

# 130<sup>th</sup> Legislature (2022)– Summary of Laws Enacted 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session



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### **NOTE:**

- To read the chaptered law, right click on the PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER #, scroll down and click on “open hyperlink”.
- **Ctrl+F:** allows a search for a key word.

## PUBLIC LAWS

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### **[PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 522](#) - (LD 1826) - An Act To Require Reporting by the Interagency Task Force on Invasive Aquatic Plants and Nuisance Species Regarding Recommendations To Reduce the Threat of Further Infestations**

*(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

This law requires the Interagency Task Force on Invasive Aquatic Plants and Nuisance Species on or before January 15, 2023, and biennially thereafter, to submit to the DEP, MDIFW, DMR and the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters, IFW matters and marine resources matters a report containing its findings and recommendations, including any suggested legislation, on a variety of matters relating to controlling the introduction of invasive aquatic plants and nuisance species in the State. After reviewing the report, each joint standing committee may report out legislation related to the report. This also requires the task force, in developing those findings and recommendations, to convene a stakeholder group that includes, but is not limited to, task force members, state natural resources agency staff and other persons with relevant experience or expertise including representatives of local and regional lake associations and representatives of lake protection organizations. It provides that for the first report due

January 15, 2023, the task force is required to include additional one-time findings on a number of specified matters that include:

- Methods to expedite and improve the process for treating lakes infested with invasive aquatic plants with newly developed herbicide treatments or vegetation removal processes;
- Methods to expedite and improve restrictions limiting the use of watercraft on areas of lakes infested with invasive aquatic plants;
- The feasibility of requiring inspections of watercraft put into or taken out of lakes infested with invasive aquatic plants or lakes identified DEP to be at risk of infestation; and
- The permit requirements for recreational and sporting events held on lakes infested with invasive aquatic plants or lakes identified by the department to be at risk of infestation.

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**PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 526** – (1813) **An Act Related to Oversized All-terrain Vehicles**

*(Effective: By Emergency, March 31, 2022)*

It allows oversized ATVs to be operated without registration by business owners on private land as long as the person is engaged solely in a business activity and that business activity cannot involve recreational use of the oversized ATV. An oversized ATV means an ATV that is wider than 65 inches or weighs more than 2,000 pounds according to the manufacturer’s specifications.

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**PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 580** - (LD 1951) **An Act Related to Hunting Dogs and Civil Trespass**

*(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

- It prohibits certain types of trespass by a hunting dog and creates a new section in Title 12 titled: “Civil trespass with hunting dog”. This new section includes two new definitions for “dog handler” and “turn a hunting dog loose”. It creates a prohibited act such that a person is in violation of civil trespass with a hunting dog if:
  - They turn a hunting dog loose onto posted property; or
  - They turn a hunting dog loose onto property where the landowner has communicated to the dog handler that they do not want hunting dogs on their property; or
  - A hunting dog enters property upon which a hunting dog has been previously found and a law enforcement officer has warned any handler of the hunting dog (within the past 365 days) that hunting dogs are not permitted on the property.
- It requires a person to obtain a \$12 “dog training and hunting permit” to train a hunting dog on bear, fox or raccoon or hunt bear, coyote, bobcat, fox or raccoon with a dog. Super pack license holders do not need to pay the Dog Training and Hunting permit fee but must acquire the permit through the Augusta MDIFW office in person or by calling 207-287-8000.
  - The law exempts the permit requirement for a person under 16 years of age and persons hunting or training with a hunting guide.
  - It provides penalties for failure to have a permit and after the deduction of any administrative costs incurred the permit fees must be deposited into the Landowner Relations Fund.
- It requires a person training a dog in pursuit of a bear, fox or raccoon to have a collar on the dog with a functioning global positioning system tracker and a collar that legibly provides the name, telephone number and address of the owner of that dog.
- It requires a person hunting with a dog in pursuit of a bear, coyote, bobcat, fox or raccoon to have a collar on the dog that has a functioning global positioning system tracker and adds foxes and raccoons to the list of wild animals a person may not hunt with a dog unless the dog has a collar that legibly provides the name, telephone number and address of the owner of the dog.

- It limits hunting foxes or raccoons with dogs to not more than 6 dogs.
- If a person is convicted or adjudicated of civil trespass with a hunting dog in violation of section 10657-A, that person is ineligible to obtain a dog training and hunting permit for at least one year and with a 2<sup>nd</sup> offense they are ineligible to obtain the permit for 2 years.
- It also appropriates and allocates \$18,000 “all other money” to the Landowner Relations Fund Z140 account in fiscal year 2022-23.

