

2015 Legislative Bill Tracking

NRCM reviews every bill under consideration at the State House to determine which ones deserve support and which ones should be opposed based on their potential impact on Maine's environment. This page provides information on the priority bills that NRCM followed during the 2015 legislative session.

Note: Bills are listed in order by bill LD number (found in the left column).

Bill Information	NRCM Position	Status Update
2016-17 Biennial Budget for the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry	NRCM Opposes	Fact sheet about increased timber harvesting on public lands Committee voted 12-1 to not dismantle the Bureau of Parks and Lands. Read Portland Press Herald story. Read NRCM testimony.
Resolve, To Require a Review of the Merger That Resulted in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (LD 39)	NRCM Supports	Reported out of Committee "Ought Not to Pass." Placed in legislative dead bill file. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Protect Maine's Great Ponds (LD 40)	NRCM Supports	Voted out of Committee as "Ought Not to Pass." Placed in legislative dead bills file. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Prohibit Synthetic Plastic Microbeads in Personal Care Products and Over-the-counter Drugs (LD 85)	NRCM Supports	Bill became law without governor's signature on March 24. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Enhance the Competitiveness of Maine's Biomass Facilities by Exempting from Waste Handling Fees Certain Construction and Demolition Debris (LD 105)	NRCM Opposes	Defeated: unanimous Ought Not to Pass in Committee; Placed in legislative dead bill file. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Remove the 100-megawatt Limit on Hydropower under the Renewable Resources Laws (LD 132)	NRCM Opposes	Placed in legislative dead bills file. Read NRCM testimony.
Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 200: Metallic Mineral Exploration, Advanced Exploration and Mining, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection (LD 146)	NRCM Opposes	Placed in legislative dead bills file. Read NRCM testimony.

Bill Information	NRCM Position	Status Update
An Act To Ban the United Nations Agenda 21 in Maine (LD 161)	NRCM Opposes	Bill defeated in House by vote of 75-65 on June 18.
An Act To Protect the Rights of Property Owners (LD 162)	NRCM Opposes	Voted OTP as amended in Senate. Voted ONTP in House. Placed in legislative dead bill file. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act to Encourage and Enhance the Future of Waste-to-energy Facilities by Establishing a Portfolio Requirement for Electricity from Waste Energy Resources (LD 273)	NRCM Opposes	Bill carried over to next session. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Encourage the Use of Fuel-efficient Vehicles (LD 278)	NRCM Supports	Placed in legislative dead bill file. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Connect the Citizens of the State to the State's Natural Resources by Establishing Standards for Relief from Regulatory Burdens (LD 309)	NRCM Opposes	Voted OTP as amended in Senate. Voted ONTP in House. Placed in legislative dead bill file. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Strengthen Recycling of Single-use Plastic Shopping Bags (LD 325)	NRCM is Neither For Nor Against	Defeated: Majority "Ought to Pass as Amended." Defeated in House 84-62; Senate voted to defeat bill 24-10. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Encourage the Use of Alternatives to Single-use Plastic Disposable Bags (LD 396)	NRCM is Neither For Nor Against	Defeated: unanimous Ought Not to Pass in Committee. Placed in legislative dead bill file. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act Regarding the Packaging and Labeling of Disposable Cleaning and Personal Hygiene Products (LD 397)	NRCM Supports	Defeated: Majority Ought Not to Pass Report Accepted in House and Senate, Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Help Municipalities Prepare for Changes in Sea Level (LD 408)	NRCM Supports	Passed and engrossed in the House and Senate. Sent to governor. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Prohibit the Use of Certain Disposable or Polystyrene Food Service Containers (LD 468)	NRCM Supports	Defeated: Majority Ought Not to Pass Report accepted 77-67 in House and 26-8 in Senate. Read NRCM testimony.

