

LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 7, 2026 to APRIL 29, 2026

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JULY 29, 2026

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2026

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PREFACE

The 2025 edition of Laws of the State of Maine is the official publication of the session laws of the State of Maine enacted by the 132nd Legislature and is compiled and published under the authority of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 163-A. Laws of the State of Maine has been in continuous publication since 1820, when the acts and resolves adopted by the First Legislature were published by the Secretary of State under the authority of Resolve 1820, chapter 25.

Volume 2 contains the public laws, private and special laws and resolves enacted at the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature, followed by the 2025 Revisor's Report, chapter 1, Initiated Bill 2025, chapter 1 and a selection of significant addresses, joint resolutions and memorials.

Volume 1 was published at the conclusion of the First Special Session of the 132nd Legislature and contains legislation enacted during the First Regular Session and the First Special Session of the 132nd Legislature.

The following conventions are used throughout the series.

1. At the top of each page is a heading that classifies each law by session of passage, year, type and chapter number.
2. A table of contents that locates major divisions and contents by page number is located at the beginning of each volume.
3. An individual subject index of the documents contained in these volumes, arranged alphabetically by subject heading with corresponding chapter numbers, is located at the end of each volume.
4. Session cross-reference tables are also provided at the end of this volume showing how unallocated public laws and titles and sections of the Maine Revised Statutes of 1964 have been affected by the laws included in this publication.
5. Words and phrases deleted from the statutes are shown struck through. When an entire unit is repealed, the text that is repealed is not shown struck through, but its repeal is indicated by express language.
6. When new words or sections are added to the statutes, they are underlined.
7. A chaptered law's Legislative Document number is printed beneath its chapter number heading, indicating the source of the chapter.
8. The effective date for Maine laws is provided for in the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 16, which specifies that, except for certain emergency legislation, an act or resolve enacted into law takes effect 90 days after the adjournment of the session in which it passed. The general effective date of the nonemergency laws passed at the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature is July 29, 2026. The effective dates of emergency legislation vary and are provided at the ends of the chapters that were enacted as emergencies.

Copies of a specific chaptered law are available online at <https://legislature.maine.gov/ros/lawsofmaine/>. Laws of the State of Maine is also available online through the website of the Office of the Revisor of Statutes at <https://legislature.maine.gov/ros/LOM/LOMpdfDirectory.htm>.

This edition of Laws of the State of Maine and its predecessors have been prepared for the convenience of the people of the State of Maine, and any comments or suggestions for improvements in subsequent editions would be appreciated.

Edward A. Charbonneau
Revisor of Statutes
July 2026

LEGISLATIVE STATISTICS

SECOND REGULAR SESSION 132nd Legislature

Convened	January 7, 2026
Adjourned	April 29, 2026
Days in Session	
Senate	30
House of Representatives	30
Legislative Documents	257
Bills Carried Over from Second Regular Session	0
Public Laws	276*
Private and Special Laws	10
Resolves	58**
Constitutional Resolutions	0
Competing Measure Resolutions	0
Initiated Bills	1
Vetoed	3
Overridden	0
Sustained	3
Emergency Enactments	60
Effective Date	July 29, 2026 (unless otherwise indicated)

* Includes 40 bills held by the Governor upon adjournment of the First Special Session of the 132nd Legislature that became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

** Includes 13 resolves held by the Governor upon adjournment of the First Special Session of the 132nd Legislature that became law without the Governor's signature on January 11, 2026.

PUBLIC LAWS OF THE STATE OF MAINE
AS PASSED AT
THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
2025

CHAPTER 500
H.P. 871 - L.D. 1336

**An Act to Establish the Maine-
Aomori Sister-state Advisory
Council**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-K, sub-§10-B is enacted to read:

10-B.

State Government	Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council	Not Authorized	10 MRSA §31

Sec. 2. 10 MRSA c. 1-C is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 1-C

**MAINE-AOMORI SISTER-STATE ADVISORY
COUNCIL**

§31. Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council

The Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council, referred to in this chapter as "the council," is established by Title 5, section 12004-K, subsection 10-B to promote and cultivate a cooperative sister-state relationship between this State and the Prefecture of Aomori, Japan in order to benefit the citizens of the sister states.

