

CHAPTER 6-A

MANAGEMENT OF MOSQUITOES

§171. Management of mosquitoes for protection of public health; state policy

It is the policy of the State to work to find and implement ways to prevent mosquito-borne diseases in a manner that minimizes risks to humans and the environment. The State, led by the department and the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to this chapter and Title 22, chapter 257-B, respectively, shall monitor mosquito-borne diseases and shall base mosquito management methods, including potential pesticide use, on an evaluation of the most current risk assessments. On a continuing basis, the State shall research and evaluate means of reducing disease-carrying mosquitoes without the use of pesticides. When the Department of Health and Human Services determines that the disease risk is high and public education efforts are insufficient to adequately prevent mosquito-borne diseases in the State, the Department of Health and Human Services may declare a mosquito-borne disease public health threat pursuant to Title 22, chapter 257-B and the State may undertake emergency activities to reduce disease-carrying mosquito populations that threaten the health of residents of this State. The State in undertaking emergency activities shall use a combination of the lowest risk, most effective integrated pest management techniques and science-based technology and shall consult with officials from affected municipalities in determining the most appropriate combination of response strategies. [PL 2013, c. 548, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 548, §1 (NEW).

§172. Department lead agency; powers of commissioner

1. Lead agency. The department is the lead agency of the State for carrying out mosquito management activities as described in this chapter. [PL 2013, c. 548, §1 (NEW).]

2. Management methods. The commissioner may use appropriate methods for the management of mosquitoes and the prevention of their breeding in a manner consistent with section 171, including, but not limited to, conducting or contracting for mosquito management activities and purchasing equipment necessary for the purposes of carrying out this chapter. [PL 2013, c. 548, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 548, §1 (NEW).

§173. Duties of commissioner

1. Study; plan; arrange cooperation. When sufficient money for such purposes is available in the fund, the commissioner, in cooperation with appropriate personnel from the Department of Health and Human Services, shall:

A. Consider and study mosquito management problems, including mosquito surveillance; [PL 2013, c. 548, §1 (NEW).]

B. Identify means of managing disease-carrying mosquitoes in a manner that minimizes pesticide use; [PL 2013, c. 548, §1 (NEW).]

C. Coordinate plans for mosquito management work that may be conducted by private landowners, groups, organizations, municipalities, counties and mosquito management districts formed pursuant to section 175; and [PL 2013, c. 548, §1 (NEW).]

D. Arrange, to the extent practicable, cooperation among state departments and with federal agencies in conducting mosquito management operations within the State. [PL 2013, c. 548, §1 (NEW).]

[PL 2013, c. 548, §1 (NEW).]

2. Consultation. The commissioner shall consult with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and private sector experts and municipalities in developing plans and procedures for implementing this chapter.

[PL 2013, c. 548, §1 (NEW).]

3. Assist with disseminating information. When sufficient money for such purposes is available in the fund, the commissioner, in cooperation with appropriate personnel from the Department of Health and Human Services and experts from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, shall assist private landowners, groups, organizations, municipalities, counties and mosquito management districts formed pursuant to section 175 to disseminate information to the residents of the State about ways to reduce mosquito populations, to eliminate mosquito breeding sites and to protect themselves from mosquito-borne diseases as well as other relevant information.

[PL 2013, c. 548, §1 (NEW).]

4. Implement mosquito management response. When a mosquito-borne disease public health threat is declared by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services pursuant to Title 22, section 1447, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall implement an effective management response consistent with section 171. The management response must include combinations of integrated pest management techniques. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall consider the availability of funds in the fund in planning the response.

[PL 2013, c. 548, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 548, §1 (NEW).

§174. Maine Mosquito Management Fund

The Maine Mosquito Management Fund, referred to in this chapter as "the fund," is established to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The fund consists of any money received as contributions, grants or appropriations from private and public sources. The fund, to be accounted for within the department, must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of a fiscal year does not lapse but must be carried forward to the next fiscal year. The department may expend the money available in the fund and make grants to private landowners, groups, organizations, agencies, municipalities, counties, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and mosquito management districts formed pursuant to section 175 to carry out the purposes of this chapter. [PL 2013, c. 548, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 548, §1 (NEW).

§175. Mosquito management districts

For the purposes of preserving and promoting the public health and welfare by providing for coordinated and effective management of mosquitoes, municipalities may cooperate with each other through the creation of mosquito management districts. [PL 2013, c. 548, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 548, §1 (NEW).

§176. Rules

The commissioner may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this chapter. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are major substantive rules as described in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. [PL 2013, c. 548, §1 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 548, §1 (NEW).

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