sovereignty Act	Reported Out	OTP-AM/ONTP		6/9/23	Enacted	PL	420		S1
ACF	1969	An Act to Expand the Use of Funds to Support Land Conservation	Reported Out	OTP-AM		6/8/23	Emergency Enacted	PL	284		S1
ACF	1985	An Act to Authorize Removal of Requirements of Forest Certification Systems from the State's Forest Management Plans	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23					S1

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Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Comm	LD	Title	Comm Action		Carried over?	Date of last Comm Action	Final Disposition	Enacted Law Law Ch	Analyst Note?	Session
ACF	1989	Resolve, to Modify the Deed for a Parcel of Property in the Town of Carrabassett Valley to Allow for Workforce Housing	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23				S1
ACF	1996	An Act to Regulate Synthetic Hemp-derived Cannabinoids	Carry Over Approved		Carried in Comm	7/25/23				S1

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

LD 8 An Act to Increase Support for the Modernization of the Board of Pesticides Control by Increasing the Annual Pesticide Registration Fee

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 22 increases the annual fee to register a pesticide within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control from \$160 to \$215.

LD 24 An Act to Prohibit Certain Open Burning Under a Red Flag Warning and Regulate Recreational Campfires

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 56 prohibits the director of the Bureau of Forestry, within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, from issuing a permit or other permission for open burning to take place in a geographic area subject to a red flag warning. The law provides an exception for wild blueberry growers by allowing the director or director's delegate to issue a permit for a controlled burn on a commercially managed wild blueberry field in a geographic area subject to a red flag warning as long as the application for the permit includes a prescribed burn plan approved by the issuing authority.

The law requires the director or the director's delegate to revoke a permit for open burning in a geographic area in which a red flag warning is in effect, except that the director or the director's delegate is not required to revoke a permit for a controlled burn on a commercially managed wild blueberry field during the period in which a red flag warning is in effect if the permit includes an approved prescribed burn plan.

The law clarifies that a red flag warning is a forecast warning issued by the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service in consultation with the Bureau of Forestry.

The law prohibits a person who kindles or uses a recreational campfire from allowing the recreational campfire to exceed 3 feet in diameter on the ground at the base of the fire or 3 feet in height; the law exempts a licensed camp facility from this prohibition.

The law prohibits open burning, both permissible open burning with a permit and permissible open burning without a permit, during the period in which a red flag warning is in effect; the law exempts from this prohibition open burning without a permit at a licensed camping facility and at campsites under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or the Baxter State Park Authority, as long as the campsite and the use of out-of-door fires and charcoal and gas grills at the campsite comply with department rules.

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

LD 285 An Act to Remove the Requirement for Wild Blueberry Transportation Permits

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 18 removes the requirement that persons transporting wild blueberries have a transportation permit.

LD 289 Amend the Laws Governing the Advisory Committee on the Fund to Address PFAS Contamination

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 212 provides legislative per diem for public members of the Advisory Committee on the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination. The law provides that members who are Legislators continue to serve until a successor is appointed. The law also removes the requirement that the advisory committee report annually to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters and environmental matters on activities of the advisory committee and issues relating to the purposes and the use of the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination. Under current law, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry is required to report annually to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry; environment and natural resources; and health and human services matter on the status of carrying out the purposes of the fund.

LD 315 An Act to Provide Funding For Programs Benefiting Maine Farmers

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 427 implements some of the recommendations of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry’s January 2023 report, “Findings and Recommendations for Streamlining Permitting New Sources of Water for Irrigation in Maine.”

The law provides a one-time appropriation of \$35,000 in fiscal year 2023-24 in order for the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Farmers Drought Relief Grant Program Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds account in Public Law 2023, chapter 17, Part G to be used for contracted services to review and overhaul the current water withdrawal permitting process.

The law establishes one limited-period Environmental Specialist II position, which ends June 7, 2025, within the Maine Land Use Planning Commission.

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LD 384 An Act to Provide Emergency Aid to Dairy Farmers Affected by the Crisis in Production Costs

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 429 requires the transfer of \$500,000 on or before July 30, 2024 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Milk Commission program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to provide one-time volatility payments to Maine milk producers who produced milk and reported production information to the Maine Milk Commission in calendar year 2022 and are currently participating in the dairy stabilization program.

LD 390 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 25: Standards for Placing Wood into Stream Channels to Enhance Cold Water Fisheries Habitat, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 6 authorizes final adoption of Chapter 25: Standards for Placing Wood into Stream Channels to Enhance Cold Water Fisheries Habitat, a major substantive rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry, contingent on clarification of the effective date of the rule.

Resolve 2023, chapter 6 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective April 10, 2023.

