

Committee: ACF

ACF Majority Report

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT ". TO LD 1830, An Act to Establish the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Amend the bill in Sec. B-3 and B-4 to read:

Sec. B-3. Interim meetings; authorized. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters is authorized to meet up to 6 times during the 2012 legislative interim ~~, but no later than June 15, 2012,~~ to discuss and hear a report reports regarding planning, program operation and implementation issues related to the establishment of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. At these meetings, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall brief the committee on program operation issues, progress, challenges and the timeline for implementation. The committee shall provide opportunities for stakeholders to communicate with the committee.

Sec. B-4. Legislation; review. Following the development of a department budget pursuant to section 9, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall review those parts of the Maine Revised Statutes governing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, including but not limited to Titles 7, 12 and 12-A. Based upon the review, the department, working with the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, shall develop and submit proposed legislation for introduction to the 126th Legislature to consolidate existing law into Title 12-A, to update Title 12-A and to correct any errors and inconsistencies in law that result from this Act.

Further amend the bill in Part C by inserting after Sec. C-2 (page 8, line 43) the following:

Sec. C-3. 5 MRSA §6204, sub-§1is amended to read:

§6204. Board composition

1. Composition. The board consists of ~~44~~ 10 members, 6 who are private citizens and ~~5~~ 4 who are permanent members. The permanent members are the ~~Commissioner of Conservation;~~ the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; the Commissioner of Marine Resources; the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry ~~Food and Rural Resources;~~ and the Director of the State Planning Office.

Sec. C-4. 5 MRSA §6204, sub-§6is amended to read:

6. Assistance. ~~The Department of Conservation;~~ the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; the Department of Transportation; the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Food and Rural Resources; the State Planning Office; and all other state agencies shall provide staff support and assistance considered necessary by the board to fulfill the objectives of this chapter. If agency assistance is not available, consultants may be hired from the proceeds of either the Land for Maine's Future Fund or the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund to assist the board in carrying out its responsibilities.

Further amend the bill in Part C by inserting after Sec. C-5. (page 9, line 31) a new Sec. to read:

1. Membership. The task force consists of ~~17~~ 16 members as follows:

A. The following ~~5~~ 4 ex officio voting members:

(1) The commissioner or the commissioner's designee, who serves as the chair of the task force;

(2) The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or the commissioner's designee;

(3) The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee;and

(4) The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Food and Rural Resources or the commissioner's designee; and

~~(5) The Commissioner of Conservation or the commissioner's designee; and~~

B. Twelve members representing the public appointed by the Governor:

(1) One representative of the State's lake associations;

(2) One representative of a statewide recreational watercraft owners association;

(3) One representative of a statewide organization of marina owners;

(4) One representative of a lakes education program;

(5) One representative of public drinking water utilities;

(6) One representative of commercial tree and garden nurseries;

(7) One representative of home gardeners;

(8) One representative of municipal government;

- (9) One representative of a statewide sporting association;
- (10) One representative of a statewide outdoor recreational group;
- (11) One person with demonstrated expertise in lake ecology; and
- (12) One public member who has demonstrated experience or interest in the area of threats to fish and wildlife posed by invasive aquatic plants and nuisance species.

Further amend the bill by renumbering the Secs. to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment is the Majority Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. It expands oversight by the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry during the transition. It also amends the membership of the Land for Maine's Future Board and the Interagency Task Force on Invasive Aquatic Plants and Nuisance Species to reflect the consolidation of the 2 departments into one department with one commissioner.