

MEREDA

CHANGES ARE IN RED

REGULATORY DATABASE

| PROPOSED | Agency | Summary | Hearing Date | Comments/ Due Date/ and Contact |
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| <p>Ch. 375, No Adverse Environmental Effect Standards of the Site Location of Development Act</p> | <p>Department of Environmental Protection</p> | <p>In P.L. 2023 ch. 448, the Legislature directed the Department to establish a compensation fee program for renewable energy development projects, specifically solar energy development, wind energy development, and high-impact transmission lines that trigger the Site Location of Development law. The new statute requires this program to allow for the payment of a compensation fee when the Department determines that off-site habitat improvement or preservation is necessary to mitigate the adverse effects of a renewable energy development on large undeveloped habitat blocks, important wildlife corridors, and other habitat types identified in consultation with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.</p> <p>The Department is proposing to amend Chapter 375, No Adverse Environmental Effect Standards of the Site Location of Development Act, to define these habitat resources and establish a compensation fee program. Compensation would be required if there would be any alteration to a deer wintering area, habitat of rare, threatened or endangered species, migratory bird pathway, or important wildlife corridor, or when there are certain alterations to large undeveloped habitat blocks. Compensation would be required</p> | <p>March 7, 2024, 9 AM, Augusta Civic Center, 76 Community Dr, Augusta, ME 04330</p> | <p>March 18, 2024 Naomi.Kirk-Lawlor@maine.gov</p> |

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| Ch. 4, Maine Uniform Building Code – Existing Building Code | Department of Public Safety, Office of State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Building Codes and Standards | This chapter establishes the Existing Building code component of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (“MUBEC”) and the Maine Uniform Building Code (“MUBC”). The provisions of this chapter are based on a nationally recognized model building code published by the International Code Council, Inc., and is made part of the MUBEC through incorporation by reference. This chapter also contains requirements for the enforcement of the Existing Building code by local building officials in municipalities with a population of greater 4,000 residents. | N/A | March 4, 2024 Gregory.J.Day@maine.gov |
| Ch. 2, Maine Uniform Building Energy Code – Third Party Inspectors (“TPI”) | Department of Public Safety, Office of State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Building Codes and Standards | This chapter sets forth the methods by which municipalities may utilize a Third Party Inspector (TPIs) as an option. A TPI certified by the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to enter into a private agreement for remuneration with an Applicant or with a municipality or municipalities, to conduct inspections under 30-A M.R.S. §4451 for compliance with the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Codes, to issue a Notice to Proceed to the Applicant and to issue an inspection report to the municipality for the issuance of a certificate of occupancy. | N/A | March 4, 2024 Gregory.J.Day@maine.gov |
| Ch. 1, Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code – Administrative Procedures | Department of Public Safety, Office of State Fire Marshal, Bureau of Building Codes and Standards | Chapter 1 is an administrative chapter that clarifies who needs to enforce the MUBEC, and what codes make up the MUBEC. It also establishes the amendment procedure to the code. The rule contains several critical definitions as required by Statute to clarify the MUBEC. As directed by the legislature this rule makes previously optional standards part of the code and adds one new code. | N/A | March 4, 2024 Gregory.J.Day@maine.gov |
| ADOPTED | | | | |

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| Subject Area | Agency | Summary | Effective Date |
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| <p>Ch. 305, Natural Resources Protection Act – Permit by Rule, Section 16A Beach nourishment and dune restoration or construction activities in coastal sand dunes</p> | <p>Department of Environmental Protection</p> | <p>Public Law 2023, ch. 97 directed the Department to undertake rulemaking to amend Chapter 305 Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA) - Permit By Rule to allow for the use of biodegradable stabilization materials in dune restoration projects. This law became effective October 25, 2023. Department staff have been working on a draft rule revision to implement the law that will be proposed to the Board for posting for standard rulemaking in the coming weeks. Due to the recent storm events, there is an immediate need to allow for expedited review of dune restoration and construction projects through permit by rule. This emergency rulemaking would put into place revisions to Chapter 305, Section 16A to allow coastal sand dune restoration using biodegradable stabilization materials to receive NRPA permits through permit by rule. All emergency rulemaking expires after 90 days, so this rule revision will be temporary.</p> | <p>2/2/2024</p> |
| <p>Ch. 242, Rules for Conversion of Seasonal Dwelling Units into Year-Round Residences in the Shoreland Zone</p> | <p>Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention</p> | <p>The Department is adopting the repeal of this rule as it has adopted amendments to Maine’s Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules, 10-144 CMR Ch. 241 (Ch. 241). The Department clarified the requirements and updated the language within Section 8(B)(1) of Chapter 241, so that all subsurface wastewater disposal requirements are combined within one rule at Chapter 241. This amended language to Ch. 241 make the requirements in Ch. 242 no longer applicable, therefore necessitating the repeal of this rule.</p> | <p>2/4/2024</p> |

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| <p>Ch. 230, Supervisory Appraiser Duties; Ch. 240, Standards of Professional Practice</p> | <p>Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation, Board of Real Estate Appraisers</p> | <p>Chapter 230: Supervisory Appraiser Duties more clearly and explicitly sets forth the role and responsibilities of a supervisory appraiser. The replacement rule clarifies experience acceptable for credit, experience log content and submission requirements. Additionally, the rule aligns rule terminology with the statute. Chapter 240: Standards of Professional Practice incorporates the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice ("USPAP"), 2024 Edition, Copyright © 2024, The Appraisal Foundation, effective January 1, 2024, into the Board's rules by reference as the standard of practice for licensees.</p> | <p>1/9/2024</p> | |
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