LD 415 An Act to Allow Nonalcoholic Sparkling Cider to Be Sold in Maine

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 175 exempts nonalcoholic carbonated cider labeled as “sparkling cider” from the labeling requirements for cider.

LD 574 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Working Waterfront Covenants

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 70 allows certain nonprofit organizations whose purposes or powers include retaining or protecting coastal community values, culture or heritage, coastal habitat or real property that provides coastal water access to hold working waterfront covenants.

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LD 595 An Act to Establish the Companion Animal Sterilization Program in the Maine Revised Statutes

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 484 establishes the Companion Animal Sterilization Program, previously in Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry rules, in statute. The law allows the department to be the administrator of the Companion Animal Sterilization Fund in the event that the department is unable to contract with a suitable animal welfare organization.

LD 782 An Act to Support Statewide Economic Opportunities Through Strategic Investments of Property and Funds, Including Emergency Relief Funds

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 120 allows the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, subject to the approval of the Governor, to apply for and accept on behalf of the State emergency relief funds. The law specifies that funds and other personal or real property accepted by the commissioner on behalf of the State be for the purpose of economic opportunity, business growth and other strategic investments. The law requires the commissioner to adopt rules to implement and administer grant or other fund disbursement programs of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and authorizes the commissioner to adjudicate appeals of grant or other disbursement decisions made under the programs.

LD 797 Resolve, to Authorize the Conveyance of Real Property to the Capitol Area Recreation Association

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 109 directs the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convey by quitclaim deed with servitudes to the Capitol Area Recreation Association for \$1 on or before July 1, 2024 all of the State's interest in a parcel of land in Augusta, Maine comprising playing fields and other community recreation areas along Piggery Road, which is currently the subject of a lease dated January 1, 1992 between the Bureau of Parks and Lands and the Capitol Area Recreation Association.

LD 834 An Act to Ensure Transparency in the Labeling of Meat as Grass-fed

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 74 prohibits a person from selling, offering for sale or distributing within the State or selling, offering for sale or serving in any retail food establishment or eating establishment any meat or meat product labeled or advertised as "grass-fed" or by similar

ENACTED LAW SUMMARIES

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designation unless the ruminant animal was grass-fed. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may waive the determination that meat or a meat product is misbranded if the commissioner finds a waiver is warranted due to inadvertent exposure of the animal to nonforage feedstuffs or because incidental supplementation with nonforage feedstuffs was necessary to ensure the well-being of the animal during adverse environmental or physical conditions.

LD 901 Resolve, to Establish a Stakeholder Group to Inform the Development of a Farm Apprenticeship Pilot Program

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 110 requires the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convene a stakeholder group to develop recommendations for a potential farm apprenticeship pilot program. The law directs the commissioner to report the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters by March 1, 2025. The joint standing committee has the authority to submit a bill relating to the subject matter of the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.

LD 1346 Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands Within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Lease Certain Land Within Somerset County

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 18 authorizes the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to lease to Central Maine Power Company, on such terms and conditions as the director may require, certain property of approximately 0.4 acres on the Coburn Mountain public reserved lands within Upper Enchanted Township, Somerset County originally subject to a lease signed by the bureau in 1999 and on which are located radio telecommunication facilities.

LD 1659 Resolve, Authorizing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to Enter into Certain Leases

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 46 authorizes the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to lease certain state park land and public reserved lands and to enter into a boundary line adjustment agreement with Ms. Elizabeth Franco and Ms. Lynne Cleary to correct an inaccurate boundary line at Lamoine State Park.

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LD 1670 An Act to Strengthen Maine’s Agriculture, Food and Forest Economy by Funding the Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund and Amending Related Provisions of Law

LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 470 requires the Maine Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment Advisory Board within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to collaborate with the Department of Economic and Community Development and other appropriate agencies and organizational partners to ensure that investment objectives are appropriately targeted and not duplicative and to establish various grant and loan instruments as part of the Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund.

The law provides one-time funding of \$500,000 in fiscal year 2024-25 to support public-private partnerships to facilitate strategic investments in the State’s agricultural, food and forest products processing and manufacturing industries.

LD 1678 Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Study and Report on Soil Carbon Sequestration Incentive Programs

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 43 directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to study and report on soil carbon sequestration incentive programs that can be applied to land in this State, including but not limited to forest land, agricultural land, conservation land, wetlands, and urban and suburban areas and determine possible funding sources that may be used to fund the programs. The department must submit its report, including any recommended legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry no later than February 1, 2024. The committee may report out legislation regarding the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LD 1767 An Act to Require the University of Maine to Provide Education Regarding Meat and Poultry Processing

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 473 requires the University of Maine within available funding to provide a cooperative extension education program regarding meat and poultry processing. The law provides one-time funding in fiscal year 2024-25 for that purpose.

