

§1042. Sewer extensions; applicable to all sewer districts

Sewer extensions are governed by this section. [PL 2013, c. 555, §6 (NEW).]

1. Written assurance from municipality. A sewer district may not construct any sewer extension unless it acquires from the municipal officers or the designee of the municipal officers of any municipality through which the sewer extension will pass written assurance that:

A. Any development, lot or unit intended to be served by the sewer extension is in conformity with any adopted municipal plans and ordinances regulating land use; and [PL 2013, c. 555, §6 (NEW).]

B. The sewer extension is consistent with adopted municipal plans and ordinances regulating land use. [PL 2013, c. 555, §6 (NEW).]

If the municipal officers fail to issue a response to a written request from a sewer district for written assurance within 45 calendar days of receiving the request in writing, the written assurance is deemed granted.

Not less than 7 days prior to the meeting at which the trustees will take final action on whether to proceed with the extension, the trustees of the sewer district shall publish notice of the proposed extension in a newspaper having a general circulation that includes all municipalities through which the sewer extension will pass.

[PL 2013, c. 555, §6 (NEW).]

2. Review of municipal decision; applicable to all sewer districts. For an intermunicipal sewer extension, when written assurance is denied by municipal officers pursuant to subsection 1, an aggrieved party may appeal, within 15 days of the decision, to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry for a review of the municipal officers' decision. Notwithstanding Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 4, the following procedures apply to the review by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

A. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may request any additional information from the sewer district, the municipality or the department. All information requested must be submitted within 30 days of the request, unless an extension is granted by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. [PL 2013, c. 555, §6 (NEW).]

B. Within a reasonable time, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall hold a hearing. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall give at least 7 days' written notice of the hearing to the sewer district, the municipality and the party that requested the hearing. The hearing is informal and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may receive any information it considers necessary. [PL 2013, c. 555, §6 (NEW).]

C. Within 15 days of the hearing and within 60 days of the request for review, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall make a decision that must include findings of fact on whether the sewer extension proposal is inconsistent with adopted municipal plans and ordinances regulating land use. The decision of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry constitutes final agency action. [PL 2013, c. 555, §6 (NEW).]

D. Notwithstanding section 1, if the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry determines that the sewer extension proposal is not inconsistent with adopted municipal plans and ordinances regulating land use, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall issue written assurance that the proposal is consistent with adopted municipal plans and ordinances regulating land use and the sewer district may construct the sewer extension. [PL 2013, c. 555, §6 (NEW).]

[PL 2013, c. 555, §6 (NEW).]

This section is deemed to be incorporated into the private and special laws governing a sewer district, and any part of a sewer district charter not in conformity with this section is void, unless the sewer district's charter expressly references this section or former section 1252, subsection 7 and specifically provides that this subsection or former section 1252, subsection 7 does not apply. [PL 2013, c. 555, §6 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2013, c. 555, §6 (NEW).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Regular and First Special Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through November 1, 2023. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.