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**PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 585** – (LD 1873) **An Act Related to Airboats**

*(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

The temporary law that was set to repeal in September 2022 which prohibits airboat operators from operating an airboat exceeding certain decibel levels during certain hours of the day, is extended until September 2023.

12 MRSA §13068-A, sub-§10, ¶A-2, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 166, §1, This paragraph is repealed on September 30, 2023.

- **Stakeholder group; department action; report.** The Commissioner of IFW and the Commissioner of DMR, shall reconvene the stakeholder group formed as part of Public Law 2021, chapter 166 to continue its discussions regarding issues related to airboat noise levels.
- **Staffing.** The commissioners shall provide necessary staffing services to the stakeholder group.
- **Department Actions.** IFW, shall seek ways to increase water access points for shellfish harvesters and shall monitor the noise decibel levels of airboats.
- **Report.** IFW shall provide a report that includes its findings, any findings of the stakeholder group, a list of stakeholders that participated in the stakeholder group meetings and any recommendations of the department or the stakeholder group, including any proposed statutory changes if needed, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over IFW **matters by January 3, 2024**. The committee may report out a bill related to airboats to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

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**PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 599** – (LD 116) **An Act Relating to the Hunting of Antlerless Deer**

*(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

**New Antlerless Deer Lottery Process Info Webpage**

- The statutory changes and subsequent rule changes IFW made in 2022 will allow hunters, beginning in fall 2022 to harvest one antlered deer under the authority of their hunting license and if they enter the antlerless deer lottery and have their name drawn, they must claim and purchase their permit in order to harvest an additional deer that must be antlerless.
- It creates a \$12 antlerless deer permit (ADP) fee (plus a \$2 agent fee) for both residents and nonresidents. The revenue from the \$12 ADP fee will be deposited in the Maine Deer Management Fund.
- In any WMD with at least 2,000 ADPs, up to 2.5% of the permits will be given to superpack license holders as superpack ADPs, if there are more superpack deer permit applicants than there are available permits, it is possible that some applicants will not win a superpack deer permit but if this occurs, they will be entered into the regular any-deer permit lottery and if they win an ADP in the regular lottery they must claim and purchase the permit. They will have an opportunity to purchase one over the counter permit (what used to be known as a bonus

permit) as well. Superpack license holders will not have to pay for the permit but will have to claim it.

- It renames the “regular archery only season” to the “regular archery season” because crossbows are permitted during the archery season.
- It eliminates swaps and transfers of permits for game animals (but still allows swaps and transfers for moose permits) and includes the elimination of resident hunter ADP transfers and ADP transfers to junior hunters.
- It repeals the provisions that temporarily permits the use of crossbows to hunt deer during the regular archery season and turkey during the fall turkey season. Instead, the use of crossbows is allowed on an ongoing basis during the regular archery season and during the fall turkey hunting season.
- It authorizes IFW to allow hunters to take antlerless deer without an ADP in certain areas of the State.
- It provides that if the commissioner establishes by rule a lottery for issuing ADPs, the commissioner may also allow direct purchase of additional ADPs in certain areas of the State.
- It directs IFW to determine the statutory changes needed to remove the distinction between a crossbow and a bow and arrow for purposes of the hunting laws and to report these changes, along with the anticipated cost and timeline for the changes, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over IFW matters by January 3, 2023. The committee is authorized to report out a bill related to crossbows to the 131st Legislature in 2023.

**Note for Paraplegic Hunters:** This will not change the process for paraplegic hunting license holders. Like other hunters they will be able to harvest a buck anywhere in the state. They will continue to be able to harvest an extra antlerless deer in any WMD open to the taking of antlerless deer without applying for a permit through the lottery.