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An Act To Improve Public-private Transportation Partnerships (LD 506)	NRCM Supports	Reported out of Committee "Ought Not to Pass." Placed in legislative dead bill file. Read NRCM Testimony.
An Act To Protect Maine Lakes (LD 568)	NRCM Supports	Bill became law on May 13 without governor's signature. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Allow the Resale of Electricity by Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (LD 593)	NRCM Supports	Bill was signed into law on April 16 by Governor LePage.
An Act To Reduce Carbon Emissions from Residential Heating (LD 595)	NRCM Opposes	Placed in legislative dead bills file. Read NRCM testimony.
Resolve, To Increase Recycling in Maine through Increased Composting and Energy Recovery from Organic Wastes (LD 659)	NRCM Supports	Defeated: Unanimous Ought Not to Pass in Committee. Placed in Legislative dead bill file. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Reduce Waste from Disposable Bags (LD 680)	NRCM is Neither For Nor Against	Voted "Ought Not to Pass" out of Committee. Both House and Senate accepted "Ought Not to Pass" report. Placed in legislative dead bills file. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Increase Organic Waste Recycling in the State (LD 712)	NRCM Supports	Placed in legislative dead bills file. Read NRCM testimony.
Resolve, To Further Protect Lake Water Quality (LD 713)	NRCM Supports	Public hearing was held on March 18. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Allow Regulated Metal Mining in Maine (LD 750)	NRCM Opposes	House voted "Ought Not to Pass" by a vote of 109-36 on Thursday, June 4. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Wind Energy Development Permitting (LD 791)	NRCM Opposes	Majority "Ought Not to Pass" report accepted in the House on June 11. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Prevent Passage of Alewives through the Grand Falls Dam on the St. Croix River (LD 800)	NRCM Opposes	Voted out of Committee as "Ought Not to Pass." Majority ONTP report accepted by House.

Bill Information	NRCM Position	Status Update
An Act Regarding Aerial Pesticide Spray Projects (LD 817)	NRCM Opposes	Bill signed into law on May 8, 2015. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Improve Regulatory Consistency within the Jurisdiction of the Maine Land Use Planning Commission (LD 828)	NRCM Opposes	Bill signed into law by governor on June 29. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Ensure Efficiency and Safety in the Bureau of Forestry (LD 866)	NRCM Supports	Bill carried over until next session. Read NRCM Testimony.
An Act To Amend the Maine Spruce Budworm Management Laws (LD 870)	NRCM Opposes	Reported out of Committee "Ought to Pass as Amended." Read NRCM testimony.
An Act Concerning the Review of Certain Projects under the Site Location of Development Laws (LD 911)	NRCM is Neither For Nor Against	Passed by House on June 8 and Senate on June 9. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Fund State Efforts To Reduce the Landfilling of Solid Waste (LD 947)	NRCM Supports	Defeated: Unanimous Ought Not to Pass in Committee. Placed in Legislative dead bill file. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Ensure That Collection Facilities Can Participate in the Architectural Paint Stewardship Program (LD 1044)	NRCM Supports	Passed by House on June 5. Placed on special appropriations table.
An Act To Modify the Laws Regarding the Collection and Recycling of Mercury-added Thermostats (LD 1045)	NRCM Opposes	Signed into law by the governor on May 16. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Lower Energy Costs and Increase Access to Solar Energy for Agricultural Businesses (LD 1073)	NRCM Supports	Senate may vote on bill on June 16. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act Regarding the Municipalities to Which the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code Applies (LD 1093)	NRCM Opposes	Placed in legislative dead bills file. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Repeal the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (LD 1120)	NRCM Opposes	Placed in legislative dead bills file. Read NRCM testimony.

