**19**

**Department of Economic and Community Development**

**2025-2026 Regulatory Agenda**

**19-100: Department of Economic and Community Development - General**

**19-498: Office of Tourism and Community Development**

**19-499: Office of Business Development**

**99-639: ConnectME Authority**

AGENCY UMBRELLA-UNIT NUMBER: **19**

AGENCY NAME: **Department of Economic and Community Development**

**CONTACT PERSON:** Denise Garland, Office of the Commissioner, DECD, 59 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333. Telephone: (207) 624-7496 Email: denise.garland@maine.gov

**EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE THE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA:** None

**EXPECTED 2025-2026 RULE-MAKING ACTIVITY:**

**100: Office of Administration and Policy**

**Chapter 1:** Municipal Tax Increment Financing Rule

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 30-A §5223 and §5229

PURPOSE: Amend the rules to align with current statute and other technical adjustments.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Municipalities, unorganized territories, businesses, communities

**Chapter 4:** Housing Opportunity Program Grants Rule

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 §13056-J

PURPOSE: Amend the rule to align with current statute and other technical adjustments.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Municipalities, economic development organizations and communities

**Chapter 5:** Housing Opportunity Program: Municipal Land Use and Zoning Ordinance Rule

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 30-A §§4364, 4364-A, 4364-B

PURPOSE: Amend the rule to align with current statute and other technical adjustments.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Municipalities, economic development organizations and communities

**Chapter 6:** Housing Opportunity Program

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 § 13056-J and 30-A § 4364 and § 4364-A § 4364-B

PURPOSE: Amend the rule to align with current statute and other technical adjustments.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Municipalities, economic development organizations and communities

**Chapter 50:** Affordable housing tax increment financing

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 30-A §5250-A and §5250-B

PURPOSE: Amend the rules to carry out duties of an affordable housing development district.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Municipalities, unorganized territories, businesses, communities

**Chapter 75:** Business disclosure associated with eligibility for public subsidies and incentives

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 §13070-J

PURPOSE: Amend the rule to align with current statute and other technical adjustments.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Businesses seeking state assistance and/or access to state incentive programs.

**Chapter 90:** The Maine Rural Development Authority

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 §13120-L

PURPOSE: Amend the rule to align with current statute and other technical adjustments.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Communities seeking loans for the development of commercial facilities.

**Chapter 95:** The Maine Rural Development Authority

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 §13120-R

PURPOSE: Create the rule to align with current statute

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Communities and other entities seeking grants for the development of commercial facilities.

**Chapter 100:** Pine Tree Development Zone Program

STATUTORY AUTHORITY - 30-A §5250-M

PURPOSE: Amend the rule to align with current statute and other technical adjustments

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Companies using or eligible for Pine Tree Development Zone benefits, Economic Development organizations and consultants.

**Chapter 200:** Pine Tree Recreation Zone

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 30-A §5250-Q

PURPOSE: Amend the rule to align with current statute and other technical adjustments.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Municipalities, unorganized territories, businesses, communities

**Chapter 300:** Dirigo Business Incentives Program

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 36 §§ 112 & 5219-AAA

PURPOSE: Amend the rule to align with current statute and other technical adjustments.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Businesses using or eligible for Dirigo Business Incentives Program, Economic Development organizations and consultants.

**Chapter 400:** Employment Tax Increment Financing (ETIF) Program Rule

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 36 §6759

PURPOSE: Amend the rule to align with current statute and other technical adjustments

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Companies using or eligible for ETIF, State Agencies, Economic Development Consultants.