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LD 1770 Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Transition to Electronic Submission of Pesticide Sales and Use Data

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 71 directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control to adopt any rules necessary to implement the transition from paper to electronic format of reports required to be submitted to the board pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 1471-G. The board is required to implement a system of electronic data collection that is efficient for those required to submit reports to the board, namely pesticide dealers, commercial applicators and spray contracting firms, and useful to the board and members of the public.

LD 1849 An Act to Ensure Fair and Timely Payment in the Harvesting of Forest Products

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 357 requires an entity that contracts with a person to harvest wood and place the wood roadside so that the entity is able to have the wood hauled away for use or processing to pay the person within 30 days of the person's fulfilling the contract and placing the wood roadside. The law also requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or a wood scaler under contract with the department to conduct random inspections to ensure that entities are complying with this requirement.

LD 1874 An Act to Support Maine Loggers' and Truckers' Right to Work in Maine by Improving Labor Standards

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 380 provides that the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may obtain certification from a forest certification program for state land only if the program contains certain performance-based indicators that protect forest workers and the program does not require payment to a trade association that is registered with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

LD 1881 An Act Regarding Compensation Fees and Related Conservation Efforts to Protect Soils and Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat from Solar and Wind Energy Development and High-impact Electric Transmission Lines Under the Site Location of Development Laws

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 448 directs the Department of Environmental Protection to establish a solar energy compensation program. The program requires a person who obtains approval under

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the Site Location of Development law in Title 38, also known as Site Law, to construct or cause to be constructed a solar energy development located on high-value agricultural land to pay a compensation fee or other form of compensation for any portion of the development, including associated facilities, that is located on high value agricultural land. The law requires the Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, to calculate the compensation fee for solar energy development that is located on high-value agricultural land.

The law also requires the Department of Environmental Protection to establish a compensation fee program to fund a compensation project as an alternative means of satisfying requirements related to off-site habitat improvement or preservation that the department determines necessary to mitigate the adverse effects of renewal energy development on wildlife and fisheries habitat to comply with Site Law.

The law directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to initiate major substantive rulemaking to define terms such as “high-value agricultural land” and “dual-use agricultural and solar production” and the Department Environmental Protection to initiate major substantive rulemaking to establish a compensation fee program to accept and administer compensation fees under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, sections 484-C and 484-D and to define "wildlife and fisheries habitats" under Title 38, section 484-D, subsection 1, which must include but not be limited to large undeveloped habitat blocks, important wildlife corridors and other habitat types identified in consultation with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

The law also provides that a person may not construct, cause to be constructed or operate a solar energy development without a permit from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The law defines “solar energy development” as a development that uses ground-mounted solar arrays and installations to convert solar energy to electrical energy; occupies 5 acres or more; and is wholly or partially located on high-value agricultural land. This requirement applies to solar energy developments on which construction begins after September 1, 2024.

LD 1930 Resolve, to Authorize the Exchange of Interest in Certain Lands Owned by the State in Piscataquis County

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2023, chapter 50 authorizes the exchange of interest in certain state-owned land in Piscataquis County. The law provides that the cost of a survey of the property boundaries and recording costs may not be paid by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands.

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LD 1947 An Act to Amend the Food Sovereignty Act

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 420 amends the definition of “direct producer-to-consumer transaction” in the Maine Food Sovereignty Act. The law also provides that a farmers' market may impose more stringent requirements on its sellers than those imposed by municipal, plantation or county ordinances regarding traditional foodways or direct producer-to-consumer transactions.

LD 1969 An Act to Expand the Use of Funds to Support Land Conservation

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2023, chapter 284 eliminates the Land for Maine's Future Fund, replaces it with the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund and transfers the balance in the Land for Maine's Future Fund. The law requires that the funds transferred be used for the purposes identified in Public Law 2021, chapter 398, Part FFFF, section 8. The Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund may be used for the purposes of the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund, the Maine Working Waterfront Access Protection Fund, the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund and the new funds established specifically by the law.

The law amends provisions of law affecting the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund, the Maine Working Waterfront Access Protection Fund and the Maine Working Farmland Access and Protection Fund. The law establishes the Conservation and Recreation Fund to achieve the purposes of the former Land for Maine's Future Fund. The law establishes the Conservation Land Management Fund to make capital improvements to and enhance wildlife habitat protection on permanently conserved state, municipal and private conservation lands.

The law clarifies that upon repeal the of the Land for Maine's Future Fund any funds within the Land for Maine's Future Fund, both the Community Conservation Projects Other Special Revenue Funds account and the Land for Maine's Future Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account, are required to be transferred to the Land For Maine's Future Trust Fund.