1. Members; terms. The council consists of the president of the Maine International Trade Center, established pursuant to section 945, or the president's designee and 11 members who are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor, including:

A. One member with knowledge and experience in kindergarten to grade 12 education;

B. One member with knowledge and experience in public postsecondary education;

C. One member with knowledge and experience in private postsecondary education;

D. One member with knowledge and experience in business and international trade;

E. One member with knowledge and experience in the humanities, including performing or visual arts;

F. One member with knowledge and experience in the sciences, including natural resources;

G. One member with knowledge and experience in tourism;

H. One member representing a nonprofit corporation based in the State supporting the Maine-Aomori cooperative sister-state relationship;

I. One member with knowledge and experience in international exchanges; and

J. Two members representing the general public.

Appointed members of the council serve 3-year terms.

2. Chair; meetings; compensation. The chair of the council, who is elected by the members of the council, shall preside at, set the agenda for and schedule council meetings. The council shall meet at least 3 times per year. Meetings must be open to the public. Members of the council serve without compensation.

3. Duties. The council serves in an advisory capacity and has the following duties.

A. The council shall identify and assess existing activities and exchanges with the Prefecture of Aomori and devise strategies to develop cultural, educational and commercial opportunities between the sister states.

B. The council shall identify sources of support for sister-state exchanges, programs, projects and administrative assistance for the council. The council may seek and accept in-kind support from outside sources and funding from outside sources to fully fund its operations.

4. Report. The council shall submit a report to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters by February 1, 2026 and annually thereafter regarding the activities of the council during the preceding calendar year. The report must include recommendations as determined appropriate by the council to effectuate its purpose under this section. After reviewing the report under this subsection, the joint standing committee may report out legislation relating to the report.

5. Official contact. The president of the Maine International Trade Center, or the president's designee, shall serve as the official Maine contact for the Maine-Aomori cooperative sister-state relationship.

Sec. 3. Staggered terms. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 31, subsection 1, of the initial appointed members of the Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council, 4 members serve

one-year terms, 4 members serve 2-year terms and 3 members serve 3-year terms.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**

Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council N558

Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize expenditures for funds received from outside sources to support the Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$500	\$500
FUNDS TOTAL		

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 501
H.P. 911 - L.D. 1389**

**An Act to Create the Building
Opportunity Through Out-of-
school Time Program**

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA c. 1083 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 1083

OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAM

§4100-A. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. At-risk school-age youth. "At-risk school-age youth" means a school-age youth who is at risk of educational failure because of limited English proficiency, community factors, academic difficulties or economic disadvantage.

2. Community-based nonprofit organization. "Community-based nonprofit organization" means a qualified nonprofit organization incorporated under federal law or under the laws of this State and subject to the provisions of Title 13, chapter 81 or the Maine Nonprofit Corporation Act that provides out-of-school programming to school-age youth. "Community-based nonprofit organization" includes the following entities:

A. A community-based nonprofit organization that is not a member of a statewide youth-serving nonprofit organization;

B. A statewide youth-serving nonprofit organization; and

C. A coalition of at least 3 nonprofit organizations that provide youth services in a specific geographic region.

3. Eligible provider. "Eligible provider" means a community-based nonprofit organization, a library or a statewide youth-serving nonprofit organization.

4. Out-of-school programming. "Out-of-school programming" means structured programs or activities with engaged adults, mentors and evidence-based or evidence-informed outcomes provided to school-age youth before school, after school or during the summer and relating to one of more of the following:

A. Improving social, emotional, academic or vocational competencies;

B. Preventing teenage pregnancies;

C. Reducing negative behaviors, such as violence and crime; tobacco, alcohol and other substance use; disengagement from school; behaviors leading to school suspension; truancy; and other health-compromising behaviors;

D. Providing a safe out-of-school environment;

E. Engaging in career exploration or formal or informal apprenticeships; and

F. Any other programming approved by the department.

5. Program. "Program" means the Building Opportunity Through Out-of-school Time Program.

6. School-age youth. "School-age youth" means a child 5 to 13 years of age and attending a kindergarten, elementary school or secondary school at which the compulsory attendance requirements of the State can be met pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5001-A.