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## **PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 656 - An Act To Improve Boating Safety on Maine Waters**

*(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

- It defines a boater safety and education course as an online or in-person course that:
  - Provides basic information for recreational boaters about how to identify and reduce primary boating risk factors and mitigate the dangers of recreational boating; and
  - Meets a national association of boating law administrators (NASBLA) standard and is approved by the commissioner.
- It defines a boater safety and education course certificate as a certificate or evidence of completion of a boater safety and education course approved by the commissioner.
- Beginning January 1, 2024, it requires a person born on or after January 1, 1999 to be 16 years of age or older and to have completed a boater safety and education course to supervise a person under 12 years of age who operates on inland waters of the State a motorboat propelled by machinery capable of producing more than 10 horsepower.
- Beginning January 1, 2024, it requires a person born on or after January 1, 1999 to be 12 years of age or older and to have completed a mandatory boater safety and education course to operate on inland waters of the State a motorboat capable of producing more than 25 horsepower. The 2 exceptions to this requirement are if a person:
  - Possesses a valid Maine guide license and has met the requirements for carrying passengers for hire under section 13063; or

- Possesses a valid maritime license of any type that the commissioner determines meets the boater safety education.
- Beginning January 1, 2024, it requires a person born on or after January 1, 1999 to be 16 years of age or older and to have completed a boater safety and education course to operate a personal watercraft on inland waters of the State.
- It requires the Commissioner of IFW to convene a stakeholder group on boater safety and education. The commissioner is required to provide a report to the Legislature by January 15, 2023 on the findings of the stakeholder group. After receiving the report, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over IFW matters has authority to report out a bill relating to boater safety and education to the 131st Legislature in 2023.

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## **IFW Work Prior to Next Session**

### **Resolves, Carryovers, Studies, Stakeholders Groups, Report Backs**

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**[RESOLVE 2022 CHAPTER 147](#)** – (LD 626) **Resolve, To Direct the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry To Develop Recommendations Regarding Nonwater-dependent Floating Structures on Maine's Waters**  
*(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

This is a resolve that directs the DACF to establish an interagency working group to develop recommendations, including suggested legislation, to define and regulate nonwater-dependent floating structures on coastal and inland waters. The department is required to consult with IFW, and other state and federal agencies as needed and seek input from a statewide municipal association and a statewide harbor masters association that represents Maine harbor masters. The department is required to submit a report with findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters no later than January 1, 2024 and that committee is authorized to submit a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature based on the subject matter of the report.

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### **Study / Report Back**

**LD 1965: An Act To Create Higher Standards for State-owned and State-managed Land for Deer Management** (The Bill died and a letter from the IFW Legislative Committee was sent to IFW instead)

- The IFW Legislative Committee requested that IFW meet with a representative of the Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) and a representative of the Sportsman Alliance of Maine to discuss deer wintering areas (DWA) that were shaded on a map provided during the session.
- A report back to the Committee by January 15, 2023 is requested that includes a description of how BPL and IFW work together to improve DWAs, if there is a plan to improve the DWAs and what possible changes could be made to the existing system for deer management in the shaded areas on the map. The report should also include a summary of the process, and any recommendations, including any proposed statutory changes, if needed.



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**PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 585** – (LD 1873) **An Act Related to Airboats**

*(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

The temporary law that was set to repeal in September 2022 which prohibits airboat operators from operating an airboat exceeding certain decibel levels during certain hours of the day, is extended until September 2023.

12 MRSA §13068-A, sub-§10, ¶A-2, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 166, §1, This paragraph is repealed on September 30, 2023.

- **Stakeholder group; department action; report.** The Commissioner of IFW and the Commissioner of DMR, shall reconvene the stakeholder group formed as part of Public Law 2021, chapter 166 to continue its discussions regarding issues related to airboat noise levels.
- **Staffing.** The commissioners shall provide necessary staffing services to the stakeholder group.
- **Department Actions.** IFW, shall seek ways to increase water access points for shellfish harvesters and shall monitor the noise decibel levels of airboats.
- **Report.** IFW shall provide a report that includes its findings, any findings of the stakeholder group, a list of stakeholders that participated in the stakeholder group meetings and any recommendations of the department or the stakeholder group, including any proposed statutory changes if needed, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over IFW **matters by January 3, 2024**. The committee may report out a bill related to airboats to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

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**PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 656** – (LD 1663) **An Act To Improve Boating Safety on Maine Waters**

*(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

In addition to the boater education requirements the law instituted, it directs the department to form a stakeholder group.

**Stakeholder group on boater safety and education course implementation.**

The Commissioner of IFW shall convene a stakeholder group on issues related to boater safety and education on inland waters of the State, referred to in this section as "the stakeholder group."

