

50 Bills That Could Weaken or Undermine Maine's Environmental Safeguards

Sponsor	LD = Bill LR = Title	Title	Bill Impacts NP = Bill not printed as of 2/28, so sponsor's intent not fully known
AYOTTE	LR 1404	An Act To Clarify the Law Governing Product Stewardship in the State	NP: appears to weaken product stewardship law, which would increase waste to landfills, increase costs to municipalities, prevent reduction of some hazardous wastes
AYOTTE	LR 1522	An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Significant Wildlife Habitat	NP: appears to weaken protections for wildlife
BRIGGS	LD 333	Resolve, Directing the Department of Environmental Protection to Amend Its Rules Regarding Snow Dumps	Would increase pollution in Maine lakes, rivers, and coastal waters
CHASE	LD 387	An Act To Amend the Natural Resources Protection Act Regarding Coastal Sand Dune Systems	Could weaken protection of ecologically sensitive sand dunes
CHASE	LR 1386	An Act Concerning the Natural Resources Protection Act and Existing Structures	NP: could weaken protection of ecologically sensitive sand dunes
CHASE	LD 256	An Act To Amend the Law Regarding Repairing a Structure in a Coastal Sand Dune System	Weakens protection of ecologically sensitive sand dunes
COLLINS	LD 339	An Act to Prohibit Municipal Ordinances More Stringent than State Guidelines	Weakens ability of towns to protect water quality, shoreland, and habitat with high values
COLLINS	LR 347	An Act To Change Setbacks in the Natural Resources Protection Act	NP: appears intended to weaken protections for significant wildlife habitat
COLLINS	LD 434	An Act To Exempt Wetlands Created by Obstructions or Barriers from the Shoreland Zoning Laws	Major weakening of shoreland zoning; blocking shoreland zoning protection for "non-original" wetlands -- a definition that could preclude all wetland protections
CRAY	LR 1964	An Act To Clarify Maine's Phaseout of the "Deca" Mixture of Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers	NP: appears intended to create loophole in law phasing out toxic chemical deca. This would increase human exposure to toxics
CRAY	LD 485	An Act To Ensure the Greatest Possible Public Benefit from Energy Efficiency Spending	Eliminates allocation of energy efficiency funding to low income households and small business consumers, potentially shifting all funds to large consumers
CURTIS	LR 1078	An Act To Allow Flexibility under Municipal Shoreland Zoning Ordinances	NP: purpose of "flexibility" not known, but likely would weaken shoreland protections of habitat and water quality
DAVIS	LD 17	An Act To Reform the Land Use and Planning Authority within the Unorganized Territories of the State	Abolishes LURC, which would result in less protection, more scattered development, fragmentation of Maine's forestlands
DAVIS	LD 55	An Act to Restore Hunting to the Katahdin Lake Region	[Withdrawn] Threatened independent management of Baxter State Park and the complex agreement providing for protection of Katahdin Lake and access to other lands
DAVIS	LR 1653	An Act To Make the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code Optional for Towns with Fewer than 10,000 Residents	NP: would undermine energy codes, resulting in more homes built that waste energy and waste money for homeowners
DUNPHY	LD 502	An Act To Place a Moratorium on Expedited Permitting of Grid-scale Wind Energy Development	Blocks development of clean energy; perpetuates status quo fossil fuel systems; and blocks jobs while moratorium is in place
EDGECOMB	LD 228	An Act To Revise Notification Requirements for Pesticide Application	Eliminates registry that allows Maine people to be notified about pesticide applications, so they can take precautions
GIFFORD	LR 1640	An Act To Streamline the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission	NP: Appears designed to weaken state management of Maine's unique North Woods
GIFFORD	LR 1863	An Act To Reform Land Use Planning Authority within the Unorganized Territories	NP: Appears designed to weaken state management of Maine's unique North Woods
HARVELL	LD 43	An Act To Repeal the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code	Blocks energy codes that are projected to save Maine \$100 million in energy costs over next 10 years
HASTINGS	LR 1749	Resolve, to Study Initiatives that Would Increase Recycling in Maine by Replacing the Bottle Bill with a Comprehensive Statewide Recycling Program	NP: Appears intended to begin a process of weakening Maine's bottle bill, with the false promise of a program that would not provide same benefits

