



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

Legislative Document

No. 2070

H.P. 1383

House of Representatives, December 17, 2025

An Act to Prohibit Landfill Expansion into Wetlands

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 15, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

R. B. Hunt
ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DILL of Old Town.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the expansion of solid waste landfills into freshwater wetlands can damage local aquifers, streams and rivers associated with those wetlands; and

Whereas, current law does not prohibit the Department of Environmental Protection from issuing permits and licenses for the expansion of solid waste landfills that will alter freshwater wetlands; and

Whereas, there is currently a solid waste landfill expansion under consideration that would fill a portion of a freshwater wetland; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §480-X, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Prohibition; solid waste landfill expansion. The department may not issue a permit pursuant to this section for the altering of freshwater wetlands in connection with the expansion of a solid waste landfill as defined in section 1303-C, subsection 32.

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §1310-N, sub-§1-B is enacted to read:

1-B. Freshwater wetland alteration. The department may not issue a license for the expansion of a solid waste landfill if it finds that the expansion will alter a freshwater wetland as defined in section 480-B, subsection 4.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits the Department of Environmental Protection from issuing a permit under the Natural Resources Protection Act or a license under the solid waste management laws for the altering of freshwater wetlands in connection with the expansion of a solid waste landfill.