**1. Formation.** The commissioner shall invite the following to serve as members of the stakeholder group:

- a representative from the marine trades,
- a representative from a sporting association,
- a representative of the Department of Marine Resources,
- a legislator,
- a representative of a group dedicated to lake water quality and
- any other members determined as suitable by the commissioner.

The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall serve as chair of the stakeholder group. The chair shall call and convene the first meeting of the stakeholder group no later than 30 days following the effective date of this section.

**2. Duties.** The stakeholder group:

- A.** Shall examine and determine whether persons of a certain age should be exempt from the boater safety and education course requirement;
- B.** Shall examine any boater safety and education course implementation issues, including the effect of boater safety and education on inland and tidal waters of the State; and
- C.** May examine any related issues that the stakeholder group determines appropriate.

**3. Staff; information.** The commissioner shall provide necessary staffing services to the stakeholder group.

**4. Report.** By January 15, 2023, the commissioner shall report to the Legislative committee having jurisdiction over IFW matters the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group, including any recommended legislation, if needed. The committee may report out a bill relating to boater safety and education to the 131st Legislature in 2023.

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**PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 673** – (LD 2019) **An Act To Require the Registration of Adjuvants in the State and To Regulate the Distribution of Pesticides with Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances** *(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

This makes changes to the Maine Pesticide Control Act of 1975.

- It adds "any substance or mixture of substances intended to be used as a spray adjuvant" to the definition of "pesticide" and defines "spray adjuvant."
- It defines "perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances" (PFAS) and prohibits a person from distributing a pesticide that has been contaminated by PFAS.
- It prohibits a person from distributing a pesticide that contains intentionally added PFAS beginning January 1, 2030. Current law defines "distribute" in the Maine Pesticide Control Act of 1975 as "to offer for sale, hold for sale, sell, barter, ship, deliver for shipment or receive and having received, deliver or offer to deliver pesticides in this State."
- It also prohibits a person from using any pesticide container inconsistent with rules for pesticide containers adopted by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control.

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**PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 704** – (LD 1992) **An Act Related to the Electronic Registration and Tagging of Turkey** *(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

- It directs IFW to adopt rules allowing for the electronic registration of turkey beginning in 2023.
- It requires IFW to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over IFW by November 2, 2022 on additional statutory changes needed in order to facilitate the electronic tagging of turkey. It authorizes the committee to report out a bill related to electronic tagging to the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.
- It provides one-time funding for the capture and banding of turkeys and for a hunter survey to prevent loss of important wildlife management information with the implementation of electronic registration and tagging of turkey.

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**PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 743** – (LD 1513) **An Act To Establish the Maine Abandoned and Discontinued Roads Commission** *(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

This law establishes the Maine Abandoned and Discontinued Roads Commission.

- The commission is charged with prioritizing matters related to abandoned and discontinued roads that have:

- a significant negative impact, qualitatively or quantitatively, on residential owners of property that abuts the road,
- recreational users of the road,
- members of the public,
- municipal, county or state governments and
- the physical integrity of the road and surrounding land;
- developing recommendations to address the prioritized matters;
- recommending statutory changes; and
- reviewing legislation.
- The commission has the authority to receive funds to support the work of the commission.
- The commission must report to the:
- Legislative committee having jurisdiction over state and local government matters, the Legislative committee having jurisdiction over IFW matters and the Legislative committee having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters by February 1, 2023 and annually thereafter.
- The committees have authority to report out bills in response to the reports.
- The Office of the Attorney General is required to provide staff support to the commission.

## Laws/Resolves of Interest:

### **RESOLVE 2022 CHAPTER 172** – (LD 1875) **Resolve, To Address Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution at State-owned Solid Waste Landfills**

*(Effective: By Emergency, May 2, 2022)*

This law directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services to conduct a study of methods of treating leachate collected at the state-owned solid waste landfills in Old Town, known as Juniper Ridge Landfill, and in East Millinocket, known as the Dolby Landfill, to reduce the concentration of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in the leachate. It requires the bureau, on or before January 15, 2023, to submit to the Legislative committee having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters a report containing its findings and recommendations, including any suggested legislation, resulting from its study and the committee may report out a bill to implement any recommendations to the 131st Legislature.

### **RESOLVE 2022 CHAPTER 176** – (LD 1488) **Resolve, To Study and Recommend Improvements to Maine's Dam Safety** *(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

It requires the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to request a peer review from the Association of State Dam Safety Officials, to be completed by September 30, 2023, of the State's dam safety efforts.

