

MUUSAN Climate Change/Justice bills for 2022

1) **LD 1350 - An Act To Expand Maine's Clean Energy Economy** (Renewables Procurement)

Bill purpose: To further expand renewable energy generation in Maine through two additional procurements of renewable energy by the PUC.

Lead organization – NRCM (Jack Shapiro)

Lead sponsor – Senator Vitelli (Bath)

Committee – EUT

Has already had hearing.

2) **LD 1634 - An Act to Create the Maine Generation Authority**

Bill purpose: The bill would establish the Maine Generation Authority which would finance and own clean energy generation and storage within the State so that Maine can affordably and equitably achieve its decarbonization goals. The MGA uses low-cost revenue bonds (similar to the Turnpike Authority) to achieve cost savings and ensure that Mainers benefit as owners of the means to our clean energy transition. The MGA's stated goal is to "reduce the costs to Maine ratepayers of meeting the State's climate and energy goals by facilitating the decarbonization of electricity."

Lead organization – Sierra Club (Matt Cannon & Jonathan Fulford)

Lead sponsor – Representative Grohoski (Ellsworth)

Committee - EUT

Has already had hearing & MUUSAN testified for bill.

3) **LD 1579 - An Act To Transition State and Local Motor Vehicle Fleets to 100 Percent Zero-emission Vehicles**

Bill purpose: Establishes goals and timetables for the State, counties and municipalities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from light-duty motor vehicles, motor vehicles used for utility services, motor vehicles used for public transportation and motor vehicles used for public school transportation by 75% by 2035 and achieve 100% zero-emission fleets by 2040. It also directs the Governor's Energy Office to convene an interagency working group to develop a plan to achieve the transition to zero-emission fleets and sets out specific duties for that working group.

Lead organizations – NRCM (Jack Shapiro) & Environment Maine (Anya Fetcher)

Lead sponsor – Senator Vitelli (Bath)

Committee – EUT

Has already had hearing.

4) **LD 1902 - An Act To Establish a Pilot Program To Encourage Climate Change Education in Maine Public Schools ***

Bill purpose: The purpose of the bill is to provide a statewide grant program available to Maine public schools to provide funding for climate change education.

Lead organizations – The Climate Initiative (Javan Santos) & Maine Audubon (Eliza Donoghue)

Lead sponsor - Representative Lydia Blume (York)

Committee - Education & Cultural Affairs

Hearing will be in 2022.

5) **LD 736 - An Act to Enhance Maine's Ecological Reserve System ***

Bill purpose: Increasing the size of the ecological reserve system is a necessary step to mitigate and adapt to climate change, protect wildlife habitat and biodiversity, and conserve habitat types that

aren't currently protected. However, expansion of Maine's ecological reserve system cannot happen without legislative action through passage of LD 736 to remove the statutory limits on the size of the ecological reserve system.

Lead organizations – NRCM (Melanie Sturm) & Maine Audubon Eliza Donoghue

Lead sponsor – Representative Nicole Grohoski (Ellsworth)

Committee – Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

Public hearing will be in 2022.

6) LD 489 - Pine Tree Amendment *

Bill purpose: To establish a constitutional right to clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment.

Lead organizations - 350 (Amy Eshoo) & Sierra Club (Matt Cannon)

Lead sponsor - Senator Chloe Maxmin (Nobleboro); Rep. Bill Pluecker (Warren)

Committee - ENR

Passed out 9 to 4 along party lines last spring with Senator Rick Bennett, the one Republican vote.

Other important Environmental bills for 2022:

7) LD 1639, An Act to Protect the Health and Welfare of Maine Communities & Reduce Harmful Solid Waste *

Bill purpose: To prevent Maine from being the dumping ground of New England. Corporate waste companies are exploiting a loophole in Maine law to dump tons of toxic out-of-state waste in the State-owned Juniper Ridge Landfill (JRL). This practice was not what was intended when taxpayers bought the landfill and is unjustly harming the health of Maine people and our environment.

Lead organizations - NRCM (Sarah Nichols) & Community Action Works (Dana Colihan)

Lead sponsor - Senator Anne Carney, Cosponsored by Representative NEWELL of the Passamaquoddy Tribe and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, BRENNER of Cumberland, President JACKSON of Aroostook, Representatives: COLLINGS of Portland, DOUDERA of Camden, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GROHOSKI of Ellsworth, WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor

Committee – ENR

Has already had a public hearing.

[NOTE: NRCM has a petition you can sign for this bill at <https://www.nrcm.org/take-action/>]

This bill is of vital importance to the Penobscot Nation which is directly negatively impacted by toxic water contaminating their land & water and Penobscot River. It also has a climate change component as the Juniper Ridge Landfill releases LOTS of greenhouse gases (such as methane).

8) MUUSAN and the EPC are AGAINST this bill

LR 2167 - An Act To Clarify the Role of the Legislature in Sustaining Good-paying Jobs in the Forest Products Industry and To Promote Healthy *

Bill purpose: Senator Jackson is responding to Sappi's unsubstantiated claims that removal of the Shawmut Dam would put its Somerset Mill out of business because of the need to move its water intake. Although the language of the bill has not yet been released, it is clear that the intention is to block a science-based approach to restoring fish passage in the Kennebec River between Waterville and Skowhegan. This harmful bill could damage Maine's ability to protect endangered Atlantic salmon.

Lead organization in opposition – NRCM (Nick Bennett)

Lead sponsor - Senator Troy Jackson

Committee - ACF is committee of reference. Might be worth trying to change this to ENR.

[NOTE: NRCM has a petition you can sign to oppose this bill at <https://www.nrcm.org/take-action/>]

9) LD 1626 - Tribal Sovereignty [EPC Priority Environmental bill for 2022] *

Bill purpose: Passing sovereignty legislation will restore the Wabanaki Nations' inherent rights to self govern, including restoring their jurisdiction over their lands and waters. This will enable them to better advance environmental protections and climate solutions in the Wabanaki homelands that are now called Maine. Securing sovereignty for the Wabanaki Confederacy is one of the top five recommendations of the state's Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Maine Tribal Populations.

Lead organization – Maine Conservation Voters

Lead sponsor - Asst. House Majority Leader, Rachel Talbot Ross

Committee - Judiciary

10) Dept. Environmental Protection triennial water quality review/upgrade proposals *

Bill purpose: To upgrade the level of legal protection for about 860 miles of rivers and streams across Maine, including in the Androscoggin, Kennebec, Penobscot, and St. John River Basins.

Lead sponsor - Governor's bill

Committee - ENR

[Bill has not been printed yet – special as this is expected to be a Governor's bill.]

If a bill has a * after the title, it indicates that this bill will have a Maine Environmental Priorities Coalition Fact Sheet available after January 20, 2022. We can make access to those Fact Sheets available to all CLLs after that date.