

2017 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 2017 legislative session.

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

Bill Information & Summary	NRCM Position	Status Update
Recycling: Add small liquor containers to Maine's bottle bill (LD 56)	NRCM Supports	Governor LePage vetoed on June 2. House overrode veto (114-31) on June 6. Senate overrode the veto by a vote of 29-6 on June 7. Read news story. Read NRCM testimony. Read amended bill.
Recycling: Phase out use of single-use plastic shopping bags (LD 57)	NRCM Supports Amended Bill	Amended bill (combined with LD 103) includes goals for adoption of local ordinances to promote reusable bags and reduce polystyrene food packing. Passed by Maine House and Senate. Governor LePage vetoed the bill on May 12. House failed to override the veto (73-70). Amended bill.
Recycling: Ban use of disposable polystyrene foam food containers (LD 103)	NRCM Supports	Amended bill (combined with LD 57) includes goals for adoption of local ordinances to promote reusable bags and reduce polystyrene food packing. Passed Maine House by vote of 78-68 on April 13. Passed Maine Senate by vote of 27-6 on April 20. Governor LePage vetoed the bill and House failed to override the veto. Amended bill. Read NRCM testimony.
Mining: Bill limiting some mining activity (LD 160)	NRCM Opposes	Maine House voted "Ought Not to Pass" by vote of 98-42 on May 18. Read NRCM testimony.
Recycling: Product Stewardship Program for Mattresses (LD 349)	NRCM Supports (with amendments)	Passed House and Senate. Governor vetoed the bill. Senate voted 33-1 to override the veto, but House failed to override (75-61). Read NRCM testimony. Committee Amendment
Recycling: Product Stewardship Program for	NRCM Supports (with	Committee voted unanimously "Ought Not to Pass" and filed as defeated bill in Senate.

Bill Information & Summary	NRCM Position	Status Update
Used Carpet (LD 375)	amendments)	Read NRCM testimony.
Recycling: Establish Recycling: Product Stewardship for Rechargeable Batteries (LD 385)	NRCM Opposed Amended Bill	Reported "Ought Not to Pass" out of Committee and filed as defeated bill in Senate. Read NRCM testimony.
Mining: Mining rules proposed by Maine BEP (LD 395)	NRCM Opposes	Committee voted unanimously "Ought Not to Pass" and filed as defeated bill in Senate. Read NRCM fact sheet. Read NRCM testimony.
Climate: Establish new regulatory standard for sea-level rise impacts in coastal zones (LD 469)	NRCM Supports	Committee voted "Ought Not to Pass" and filed as defeated bill in Senate. Read NRCM testimony.
Energy: Bill to remove 100-MW limit on hydroelectric generators under renewable resources law (LD 532)	NRCM Opposes	Public hearing held on Thursday, March 2. Committee voted to carry the bill over to next session. Read NRCM testimony.
Climate: Help municipalities prepare for sea-level rise (LD 540)	NRCM Supports	Bill unanimously voted out of Committee "Ought to Pass as Amended." Enacted in House and Senate. Vetoed by the governor. House failed (84-61) to override veto; filed as defeated bill. Read NRCM testimony. Committee amendment
Forests: Bureau of Parks and Lands study commission bill (LD 586)	NRCM Supports	Governor LePage vetoed this bill. Veto override day will be on Thursday, July 20. Read NRCM fact sheet. Read NRCM testimony.
Recycling: Weaken Maine's Bottle Bill (LD 683)	NRCM Opposes	Bill voted out of Committee "Ought Not to Pass" by a vote of 12-0. Filed as defeated bill in Senate. Read NRCM testimony. Read Container Recycling Institute analysis.
Mining: Mining bill (LD 820) sponsored by Senator Brownie Carson	NRCM Supports	Governor LePage vetoed bill on June 5. Senate voted unanimously (35-0) to override the governor's veto on June 7. House voted (122-21) to override governor's veto on June 7. Read NRCM fact sheet.