### **PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 516** – (LD 736) **An Act To Enhance the Ecological Reserve System**

*(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

- Current law provides that the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL Director) within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) may designate additional



ecological reserves only in conjunction with the adoption of a management plan for a particular parcel of land, and the process for adoption of that management plan must provide for public review and comment on the plan. This law requires the director to follow the same process to remove the designation of a parcel of land as an ecological reserve.

- Current law also provides that when a proposed management plan includes designation of an ecological reserve, the director is required to notify the Legislative committee having jurisdiction over public lands matters of the proposal. This law provides that when a proposed management plan includes the removal of a parcel of land of 10 acres or more as an ecological reserve, the director is required to submit a report to the committee on matters of the proposal prior to the bureau's updating the accompanying management plan for the parcel of land. It also specifies that the committee may report out a bill relating to the subject matter of the report.
- It also adds the gathering of materials for cultural and traditional use by a member of a federally recognized Wabanaki Indian nation, tribe or band in this State to the list of allowed uses within an ecological reserve.
- It authorizes the director to implement predetermined wildfire tactics to protect the integrity of the landscape and requires the director to use minimal impact suppression tactics to the extent possible.
- It increases the limitation on total land acreage designated as ecological reserves from 15% of the total land acreage under the jurisdiction of the bureau or 100,000 acres, whichever is less, to 115,000 acres. This also increases from 6% to 8% the operable timberland acres on public reserved lands and nonreserved public lands that may be designated as ecological reserves.
- It clarifies the definition of "operable timberland" by specifying that it does not include inoperable lands.
- It also clarifies that the designation of land as an ecological reserve may not result in a decline in the sustainable harvest level on land under the jurisdiction of the bureau to less than the average annual harvest for the preceding 10 years.

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**PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 517** – (LD 1429) **An Act To Achieve Carbon Neutrality in Maine by the Year 2045** *(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

Beginning January 1, 2045, net annual greenhouse gas emissions may not exceed zero metric tons.

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**PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 549** – (LD 1947) **An Act To Promote Electronic Filing of State Agency and Legislative Committee Publications**

*(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

- This law reduces from 18 to 4, the number of paper copies a state agency or legislative committee must provide to the State Librarian when the agency or legislative committee publishes a report or other publication.
  - However, if the agency or committee provides the State Librarian with an electronically published copy they are only required to provide one printed copy.
  - It requires the State Librarian to maintain an online repository for permanent digital access to government documents.
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**PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 551** – (LD 1964) **An Act To Update Certain Water Quality Standards and To Reclassify Certain Waters of the State**

*(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

- This law implements recommendations of the Board of Environmental Protection resulting from its review of the State’s water quality classification system and related water quality standards pursuant to the Maine Revised 23 Statutes, Title 38, section 464, subsection 3, paragraph B.
- As recommended by the board, the law includes specific updates to certain water quality standards and water quality classifications based on water quality data and the recommendations of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, DEP and other parties.
- It also includes technical clarifications to certain board reporting responsibilities and the corresponding authority for legislation of the Legislative committee having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters.

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**PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 557** – (LD 1844) **An Act To Amend Provisions in the Laws Governing Aquaculture Leases**

*(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

- This law clarifies that, for purposes of a research or aquaculture lease to construct or operate in coastal waters a facility for the suspended culture of marine organisms, "suspended culture" includes all forms of culture except for the placement of marine organisms on the ocean bottom without the use of gear of any type.
- It authorizes the department to hold an emergency aquaculture lease for shellfish without having to also hold a lease issued under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 6072 or 6072-A.
- It also authorizes the Commissioner of Marine Resources to issue a marine organism aquaculture license for more than one calendar year.

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**PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 611** – (LD 1971) **An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Remote Participation**

*(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

- This law adds to the requirement that the proposed remote participation policy be included with the notice of the remote meeting that is called to adopt the policy or that the notice include instructions on how to obtain a copy of the proposed policy in advance of the meeting.
- It requires that 2/3 of the members of the public body vote to support the chair’s determination that an emergency or urgent issue exists that requires the convening of the remote meeting.
- It requires only a majority vote in support.
- It also amends the current law that applies to the obligation of public bodies to make documents available to the public to ensure that access to the proposed remote participation policy is provided in advance of the remote meeting called to adopt the policy.

