

Public Affairs Update

END-OF-SESSION SUMMARY, PART 3

In the third part of our end-of-session summary, we are listing the results of environmental and other bills.

ENVIRONMENTAL BILLS

Polystyrene Ban - ENACTED

The bill to ban polystyrene, [LD 289](#) (Rep. Ziegler, D-Montville), has been signed into law by the Governor. Beginning January 1, 2021, a food establishment is prohibited, subject to certain exemptions, from processing, preparing, selling, or providing food or beverages in a disposable food service container that is composed of polystyrene foam. Excluded from the definition of "disposable food service container" are polystyrene foam coolers and ice chests that are used for the processing or shipping of seafood. Sleeves and stirrers are added to the definition of "service ware." Hospitals and meals on wheels establishments are exempted.



Chemicals in Packaging - ENACTED

[LD 1433](#) (Rep. Fay, D-Raymond), which regulates certain chemicals in food packaging, has been signed into law. The law prohibits the sale of food packaging containing intentionally introduced perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, and phthalates in any amount greater than an incidental presence. Any rulemaking by DEP to prohibit the sale of food packaging containing intentionally introduced PFAS requires the department to adopt such a prohibition upon a determination that a safer alternative to the use of PFAS in a specific application of PFAS to a food package is available.

MISCELLANEOUS

Unused Gift Cards - ENACTED

[LD 1612](#) (Rep. Gideon, D-Freeport), the bill that would remove the presumption of abandonment of gift cards, was enacted. Under current law, Maine-based retailers that sell at least \$250,000 worth of gift cards each year must remit 60% of the unused value to the state as unclaimed property after two years of inactivity. The new law will lower the amount to be returned to the state to zero over the next three years: 40% for gift obligations issued or whose most recent transaction, whichever is later, occurred during calendar year 2019; 20% in 2020; and 0% in 2021 or thereafter.

AEDs Required for Commercial Buildings – CARRIED OVER

[LD 1169](#) (Sen. Deschambault, D-York) would require all commercial buildings built or renovated after January 1, 2020, with an occupancy of 200 people or more have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). It was passed by the House and Senate. MTA signed on to a letter written by the Retail Association of Maine and signed by other organizations asking the Governor to veto the bill. However, in the final hours of session, the bill was recalled from the Governor's desk and carried over to the next session.

Maine Tourism Association Advocacy Program. If you would like additional information, please contact Alison Sucy at the Maine Tourism Association at 623-0363 Ext. 104 or via e-mail at apsucy@mainetourism.com.

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