

STATE OF MAINE  
131<sup>ST</sup> LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

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

June 2024

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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*

## **SUBJECT INDEX**

### **Agricultural Development**

<b>Not Enacted</b>	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	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	Majority (ONTP) Report
	LD 2212	An Act to Strengthen Maine's Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment	CARRIED OVER

### **Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry**

<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 1916	An Act to Classify Meat and Poultry Products Inspections as Essential Services	ONTP
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### **Food Policy**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 2091	An Act Regarding Businesses' and Consumers' Use of Returnable, Reusable and Refillable Containers for Food, Beverages and Nonfood Items	PUBLIC 528
<b>Not Enacted</b>	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	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310
	LD 1823	An Act to Protect the Right to Food	CARRIED OVER
	LD 2093	An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food	CARRIED OVER

### **Maine Forest Service**

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 2063	An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing Disclosure of Wood Processing Data	PUBLIC 495
<b>Not Enacted</b>	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

**Not  
Enacted**

LD 1227	An Act to Balance Renewable Energy Development with Natural and Working Lands Conservation	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 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 2033	Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey a Parcel of Land in the Town of Woodstock	RESOLVE 128
LD 2038	An Act to Amend the Law Regarding the Land for Maine's Future Board to Allow for Proxy Designees	PUBLIC 494
LD 2061	Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Peacock Beach State Park to the Town of Richmond	RESOLVE 172

**Not  
Enacted**

LD 25	An Act to Provide Indigenous Peoples Free Access to State Parks	HELD BY GOVERNOR
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 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 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	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310

### *Pest Management*

<b>Not Enacted</b>	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*

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 2189	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 41: Special Restrictions on Pesticide Use, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control	RESOLVE 153
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### *Regulated Products*

<b>Enacted</b>	LD 1274	Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Support Commercial Dairy Farms in the State	RESOLVE 146
	LD 2188	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 26: Producer Margins, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Milk Commission	RESOLVE 174
	LD 2226	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 213: Rules for the Salmonella Enteritidis Risk Reduction and Surveillance Program for Commercial Egg-type Flocks, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry	RESOLVE 160
<b>Not Enacted</b>	LD 1996	An Act to Regulate Synthetic Hemp-derived Cannabinoids	ONTP
	LD 2256	An Act to Provide Emergency One-time Relief from the Wild Blueberry Tax for Growers	CARRIED OVER



DIGEST OF BILLS  
131ST LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION - 2024

**Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry**

Comm	LD	Title	Committee Action	Date of last Comm Action	Disposition upon R2 Adjournment	Law	Ch	Analyst Note?
ACF	25	An Act to Provide Indigenous Peoples Free Access to State Parks	OTP-AM	1/18/2024	Held by Governor			
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	OTP-AM	3/23/2023				
ACF	220	An Act to Support Maine's Farmers in the Development of Sustainable Irrigation	OTP-AM	5/24/2023				
ACF	294	An Act to Include a Tribal Member in the Baxter State Park Authority	OTP-AM/ONTP	4/10/2024				
ACF	568	An Act to Provide Funding for the Fund to Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives	OTP-AM	3/28/2023				
ACF	579	An Act to Support Farmland Conservation	OTP-AM	2/6/2024				
ACF	650	An Act to Improve Maine Agriculture and Food Systems	LTW	1/17/2024	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
ACF	791	An Act to Support the Maintenance, Preservation and Promotion of Historic Sites	OTP-AM	4/13/2023				
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	OTP-AM	5/2/2023				
ACF	993	An Act to Facilitate Stakeholder Input Regarding Forest Policy in Maine	OTP-AM/ONTP	5/15/2023				
ACF	1021	An Act to Support Research, Education and Outreach Efforts at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory	OTP-AM	4/26/2023				
ACF	1162	An Act to Increase Support for the Community Forestry Fund	OTP-AM/ONTP	4/26/2023				
ACF	1227	An Act to Balance Renewable Energy Development with Natural and Working Lands Conservation	OTP-AM	6/9/2023				