50 Bills That Could Weaken or Undermine Maine's Environmental Safeguards

MALABY	LR 1121	An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Application of the Uniform Building Code	NP: Purpose not clear, but likely would weaken energy codes projected to save \$100 million over next 10 years
MARTIN T	LR 1974	An Act To Repeal the Bottle Redemption Law and Restructure the Return of Recyclable Materials	NP: Would eliminate one of Maine's most important programs for promoting recycling, reducing waste, and creating jobs
MCKANE	LD 308	An Act Regarding the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Registry	Repeals saltwater fishing registry that would generate important funding for fisheries science and habitat improvement
MCKANE	LR 904	An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code	NP: Purpose not clear, but likely would weaken energy codes projected to save \$100 million over next 10 years
MOULTON	LR 1677	An Act To Eliminate the Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security	NP: Eliminates office with important role to help improve Maine's vulnerability to energy prices shocks
MOULTON	LR 1154	An Act To Modify the Requirement To Replace Trees Cut in Shoreland Areas	NP: Appears to weaken shoreland protections, important for water quality, vegetated buffers, wildlife habitat
PRESCOTT	LR 472	An Act To Create Consistency and Fairness in Maine's Bottle Bill	NP: Appears to weaken Maine's bottle bill
RAYE	LR 1321	An Act To Abolish the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission and Transfer Its Duties to the Counties	NP: Abolishes LURC, which would result in less protection, more scattered development, fragmentation of Maine's forestlands
RAYE	LD 1	An Act to Ensure Regulatory Fairness and Reform	Includes a broad range of environmental rollback proposals introduced by the Governor
RECTOR	LD 156	An Act To Clarify the Regulation of Impacts to Significant Vernal Pool Habitats under the Natural Resources Protection Act	Weakens protections of vernal pools, important habitat for rare species, amphibians, and other wildlife
RICHARDSON W	LR 892	An Act to Place a Moratorium on Wind Power Development and Repeal Expedited Permitting of Wind Power	NP: Blocks development of clean energy; perpetuates status quo fossil fuel use; and blocks jobs while moratorium is in place
SAVIELLO	LR 1046	An Act To Exempt Municipalities of Fewer than 5,000 Residents from the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code	NP: would undermine energy codes, resulting in more homes built that waste energy and waste money for homeowners
SAVIELLO	LD 515	An Act To Review State Water Quality Standards	Purpose unclear, but appears designed to undermine water quality standards that protect Maine rivers.
SAVIELLO	LR 620	An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Enforcement of Statewide Uniform Building Codes	NP: Purpose not clear, but likely would weaken energy codes projected to save \$100 million over next 10 years
SAVIELLO	LD 614	An Act To Require the Outsourcing of Certain Permits That Cannot Be Completed within the Required Time	Would possibly allow contractors with major conflict of interest issues to pass judgment on development permits
SAVIELLO	LD 159	An Act To Foster Economic Development by Improving Administration of the Laws Governing Site Location of Development and Storm Water Management	Would result in more habitat destruction and degraded water quality in Maine due to weakened Site Law thresholds
SAVIELLO	LD 222	An Act To Provide for the Appointment of Directors in the Department of Environmental Protection	[Withdrawn] Would politicize DEP, undermine morale, and create instability if Commissioner given ability to fire leading staff
SNOWE-MELLO	LD 281	An Act To Create a 5-year Statute of Limitations for Environmental Violations	Weakens environmental enforcement, potentially allowing violators to escape accountability, transferring costs to taxpayers
SNOWE-MELLO	LD 219	An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Shoreland Zoning	Drastic weakening of Maine's shoreland zone, increasing pollution to lakes, rivers, coastal waters; damaging habitat
SNOWE-MELLO	LR 1960	An Act To Clarify Maine's Phaseout of the "Deca" Mixture of Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers	NP: appears intended to create loophole in law phasing out toxic chemical deca. This would increase human exposure to toxics
SNOWE-MELLO	LR 671	An Act To Eliminate Most Rule-making Authority of State Agencies	NP: Could cripple implementation of environmental (and other) laws
STRANG BURGESS	LR 1894	An Act To Amend the Shoreland Zoning Law	NP: Appears designed to weaken shoreland zoning protections; which would increase water pollution and habitat degradation
THIBODEAU	LR 947	An Act To Modify Maine's Uniform Building and Energy Code	NP: Purpose not clear, but likely would weaken energy codes projected to save \$100 million over next 10 years
THIBODEAU	LD 431	An Act To Require the Efficiency Maine Trust To Disburse Funds More Effectively	Could bring energy efficiency programs through Efficiency Maine Trust to a halt, increasing energy vulnerability of Maine people to energy costs

50 Bills That Could Weaken or Undermine Maine's Environmental Safeguards

THOMAS	LD 341	An Act To Exempt Artificial Wetlands and Artificial Significant Vernal Pool Habitats from State Regulation	Weakens protections of vernal pools, important habitat for rare species, amphibians, and other wildlife
THOMAS	LR 1161	An Act To Reduce the Buffer Zones around Vernal Pools and Other Bodies of Water	NP: Weakens protections of vernal pools, important habitat for wildlife
THOMAS	LD 729	An Act To Prohibit Electric Utilities from Entering into Long-term Supply Agreements	Would eliminate Maine's ability to directly purchase renewable energy at rates favorable to ratepayers; thus, interferes with shift away from imported fossil fuels.
TIMBERLAKE	LD 16	An Act To Revise Notification Requirements for Pesticides Applications Using Aircraft or Air-carrier Equipment	Drastically weakens registry that enables Maine people to be notified about pesticides spraying, so they can take precautions
TRAHAN	LD 210	An Act Regarding the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Registry	Repeals saltwater fishing registry, reducing funds for fisheries science and habitat