

2016 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 2016 legislative session.

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

Bill Information & Summary	NRCM Position	Status Update
Protect lake water quality (LD 713)	NRCM Supports	Work Session held 1/6/16. ENR voted Ought Not to Pass on LD 713 and sent letters to the Maine DEP, Department of Economic and Community Development, and Maine Municipal Association regarding actions to protect lake water quality.
Clean water bond (LD 1069)	NRCM Supports	Carry-over bill from 2015. Work session not yet scheduled.
Solar power for agricultural businesses (LD 1073)	NRCM Supports	In 2015, the bill passed the House (87-59) and Senate (28-6), but was referred back to Committee due to concerns about a likely veto by the governor. In 2016, the bill was placed in the legislative dead bills file on April 7, 2016, although agricultural solar may be part of final version of solar bill (LD 1649).
Land for Maine's Future bond (LD 1248)	NRCM Supports	Carry-over bill from 2015. Work session not yet scheduled.
Attack on Renewable Portfolio Standard (LD 1339)	NRCM Opposes	Hearing held April 28, 2015. Carry-over bill from 2015. Placed in the legislative dead bills file on April 7, 2016. Read NRCM testimony.
Energy efficiency bond (LD 1341)	NRCM Supports	Carry over from 2015. Work session not yet scheduled. Read NRCM testimony. Facts about home efficiency bond
Reduction in RGGI/energy-efficiency funding (LD 1398)	NRCM Opposes	On March 8 the EUT committee voted 10-1 to pass an amended version of the bill that NRCM supports. House voted 138-3 for amended bill and Senate voted 34-0 . Final bill has been enacted. Read NRCM testimony.
Require release of LMF funding (LD 1454)	NRCM Supports	Amended bill held by governor since July 2015. House and Senate voted 1/6 and 1/7, respectively, to retrieve bill from governor's desk. Bill was recalled from the governor's desk,

Bill Information & Summary

NRCM Position Status Update

		amended to extend LMF bonds for five years, and passed House by vote of 147-0 on January 12. Bill voted on and passed by Senate on January 21 by vote of 34-0. Bill has become law without the governor's signature.
Exempt trolley line project from DEP laws (LD 1478)	NRCM Opposes	Public hearing held January 14 at ENR Committee. Voted out of committee by 9-3 Ought Not to Pass on January 21. Placed in the legislative dead bills file on February 9, 2016. Read NRCM testimony.
Reauthorize expired 2010 LMF funding (LD 1486)	NRCM Supports	Bill's intent was incorporated into LD 1454, which has been enacted.
Weaken water quality protections (LD 1494)	NRCM Opposes	The bill, which would have weakened Maine's oil spill reporting law, was voted out of committee (10-3) "Ought Not to Pass" on February 18. Placed in legislative dead bills file on March 17, 2016. Read NRCM testimony.
Ban certain toxic chemicals in furniture (LD 1535)	NRCM Supports	Bill tabled in Senate before being referred to committee, so the bill is expected to die without any action taken.
Restrict how towns can regulate pesticides (LD 1543)	NRCM Opposes	Bill tabled in House before being referred to committee, so the bill is expected to die without any action taken.
Update of Maine's solid waste management laws (LD 1578) and LD 313	NRCM Supports LD 1578	Public hearing held Feb. 16. An amended bill that we support was reported out 12-0, including battery recycling program. A parallel bill, LD 313 , also was reported out with identical language, but did not include the battery recycling program. LD 313 was amended further by House and Senate to remove mandatory compost program in Cross State Office Building. The bill has passed both bodies and will be sent to the governor. LD 1578 remains pending in the Senate and passage of the bill is necessary to establish a new battery recycling program. Read NRCM testimony.
Bill would block creation of all national monuments in Maine (LD 1600) Governor's Bill	NRCM Opposes	Bill voted out of committee by 7-6 Ought Not to Pass on March 9. House and Senate both voted multiple times with close votes. In the end, the Minority Ought To Pass as Amended version of bill was enacted in the Senate by a one vote margin and the bill will be sent to the governor. Read NRCM testimony. Read fact sheet and testimony excerpts from public hearing.
Supports recommendations of	NRCM	Public hearing held on Thursday, March 3. Amended bill voted

Bill Information & Summary

NRCM Position Status Update

commission studying Public Reserved Lands management fund ([LD 1629](#))

Supports

out unanimously. House voted on April 12 to enact the bill, and the Senate voted to send it to the Special Study Table. Because the bill uses funding from the Public Reserved Lands fund, we expect that the bill will be sent to the governor.

[Read NRCM testimony.](#)

Comprehensive solar energy bill ([LD 1649](#))

[NRCM Supports](#)

Public hearing was held on Wednesday, March 16. Majority of the Committee voted to report out a comprehensive solar bill. House voted 81-69 in support of LD 1649 on April 13. [Read NRCM's blog post, FAQs, and more about this bill.](#)

[Read NRCM testimony.](#)

Bill to provide subsidies to inefficient biomass plants ([LD 1676](#))

[NRCM Opposes](#)

Public hearing held March 28. Bill has been amended several times during work sessions. Final amended version, not yet reported out of the committee, would provide substantial taxpayer bailout for inefficient, polluting stand-alone biomass plants. [Read article.](#)