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Comm	LD	Title	Committee Action	Date of last Comm Action	Disposition upon R2 Adjournment	Law Ch		Analyst Note?
						Law	Ch	
ACF	1274	Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Support Commercial Dairy Farms in the State	OTP-AM	3/13/2024	Emergency Finally Passed	RESLV	146	
ACF	1285	An Act to Extend Funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program	OTP-AM	5/26/2023				
ACF	1349	An Act to Review State Lands and Waterways That Have Sacred, Traditional or Other Significance to the Wabanaki People	OTP-AM/ONTP	4/5/2024				
ACF	1441	An Act to Enhance State Oversight of Water Use and Water Resources	OTP-AM/ONTP	5/17/2023				
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	ONTP/OTP-AM	2/14/2024	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report			
ACF	1682	An Act to Create the Maine Experiential Education Program	OTP-AM	6/2/2023				
ACF	1817	An Act to Support Outdoor Education by Establishing the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program	OTP-AM	6/6/2023				
ACF	1823	An Act to Protect the Right to Food	OTP-AM/ONTP	4/9/2024				
ACF	1886	Resolve, to Construct a New District Headquarters Building for the Bureau of Forestry in Fort Kent	OTP-AM	2/1/2024				
ACF	1916	An Act to Classify Meat and Poultry Products Inspections as Essential Services	ONTP	1/12/2024	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
ACF	1985	An Act to Authorize Removal of Requirements of Forest Certification Systems from the State's Forest Management Plans	Not Reported Out	5/10/2024				
ACF	1989	Resolve, to Modify the Deed for a Parcel of Property in the Town of Carrabassett Valley to Allow for Workforce Housing	LTW	1/3/2024	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			



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131ST LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION - 2024

Comm	LD	Title	Committee Action	Date of last Comm Action	Disposition upon R2 Adjournment	Law	Ch	Analyst Note?
ACF	1996	An Act to Regulate Synthetic Hemp-derived Cannabinoids	ONTP	2/13/2024	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
ACF	2033	Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey a Parcel of Land in the Town of Woodstock	OTP-AM	1/18/2024	Finally Passed	RESLV	128	
ACF	2038	An Act to Amend the Law Regarding the Land for Maine's Future Board to Allow for Proxy Designees	OTP	1/12/2024	Enacted	PL	494	
ACF	2061	Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Peacock Beach State Park to the Town of Richmond	OTP-AM	1/26/2024	Emergency Finally Passed	RESLV	172	
ACF	2063	An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing Disclosure of Wood Processing Data	OTP	1/11/2024	Enacted	PL	495	
ACF	2091	An Act Regarding Businesses' and Consumers' Use of Returnable, Reusable and Refillable Containers for Food, Beverages and Nonfood Items	OTP-AM	2/15/2024	Enacted	PL	528	
ACF	2093	An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food	OTP-AM	1/31/2024				
ACF	2188	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 26: Producer Margins, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Milk Commission	OTP-AM	3/7/2024	Emergency Finally Passed	RESLV	174	
ACF	2189	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 41: Special Restrictions on Pesticide Use, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control	OTP-AM/OTP	2/27/2024	Finally Passed	RESLV	153	
ACF	2212	An Act to Strengthen Maine's Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment	OTP-AM	3/27/2024				
ACF	2226	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 213: Rules for the Salmonella Enteritidis Risk Reduction and Surveillance Program for Commercial Egg-type Flocks, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry	OTP-AM	3/20/2024	Emergency Finally Passed	RESLV	160	

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131ST LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION - 2024

Comm	LD	Title	Committee Action	Date of last Comm Action	Disposition upon R2 Adjournment	Law	Ch	Analyst Note?
ACF	2256	An Act to Provide Emergency One-time Relief from the Wild Blueberry Tax for Growers	OTP-AM	3/20/2024				

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
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**LD 1274 Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Support Commercial Dairy Farms in the State**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2023, chapter 146 directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convene the Task Force to Support Commercial Dairy Farms in the State. It directs the task force to review and provide recommendations on potential investments and policies to support the long-term sustainability and resiliency of the State’s dairy sector. The task force is required, no later than January 6, 2025, to submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters. The joint standing committee is authorized to report out a bill to the 132nd Legislature in 2025 based on the recommendations of the task force.