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**PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 641** – (LD 1911) **An Act To Prevent the Further Contamination of the Soils and Waters of the State with So-called Forever Chemicals**

*(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

- It authorizes the DEP to require a person licensed to discharge wastewater to sample the effluent discharged for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and to report the sample data to the department.

- It provides that a person licensed or permitted by the department to apply or spread septage at one or more locations in the State may not apply septage at any location authorized under that license or permit if the department provides to the person a written determination that, based on testing conducted at the location or in close proximity to that location, the department has determined that the concentration of PFAS in groundwater at that location or in drinking water sources in close proximity to that location exceeds the applicable drinking water standard for PFAS.
- It prohibits the department from issuing any new license or permit authorizing a person to apply or spread septage at any location in the State.
- It repeals provisions of law that authorize a homeowner to arrange for septage from a residence on the homeowner's property to be disposed of on that property.
- Subject to certain listed exceptions, it prohibits the application or spreading on any land in the State of sludge, any compost material that included in its production sludge generated from a municipal, commercial or industrial wastewater treatment plant or septage or any other product or material that is intended for use as a fertilizer, soil amendment, topsoil replacement or mulch or for other similar agricultural purpose that is derived from or contains sludge generated from a municipal, commercial or industrial wastewater treatment plant or septage.
- Subject to certain listed exceptions, it prohibits the sale or distribution in the State of any compost material that included in its production sludge generated from a municipal, commercial or industrial wastewater treatment plant or septage or any other product or material that is intended for use as a fertilizer, soil amendment, topsoil replacement or mulch or for other similar agricultural purpose that is derived from or contains sludge generated from a municipal, commercial or industrial wastewater treatment plant or septage.
- It repeals the provision in law imposing a \$10 per ton fee on the handling of sludge and septage beginning January 1, 2022 and makes related statutory changes.
- It repeals a provision of Public Law 2021, chapter 478 that prohibits a person licensed or permitted by the department to apply sludge or septage at a location subject to department evaluation for PFAS contamination from requesting to surrender the license or permit prior to its expiration unless the person has submitted to the evaluation and provided the results to the department.
- It requires the department to study methods of and develop a plan for prohibiting the land application of septage in the State and, on or before January 15, 2023, to submit the Legislative committee having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters a report containing its findings and recommendations, including any suggested legislation, resulting from that study. After receiving the report, the committee may report out a bill.

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**PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 654** – (LD 1075) **An Act To Protect Public Lands**

*(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

This law clarifies that the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands is required to adopt rules that establish an objective evaluation process for determining if a proposed activity on designated land under the jurisdiction of the bureau would cause the land to be reduced or the uses of the land to be substantially altered. The law also requires the bureau, in adopting the rules, to observe the requirements relating to designated lands in the Constitution of Maine, Article 36 IX, Section 23 and ensure proper exercise of the bureau's public trust responsibility.

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**PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 674** – (LD 1310) **An Act Regarding a Post-judgment Motion To Seal the Criminal History Record Information for Certain Criminal Convictions**

*(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

This law reestablishes a special process to seal certain criminal records that was created by Public Law 2015, chapter 354 in a statute that was repealed by its own terms on October 1, 2019. It uses the same process to seal criminal records of an eligible criminal conviction as in the repealed law but expands the eligibility for record sealing by increasing the age at which the crime was committed. It defines "eligible criminal conviction" to include all current and former Class E crimes except for sexual assault crimes contained in the Maine Revised Statutes, 40 Title 17-A, chapter 11.

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**PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 675** – (1979) **An Act Regarding the Development of Comprehensive River Resource Management Plans** *(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

It directs DEP, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, IFW, DMR, the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Governor's Energy Office and other state agencies as needed, to evaluate the current process for the development of comprehensive river resource management plans established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 407 to develop findings and recommendations. DEP is directed to submit, on or before January 15, 2023, to the Legislative committee having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters a report outlining those findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, and the committee is authorized to report out legislation in 2023.

