



# 130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2021

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H.P. 1169

House of Representatives, April 27, 2021

### Resolve, To Analyze the Impact of Sea Level Rise

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Received by the Clerk of the House on April 23, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative BLUME of York. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

1 **Preamble. Whereas**, the scientific and technical subcommittee of the Maine  
2 Climate Council determined it is likely that the sea level in Maine will rise between 3 and  
3 5 feet by the year 2100 based on an intermediate sea level rise scenario, although scenarios  
4 of higher rise are physically plausible; and

5 **Whereas**, a one-foot increase in sea level in the future will lead to a 15-fold increase  
6 in the frequency of nuisance flooding and would cause a 100-year storm flood level to have  
7 a probability of occurring once every 10 years; and

8 **Whereas**, communities with a strong dependence on waterfront and shorefront  
9 industries such as tourism, ports and fishing will be heavily disrupted by increased flood  
10 frequency; and

11 **Whereas**, sea level rise of 3.9 feet by 2100 is projected to cause more than  
12 \$671,000,000 in cumulative building losses and \$665,000,000 in gross domestic product  
13 losses in Maine; and

14 **Whereas**, 1.5 feet of relative sea level rise by 2050 and 3.9 feet by 2100 would cause  
15 immersion and submersion of land and accompanying materials, structures and facilities  
16 that are not currently designed for those conditions and, therefore, present a threat of release  
17 of pollutants to the environment; and

18 **Whereas**, the scientific and technical subcommittee of the Maine Climate Council has  
19 recommended that the State manage for 1.5 feet of relative sea level rise by 2050 and 3.9  
20 feet by 2100; now, therefore, be it

21 **Sec. 1. Department review of laws and rules. Resolved:** That the Department  
22 of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Department of Defense, Veterans and  
23 Emergency Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency, the Department of  
24 Environmental Protection, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the  
25 Department of Marine Resources and the Department of Transportation shall conduct a  
26 review of the laws and rules they are charged with administering under the Maine Revised  
27 Statutes and, by January 1, 2022, shall recommend to the Joint Standing Committee on  
28 Environment and Natural Resources any changes necessary to:

29 1. Incorporate consideration of 1.5 feet of relative sea level rise by 2050 and 3.9 feet  
30 by 2100 into administration of those laws and rules; and

31 2. Implement the strategy designated as "Strategy F3" in the state climate action plan  
32 issued by the Maine Climate Council in 2020 pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title  
33 38, section 577 to enhance community resilience to flooding and other climate impacts.

34 The Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources may report out  
35 legislation to implement the recommendations to the Second Regular Session of the 130th  
36 Legislature.

### 37 **SUMMARY**

38 This resolve requires the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the  
39 Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Emergency  
40 Management Agency, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of  
41 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Department of Marine Resources and the Department of  
42 Transportation to review the laws and rules they are charged with administering and submit

1 recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
2 by January 1, 2022 necessary to incorporate consideration of 1.5 feet of relative sea level  
3 rise by 2050 and 3.9 feet by 2100 into administration of those laws and rules and to  
4 implement the strategy designated as "Strategy F3" in the 2020 state climate action plan.