Resolve 2023, chapter 146 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective March 25, 2024.

**LD 2033 Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey a Parcel of Land in the Town of Woodstock**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2023, chapter 128 authorizes the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convey the State's interest in a 0.34-acre parcel of land in Woodstock.

**LD 2038 An Act to Amend the Law Regarding the Land for Maine’s Future Board to Allow for Proxy Designees**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 494 allows each permanent member of the Land for Maine’s Future Board to designate a proxy for board meetings. The permanent members of the board are the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Commissioner of Marine Resources and the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

**LD 2061 Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Peacock Beach State Park to the Town of Richmond**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2023, chapter 172 authorizes the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to convey to the Town of Richmond all the State’s interest in a parcel of land approximately 32 acres in size in Richmond known as Peacock

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Beach State Park. Future use of the property must be for noncommercial public recreational use. The department retains a right of first refusal regarding future property conveyances.

Resolve 2023, chapter 172 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective April 22, 2024.

**LD 2063 An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing Disclosure of Wood Processing Data**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 495 amends the confidentiality provisions of the laws governing wood processor reports to authorize limited sharing of the information submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry with the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Research Station, as long as the bureau enters into a confidentiality agreement with that entity. It also adds penalties to ensure that the information is used only for purposes authorized by the director of the bureau.

**LD 2091 An Act Regarding Businesses' and Consumers' Use of Returnable, Reusable and Refillable Containers for Food, Beverages and Nonfood Items**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2023, chapter 528 requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to ensure that its rules and guidelines allow a business, on a voluntary basis, to allow consumers to supply their own containers or packaging for shelf-stable food and nonfood items as provided in current law, but also other food as determined by the department by rule.

It also requires the department to ensure that its rules and guidelines do the following:

1. Explicitly provide that a returnable, reusable or refillable container or packaging may be reclaimed by the business or a third party, restored to standards for health and safety and reused in the packaging and selling of a nonfood item, a shelf-stable item or other food to the same or another consumer;
2. Explicitly provide that allowing consumers to supply their own containers or packaging for the purchase of nonfood items, shelf-stable items and other food is voluntary for the business;
3. Explicitly provide that allowing a business to sell nonfood items, shelf-stable items and other food to consumers in returnable, reusable or refillable containers and packaging, which may be supplied by either the business or a third party, is voluntary; and
4. Explicitly establish the right of a business to refuse any returnable, reusable or refillable container or packaging supplied by a consumer.

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**LD 2188 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 26: Producer Margins, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Milk Commission**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2023, chapter 174 authorizes final adoption of Chapter 26: Producer Margins, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Maine Milk Commission that was submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, only if the following changes are made to the four levels of target prices for milk producers:

1. For the first 16,790 hundredweight produced per year by each producer, the target price is \$24.51 per hundredweight;
2. For production over 16,790 hundredweight to 49,079 hundredweight per year, the target price is \$23.37 per hundredweight;
3. For production over 49,079 hundredweight to 76,800 hundredweight per year, the target price is \$22.60 per hundredweight; and
4. For production over 76,800 hundredweight per year, the target price is \$21.88 per hundredweight.

Resolve 2023, chapter 174 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective April 22, 2024.

**LD 2189 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 41: Special Restrictions on Pesticide Use, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2023, chapter 153 provides that final adoption of Chapter 41: Special Restrictions on Pesticide Use, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control that was submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, is not authorized.

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**LD 2226 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 213: Rules for the Salmonella Enteritidis Risk Reduction and Surveillance Program for Commercial Egg-type Flocks, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry**

**ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Resolve 2023, chapter 160 authorizes final adoption of Chapter 213: Rules for the Salmonella Enteritidis Risk Reduction and Surveillance Program for Commercial Egg-type Flocks, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry that was submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A outside the legislative rule acceptance period. The resolve also authorizes the department may make grammatical, formatting, punctuation and other technical, nonsubstantive editing changes to the rule as necessary prior to final adoption, including, but not limited to, any such changes necessary to ensure that the rule is correctly chaptered as Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry rule Chapter 213.

Resolve 2023, chapter 160 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective April 2, 2024.