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**PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 681** – (LD 585) **An Act To Enhance Tribal-State Collaboration, To Revise the Tax Laws Regarding the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation and To Authorize Casinos, Off-track Betting Facilities, Federally Recognized Indian Tribes and Certain Commercial Tracks To Conduct Sports Wagering**

*(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

This law enacts the Tribal-State Collaboration Act, which requires the Departments of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Corrections, Economic and Community Development, Education, Environmental Protection, DHHS, IFW, the Department of Labor, Public Safety, Administrative and Financial Services, Professional and Financial Regulation, Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, DMR, DOT, the Office of the Public Advocate and the Public Utilities Commission each to designate a tribal liaison and to develop and implement a policy that promotes positive government-to-government relations between the State and federally recognized Indian tribes within the State, promotes cultural competency in the agency's interactions with Indian tribes and tribal members and establishes a process for collaboration between the agency and Indian tribes regarding the agency's programs, rules and services that substantially and uniquely affect the Indian tribes or tribal members. The Act also directs the Governor to meet at least annually with the leaders of the Indian tribes in a Tribal-State Summit to address issues of mutual concern, including implementation of the Tribal-State Collaboration Act, improving communication between the State and the Indian tribes and implementation of the requirement to include Maine Native American studies in the Department of Education's system of learning results.

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**[PUBLIC LAW 2022 CHAPTER 684](#)** – (LD 679) **An Act To Establish a Statewide Electronic Warrant System**  
*(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

This law directs the State Court Administrator to establish a secure system for the application, issuance and return of arrest warrants and search warrants that is electronic and that provides access to authorized users statewide. Once established, the electronic warrant system may be used to apply for a search warrant or an arrest warrant when the application is presented to a District Court judge or a Superior Court justice or to a justice of the peace who is authorized under rules adopted by the Supreme Judicial Court. It also directs the Supreme Judicial Court to adopt amendments to the Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure, Rule 4, Arrest Warrant or Summons.

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**[PUBLIC LAW CHAPTER 693](#)** – (LD 1579) **An Act To Transition State and Local Motor Vehicle Fleets to Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles and Zero-emission Vehicles** *(Effective: August 8, 2022)*

This law specifies emissions reduction goals for specific percentages of annual state vehicle purchases and leases to be plug in hybrid electric vehicles or zero-emission vehicles. It sets a goal for the Central Fleet Management Division and the Department of Public Safety, combined, of 50% of light-duty motor vehicle acquisitions being plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and zero-emission vehicles by 2025 and 100% by 2030. It sets a goal for public school buses that 75% of annual purchases, contracts and leases approved by the Commissioner of Education must be zero-emission vehicles by 2035. It sets a goal for the county and municipality light-duty motor vehicle acquisition to be 100% plug-in hybrid electric vehicles or zero-emission vehicles by 2035.

It also updates one of the goals applicable to Efficiency Maine Trust's triennial plan by increasing the number of battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles registered in Maine from 120,000 to 220,000 by 2030.

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**NEW RULES FOR STAFF:**

- [Hunting Rules Ch. 16](#) (Bear Hunting & Antlerless Deer Permit Lottery Changes)
- [Trapping Rules Ch. 17](#) (Bear Trapping Changes)
- [Watercraft Rules Ch. 13](#) (New sections for Boat Event Permitting, 13.10-13.12)
- [Educational Trip Leader Ch. 28](#) (New Rule Chapter)
- [Species of Special Concern Ch. 29](#) (New Rule Chapter)

**OTHER INFORMATION:**

- [New Antlerless Deer Lottery Process Info Webpage](#)
- **Bear trapping permit requirements, effective January 1, 2022:**

A bear trapping permit and a big game hunting license **or** a bear trapping permit and trapping license are required to set a trap for a bear during the bear trapping season (September 1 - October 31). You are allowed to take one bear by trapping and one bear by hunting annually.

The fee for a bear trapping permit is \$10 for residents and \$67 for nonresidents.

**Effective as of January 1, 2022, to purchase a bear trapping permit you have three options:**

**Option 1:** Must have completed a Maine [Trapping Education course](#) (includes all furbearers and bear) dated after 1978. **OR** Previously held a Maine Bear Trapping permit prior to 2022.

**Option 2:** Must have completed the **NEW** Maine [Black Bear Trapping Education course](#) (online or in-person).

**Option 3:** A person may trap for bear under the supervision of and in the presence of a licensed hunting guide who has successfully completed the Maine [Black Bear Trapping Education course](#). *\*These permits are only issued from the Augusta office.*

**First time trapping licenses (including first time bear trapping permits) must be purchased through the MDIFW office in Augusta** (in person or by emailing or mailing a [Trapping License Application \(PDF\)](#) to the MDIFW Augusta office). Trapping license renewals, including bear trapping renewal permits, may be [purchased online](#).