

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

H.P. 1244 - L.D. 1673

An Act To Establish Fair Housing Goals in Certain Communities in Maine

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4301, sub-§14-A, as amended by PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. JJ, §14 and affected by §41, is further amended to read:

14-A. Service center community. "Service center community" means a municipality or group of municipalities identified by the department according to a methodology established by rule that includes 4 basic criteria, including level of retail sales, jobs-to-workers ratio, the amount of federally assisted housing and the volume of service sector jobs. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are ~~major-substantive~~ routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §4315 is enacted to read:

§4315. Service center community

Beginning in 2023, and every 5 years thereafter, the department shall classify the service center communities in the State, using the most recent data available, into no less than 4 categories based on a methodology established by rule. The department shall maintain a list of service center communities, by category, and the department and the Department of Economic and Community Development shall post the list on their respective publicly accessible websites.

Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §4316 is enacted to read:

§4316. Data sharing

The department, the Maine State Housing Authority and the Department of Economic and Community Development shall share data useful in assessing and determining growth management policies and standards.

Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §4326, sub-§3-A, ¶L, as corrected by RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §41, is amended to read:

L. Ensure that land use policies encourage aging in place and appropriate housing options for older residents and address issues of special concern to older adults, including transportation to and accessibility and availability of needed services; ~~and~~

Sec. 5. 30-A MRSA §4326, sub-§3-A, ¶M, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 145, §9 and reallocated by RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §42, is amended to read:

M. Encourage policies that provide for accessory dwelling units; and

Sec. 6. 30-A MRSA §4326, sub-§3-A, ¶N is enacted to read:

N. Notwithstanding paragraph G, ensure that in a service center community at least 10% of the housing stock is affordable housing.

Sec. 7. 30-A MRSA §4331, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. JJ, §18 and affected by §41, is further amended to read:

5. Periodic reports. Beginning on January 1, 2015, the department shall report in writing on the results of its evaluation process every 4 years and more frequently if necessary. The department shall submit its report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources matters, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs. Each committee may report out legislation related to matters reported upon that are within its jurisdiction.

Sec. 8. Report. By February 15, 2023, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters detailing where population growth is occurring and projected to occur in the State. The committee may report out legislation on matters related to the report during the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.