

131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 508

S.P. 225

In Senate, February 9, 2023

Resolve, Directing the Department of Environmental Protection to Review Its Environmental Permitting Laws

Reference to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources suggested and ordered printed.

DAREK M. GRANT Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock.

Sec. 1. Department of Environmental Protection to review environmental permitting laws. Resolved: That the Department of Environmental Protection shall review its environmental permitting authority, including the laws governing site location of development under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, chapter 3, subchapter 1, article 6 and the Natural Resources Protection Act, to consider whether its statutory authority requires any changes in order to better consider climate change, habitat connectivity, ecological resilience and the coastal marine environment. No later than December 6, 2023, the department shall submit a report of its review, including any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. The committee may report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

12 SUMMARY

This resolve requires the Department of Environmental Protection to review its environmental permitting authority, including the laws governing site location of development and the Natural Resources Protection Act, to consider whether its statutory authority requires any changes in order to better consider climate change, habitat connectivity, ecological resilience and the coastal marine environment. It requires the department to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources by December 6, 2023. It authorizes the committee to report out legislation related to the report.