

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

LD 2036, An Act to Clarify the Approval Process for and the Operation of the Commingling Program for the Management of Beverage Containers

Status: House Calendar 6-3

Summary: The bill requires industry participants to form a cooperative and submit a detailed operating plan to the Department of Environmental Protection for review and approval, outlining how beverage containers will be managed, financed, collected, and reported. The legislation clarifies the Department's authority, sets out planning and reporting requirements, and creates a structured pathway to transition the redemption system toward material-based sorting rather than brand-based sorting.

Implications: The bill shifts Maine's bottle redemption system toward a more modern, system-managed model by moving operational complexity away from redemption centers and into a coordinated, data-driven program overseen by the Department. If implemented successfully, it could improve efficiency for redemption centers and transporters, create more predictable cost allocation using verified sales data, and reduce administrative burdens tied to brand sorting.

LD 1507, An Act to Require General Public Notification of Oil Terminal Facility Transfer

Activities Status: House Calendar Unfinished Business Item 5

Previous Legislative Actions: House Accepted the Min. Ought Not to Pass; Senate Passed To Be Engrossed the Maj. Ought To Pass As Amended and Sent to the House in Non-Concurrence

Summary: It amends the laws governing the licensing of petroleum storage facilities to require licensed facilities that include an aboveground petroleum storage tank with a storage capacity greater than 39,000 gallons to install and maintain warning signs. The warning signs are required to be installed on all publicly accessible property boundaries at intervals no greater than every 100 feet.

Implications: It would require additional compliance and costs for businesses.

LD 2227, An Act to Update Financial Assurance Requirements for Certain Solid Waste Facilities

Status: Senate Calendar Item 7-20

Summary: As amended, it upgrades water quality classification of that portion of the Androscoggin River from Gulf Island Pond Dam in Auburn to Worumbo Dam in Libson Falls from Class C to Class B. This upgrade is effective January 1, 2027.

LD 1870, An Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters

Status: Senate Calendar Unfinished Business Item 2

Previous Legislative Action: Motion to Accept the Maj. Ought to Pass Report, Tabled

Summary: As amended, the resolve directs the Department of Environmental Protection to assess the costs to the State of the emission of greenhouse gases for the period that began on January 1, 1995, and ended on December 31, 2024. It requires the Department to submit a report containing the results of that assessment to the committees having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters, labor matters, judiciary matters and energy, utilities and technology matters. After reviewing the report, the committee on environment and natural resources matters may report out a bill relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

Implications: This bill started out as a climate superfund bill that would have required companies involved in the extraction of fossil fuel and refining of crude oil to pay a fee if they were responsible for more than one billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions during that same time period. This assessment could revert right back to the original bill, which would increase costs for ratepayers.