

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

H.P. 439 - L.D. 670

**An Act to Protect Birds in the Construction, Renovation and Maintenance of
Public Buildings**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §1754 is enacted to read:

§1754. Guidance regarding integration of bird collision risk management into public improvements

The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, referred to in this section as "the bureau," shall develop guidance regarding the integration of bird collision risk management into public improvements. The bureau, to the extent it determines appropriate considering all relevant factors, shall follow the guidance in the construction of public improvements and renovations of public improvements in which more than 50% of a building facade is substantially altered. The guidance is not applicable to public buildings, landscapes or districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places or determined by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, created pursuant to Title 27, section 502, to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, including the State House and the Blaine House.

1. Development of guidance. The guidance for reducing bird collisions with public buildings and improvements must:

A. Be developed in consultation with expert stakeholders, including, but not limited to, state or federal natural resource agencies with expertise in bird conservation; nongovernmental organizations with expertise in bird conservation; representatives from the building and design community; and representatives of green building or bird safe building certification programs;

B. Include an explanation of architectural design threats and landscape design threats to birds;

C. Include an explanation of the cost differentials and comparative effectiveness of materials, designs and other methods for reducing bird collisions;

D. Include an explanation of other considerations for reducing bird collisions; and

E. Be available on the bureau's publicly accessible website.

2. Reports. The bureau shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters by December 31, 2026, and biennially thereafter, detailing use of the guidance under this section during the previous 2-year period, including reasons and factors for using or not using the guidance. The committee may submit legislation relating to the subject matter of the report to the session of the Legislature following receipt of the report.

Sec. 2. Report. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services, referred to in this section as "the bureau," shall develop the guidance required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1754 by December 31, 2024. The bureau shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters no later than December 31, 2024 detailing the guidance developed. The committee may submit legislation relating to the subject matter of the report to the 132nd Legislature in 2025.