

§682-B. Exemption from subdivision definition

A division accomplished by the following does not create a subdivision lot or lots unless the intent of the transfer is to avoid the objectives of this chapter. [PL 2001, c. 431, §3 (NEW).]

1. Gifts to relatives. A division of land accomplished by gift to a spouse, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild or sibling of the donor of the lot or parcel does not create a subdivision lot if the donor has owned the lot or parcel for a continuous period of 5 years immediately preceding the division by gift and the lot or parcel is not further divided or transferred within 5 years from the date of division. [PL 2001, c. 431, §3 (NEW).]

2. Transfer to governmental entity. A lot or parcel transferred to a municipality or county of the State, the State or an agency of the State is not considered a subdivision lot if the following conditions are met:

A. The lot or parcel is held by the governmental entity for the conservation and protection of natural resources, public outdoor recreation or other bona fide public purposes and is not further sold or divided for a period of 20 years following the date of transfer; and [PL 2001, c. 431, §3 (NEW).]

B. At the time of transfer the transferee provides written notice to the commission of transfer of the lot or parcel, including certification that the lot or parcel qualifies for exemption under this subsection. [PL 2001, c. 431, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2001, c. 431, §3 (NEW).]

3. Transfer to conservation organization. A lot or parcel transferred to a nonprofit, tax-exempt nature conservation organization qualifying under the United States Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(c)(3) is not considered a subdivision lot if the following conditions are met:

A. For a period of at least 20 years following the transfer, the lot or parcel must be limited by deed restriction or conservation easement for the protection of wildlife habitat or ecologically sensitive areas or for public outdoor recreation; and [PL 2001, c. 431, §3 (NEW).]

B. The lot or parcel is not further divided or transferred except to another qualifying nonprofit, tax-exempt nature conservation organization or governmental entity. [PL 2001, c. 431, §3 (NEW).]

[PL 2001, c. 431, §3 (NEW).]

4. Transfer of lots for forest management, agricultural management or conservation of natural resources. A lot or parcel is not considered a subdivision lot if the following conditions are met:

A. The lot is transferred and managed solely for forest management, agricultural management or conservation of natural resources; [PL 2001, c. 431, §3 (NEW).]

B. The lot is at least 40 acres in size; [PL 2001, c. 431, §3 (NEW).]

C. If the lot is less than 1,000 acres in size, no portion of the lot is located within 1,320 feet of the normal high water line of any great pond or river or within 250 feet of the upland edge of a coastal or freshwater wetland as defined in Title 38, section 436-A; [PL 2001, c. 431, §3 (NEW).]

D. The original parcel from which the lot was divided is divided into an aggregate of no more than 10 lots within any 5-year period; and [PL 2001, c. 431, §3 (NEW).]

E. When 3 to 10 lots each containing at least 40 acres in size are created within any 5-year period, a plan is recorded in accordance with section 685-B, subsection 6-A. Any subsequent division of a lot created from the original parcel within 10 years of the recording of the plan in the registry of deeds or any structural development unrelated to forest management, agricultural management or

conservation creates a subdivision and may not occur without prior commission approval. [PL 2001, c. 431, §3 (NEW).]
[PL 2001, c. 431, §3 (NEW).]

5. Unauthorized subdivision lots in existence for at least 20 years. A lot or parcel that when sold or leased created a subdivision requiring a permit under this chapter is not considered a subdivision lot and is exempt from the permit requirement if the permit has not been obtained and the subdivision has been in existence for 20 or more years. A lot or parcel is considered a subdivision lot and is not exempt under this subsection if:

A. Approval of the subdivision under section 685-B was denied by the commission and record of the commission's decision was recorded in the appropriate registry of deeds; [PL 2001, c. 431, §3 (NEW).]

B. A building permit for the lot or parcel was denied by the commission under section 685-B and record of the commission's decision was recorded in the appropriate registry of deeds; [PL 2001, c. 431, §3 (NEW).]

C. The commission has filed a notice of violation of section 685-B with respect to the subdivision in the appropriate registry of deeds; or [PL 2001, c. 431, §3 (NEW).]

D. The lot or parcel has been the subject of an enforcement action or order and record of that action or order was recorded in the appropriate registry of deeds. [PL 2001, c. 431, §3 (NEW).]
[PL 2001, c. 431, §3 (NEW).]

6. Permit not required. Nothing in this section requires a permit for, or restricts the use of property for, hunting, fishing or other forms of primitive recreation, use of motorized vehicles on roads and trails or snowmobiling as otherwise permitted by law.
[PL 2001, c. 431, §3 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2001, c. 431, §3 (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 Special Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature and is current through October 1, 2025. 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.