**Chapter 450:** Rules for the Maine Technology Centers

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 § 15321

PURPOSE: These rules establish the criteria for grants and program operation for targeted technology incubators.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Municipalities, economic development organizations, communities and businesses

**Chapter 500:** Brunswick Naval Air Station Jobs Increment Financing Fund

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 § 13083-S-1

PURPOSE: These rules establish the criteria for grants and program operation for targeted technology incubators.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Municipalities, economic development organizations, communities and businesses

**498: Office of Tourism and Community Development**

**Chapter 47:** Community Development Block Grant Program

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 §13073

PURPOSE: The rule outlines the procedures by which DECD will administer the Community Development Block Grant Program and allows DECD to administer the federal grant funds in a timely and efficient manner.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Municipalities, economic development organizations, communities and businesses

**Chapter 60:** Communities for Maine’s Future Program

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 § 13056-D

PURPOSE: These rules implement the program to provide funding for the rehabilitation, revitalization and enhancement of downtowns and village centers and main streets in the State.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Maine municipalities looking for assistance in community development efforts.

**Chapter 65:** Historic Preservation Revolving Fund

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 § 13056-F

PURPOSE: These rules implement the program to provide funds to qualified nonprofit historic preservation organizations for the purpose of acquiring endangered historic properties of local, state or national significance.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Qualified nonprofits seeking funds to preserve historic property.

**Chapter 70:** Regional Economic Development Assistance

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 § 13073-A

PURPOSE: These rules implement the program to award start-up grants to nonprofit local or regional community organizations providing local or regional economic development programs.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Economically distressed communities in Maine.

**Chapter 75:** Riverfront Community Development Program

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 § 13083-T

PURPOSE: These rules implement the program to assist communities along the State’s rivers to revitalize their riverfronts in an environmentally sustainable manner and to promote river-oriented community development and enhancement projects.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Maine municipalities located along rivers.

**Chapter 80:** Economic Opportunity Program

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 § 13090-B

PURPOSE: These rules establish the criteria for implementation of the program.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Maine municipalities seeking grants to secure public and/or private investments to stimulate economic growth.

**499: Office of Business Development**

**Chapter 255:** Visual Media Production Certification

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 § 13090-L

PURPOSE: These rules establish the criteria for program operation of the Visual Media Production Certification.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Producers of Maine media projects.

**Chapter 301:** Maine Products Marketing Program

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 § 13058(3) and 13061, *et seq.*

PURPOSE: Amend the rule to align with current statute and other technical adjustments.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Maine producers of consumer goods.

**Chapter 303:** Rural Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grant Program

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 § 13056-I

PURPOSE: Amend the rule to align with current statute and other technical adjustments.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Municipalities, economic development organizations, communities and businesses

**Chapter 311:** Maine Microenterprise Initiative Fund

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 § 13063-K and 13063-M

PURPOSE: These rules establish the criteria for carrying out this article.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Maine community-based organizations providing training to microenterprises.

**Chapter 321:** Travel Promotion Matching Fund Program

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 § 13090-G

PURPOSE: These rules establish the criteria for carrying out this program.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Maine public and private nonprofit travel promotional organizations.

**Chapter 331:** Technology Centers

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 § 15322

PURPOSE: These rules establish the program to support early-stage development of technology-based businesses.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Early-stage, technology-based businesses in the State

**Chapter 342:** Grants to Municipalities to Retain Mature or Dominant Employers

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 5 § 13063-D and 13063-C

PURPOSE: Routine technical rules to establish criteria for grant program.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Municipalities with major employers in need of assistance during tough economic times with funds from Job Retention Program.

AGENCY UMBRELLA-UNIT NUMBER: **99-639**

AGENCY NAME: **ConnectME Authority**

**CONTACT PERSON:** Denise Garland, ConnectME Authority, DECD, 59 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333. Telephone: (207) 624-7496 Email: denise.garland@maine.gov

**EMERGENCY RULES ADOPTED SINCE THE LAST REGULATORY AGENDA:** None

**POSSIBLE 2025-2026 RULE-MAKING ACTIVITY:**

**639: ConnectME Authority**

**Chapter 101:** ConnectME Authority

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 35-A, Chapter 93

PURPOSE: Amend the rules to align with current statute and other technical adjustments.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: When Conditions are Right

AFFECTED PARTIES: Municipalities, unorganized territories, businesses, communities