Bill Information	NRCM Position	Status Update
An Act To Make Minor Changes and Corrections to Statutes Administered by the Department of Environmental Protection (LD 1128)	NRCM Opposes	Bill signed into law by governor on May 29. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Prohibit the Use of Eminent Domain in Certain Public-private Partnerships and To Prohibit the Use of Eminent Domain by a Private Business Entity in a Public-private Partnership (LD 1168)	NRCM Supports	Reported out of Committee "Ought to Pass as Amended." Passed to be engrossed by both bodies, awaiting action by the governor. Read NRCM testimony.
RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Permit 25 Acres or Less To Be Withdrawn from Taxation as Timberland and Woodland without Penalty (LD 1169)	NRCM Opposes	Defeated: voted out of Committee as "Ought Not to Pass." Placed in legislative dead bill files. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Remove the Municipal Mandate To Enforce the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (LD 1191)	NRCM Opposes	Senate voted in favor. House voted against. Bill will move to legislative dead bill file. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Allow Municipalities To Contract with and Dispose of Waste, including Residue, in State-owned Solid Waste Disposal Facilities, as Allowed under a Facility License, To Ensure Compliance with the Solid Waste Management Hierarchy (LD 1194)	NRCM Opposes	Defeated: Unanimous Ought Not to Pass in Committee. Placed in Legislative dead bill file. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Increase Recycling and Composting by Creating the Maine Recycling Fund (LD 1204)	NRCM Opposes This bill would negatively impact Maine's "bottle bill."	Voted out of Committee as Ought Not to Pass. Bill was then killed in the Senate on May 14. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Provide Lower Energy Costs to Maine Businesses and Residences by Carrying Out the Legislature's Intent Regarding Funding of the Efficiency Maine Trust (LD 1215)	NRCM Supports	House and Senate overrode governor's veto to pass this bill unanimously on June 23. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Enhance Energy Cost Reduction and Facilitate Heating Alternatives in furtherance of the Omnibus Energy Act (LD 1221)	NRCM Opposes	Tabled in the House. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Amend Environmental Permitting Standards (LD 1244)	NRCM Opposes	House passed and accepted Committee Amendment A. Senate concurred.

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An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Land for Maine's Future Fund (LD 1248)	NRCM Supports	Read NRCM testimony. Public hearing was held on Wednesday, June 3. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act to Create Jobs and Promote Investment in Maine's Economy through Increased Access to Solar Energy (LD 1263)	NRCM Supports	Bill turned into a Resolve directing a stakeholder process to develop a solar incentive policy proposal for next session. Governor vetoed. House and Senate overrode veto on June 30. Read NRCM testimony. Talking points on LD 1263. Facts about LD 1263. Detailed fact sheet on LD 1263.
An Act To Allow the Governor To Review Routine Technical Rules (LD 1274)	NRCM Opposes	Placed in legislative dead bills file. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Improve Maine's Housing Stock and Reduce Heating Costs and Oil Consumption (LD 1341)	NRCM Supports	Read NRCM testimony. Facts about home efficiency bond
An Act To Improve the Maine Administrative Procedure Act (LD 1354)	NRCM Opposes	House accepted majority "Ought Not to Pass" report on June 5. Sent to Senate. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Promote Recycling Program Integration and Efficiencies (LD 1366)	NRCM is Neither For Nor Against	Passed to be enacted by House on June 8 and passed to be enacted by Senate on June 9. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Issuance of Bonds and To Effectuate the Issuance of Bonds To Support Maine's Natural Resource-based Economy (LD 1378) — Senator Katz's bond bill	NRCM Supports	House (102-38) and Senate (26-9) voted in favor of the bill. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Establish the Affordable Heating from Maine's Forests Fund (LD 1397)	NRCM Opposes	Placed in the legislative dead bills file on June 18. Read NRCM testimony.
An Act To Reduce Electric Rates for Maine	NRCM Opposes	Carryover of bill requested.

Bill Information**NRCM Position****Status Update**

[Businesses](#) (LD 1398)

[An Act To Focus Energy Laws on Energy Cost](#) (LD 1400)

[NRCM Opposes](#)

Voted out of Committee "Ought Not to Pass" by a 7-6 vote. Minority report was bill (without repeal of net metering or energy efficiency)
[Read NRCM testimony.](#)