Bill Information & Summary	NRCM Position	Status Update
Protecting Wildlife: Open up Sheepscot Pond for native sea-run fish (LD 922)	NRCM Supports	Read NRCM testimony. Public hearing was held on March 22. Read NRCM testimony.
Recycling: Cigarette litter reduction (LD 931)	NRCM Supports	Bill voted out of Committee "Ought Not to Pass," and filed as defeated bill in Senate. Read NRCM testimony.
Clean Energy: Promote electric vehicles (LD 1003)	NRCM Supports	Bill voted out of Committee "Ought Not to Pass," and filed as defeated bill in Senate.
Rollback Bill: Weaken Natural Resources Protection Act (LD 1040)	NRCM Opposes	Committee unanimously voted "Ought Not to Pass," and filed as defeated bill in Senate. Read NRCM testimony.
Clean Energy: Promote electric vehicle charging stations (LD 1062)	NRCM Supports	Committee voted "Ought to Pass as Amended." Read NRCM testimony.
Land use: Amending laws related to standards for zoning ordinances (LD 1082)	NRCM Opposes	Voted out of Committee "Ought Not to Pass" by a 7-5 vote on April 12. Filed as defeated bill in Senate. Read NRCM testimony.
Transportation funding (LD 1149)	NRCM Neither For Nor Against	Read NRCM testimony.
Transportation funding study (LD 1150)	NRCM Supports	Bill amended to create a Road Usage Charge Task Force. Enacted in the House and Senate. Read NRCM testimony.
Transportation funding: Tax on clean cars (LD 1226)	NRCM Opposes	Reported out of Committee as "Ought Not to Pass," and filed as defeated bill in the Senate. Read NRCM testimony.
Energy: Limiting Monhegan wind power project (LD 1262)	NRCM Opposes	Reported out of Committee as "Ought Not to Pass," and filed as defeated bill in the Senate. Read NRCM testimony.
Energy: Restore energy efficiency funding from	NRCM Supports	Public hearing held on May 11. Read fact sheet about this bill.

Bill Information & Summary	NRCM Position	Status Update
RGGI (LD 1313)		Read NRCM testimony.
Water: Weaken stream protection from gold dredging (LD 1350)	NRCM Opposes	Majority of Committee voted "Ought Not to Pass," and filed as defeated bill in House. Read NRCM testimony.
Solar: Expand and protect access to solar power (LD 1373)	NRCM Supports	Public hearing held on May 4. Committee voted to carry over the bill to next session. Read NRCM testimony.
Energy: Weaken energy efficiency building code (LD 1392)	NRCM Opposes	Public hearing held April 26.
Solar: Large-scale community solar (LD 1444)	NRCM Supports	Public hearing held April 27. Committee voted to carry over the bill to next session. Read NRCM testimony.
Solar: Solar power for farms and businesses (LD 1504)	NRCM Supports	Governor LePage vetoed this bill. The Senate voted to override the veto, but the Maine House did not get the 2/3rds majority needed to override the veto. The bill did not become law. Read NRCM testimony.
Toxics: Prevent towns from adopting pesticides ordinances (LD 1505)	NRCM Opposes	Voted out of Committee with a unanimous "Ought Not to Pass," and filed as defeated bill in Senate. Read NRCM testimony.
Water: \$50 million bond for clean water projects (LD 1510)	NRCM Supports	Public hearing not yet scheduled
Energy: Reduces energy efficiency funding from RGGI (LD 1515)	NRCM Opposes	Public hearing held on May 11. Read fact sheet about this bill. Read NRCM testimony.
Reduce Waste: Maine Food Recovery Act (bill to reduce food waste and food insecurity) (LD 1534)	NRCM Supports	Public hearing to be held on Thursday, May 4 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 216 Cross Building. Read bill fact sheet. Read NRCM testimony.