7. Statewide youth-serving nonprofit organization. "Statewide youth-serving nonprofit organization" means a statewide, qualified nonprofit organization incorporated under federal law or under the laws of this State and subject to the provisions of Title 13, chapter 81 or the Maine Nonprofit Corporation Act that serves community-based nonprofit organizations and supports facility-based out-of-school programming designed for recreational, educational and character-building purposes for school-age youth.

§4100-B. Building Opportunity Through Out-of-school Time Program

The Building Opportunity Through Out-of-school Time Program is established in the department as a competitive grant program to expand out-of-school programming by increasing or enhancing current programming, reducing barriers for access to out-of-school programming and creating new programming.

1. Building Opportunity Through Out-of-school Time Program Fund. The Building Opportunity Through Out-of-school Time Program Fund is established as a nonlapsing fund to provide funding to achieve the purposes of the program. The fund consists of any funds received from private and public sources. The fund must be held separate from all other money, funds and accounts. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

2. Duties of the department. The department shall:

A. Establish by rule the process through which eligible providers may apply for program grants, the criteria used to make program grant award determinations and the allowable program grant award uses;

B. Enter into agreements with 3rd-party entities, including intermediate units, to carry out the provisions of this chapter;

C. Establish guidelines and standards necessary to implement the provisions of this chapter;

D. Publish the process, criteria and uses of program grant funds on its publicly accessible website;

E. Annually publish the program grant awards organized by grantee, on its publicly accessible website;

F. Ensure program grant agreements allow individuals receiving services pursuant to program grant awards to remain eligible for funds under chapter 1053-B;

G. Leverage federal funding opportunities to the extent practicable to fund the grant program; and

H. Perform other functions necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter, including monitoring grantees.

3. Rules. The department shall adopt rules to implement the program. The rules must include grantee eligibility requirements, grant application and award procedures and grant funding limits. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

4. Implementation. The department may not take steps to implement the program until the Legislature provides funding sufficient for the department to issue the grant awards outlined in section 4100-C.

§4100-C. Building Opportunity Through Out-of-school Time Program grant awards

This section governs grant awards under the program.

1. Grant awards. The department shall award grants to the extent that funds are appropriated or allocated to the Building Opportunity Through Out-of-school Time Program Fund under section 4100-B, subsection 1. A program grant award may not exceed a grantee's total cost of operating its out-of-school programming.

2. Subgrants. Statewide youth-serving nonprofit organizations that are awarded program grant funds may award subgrants to member and partner nonprofit organizations. Statewide youth-serving nonprofit organizations are responsible for the performance of all subgrantees for the duration of the grant award's project period, including ensuring compliance with all program and fiscal reporting, monitoring and other requirements. Organizations that receive subgrants are ineligible to receive program grant awards as direct grantees.

3. Funding priorities. To the greatest extent practicable, in making program grant award determinations, the department shall give priority to eligible providers that:

A. Are currently in operation and have an established history of receiving government funding, have demonstrated the ability to meet necessary program compliance requirements and have satisfactorily implemented previous programs;

B. Demonstrate a commitment to reducing barriers to access, including transportation costs and enrollment costs, for and serving at-risk school-age youth, students experiencing homelessness, youth in foster care and students with disabilities;

C. Demonstrate a commitment to serving and increasing access for historically underrepresented and underserved school-age youth;

D. Offer weekly out-of-school programming;

E. Develop and maintain community coordination and partnerships;

F. Engage the target population and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of out-of-school programming;

G. Use program grant funds to supplement, rather than supplant, existing resources;

H. Integrate trauma-informed approaches into the program curriculum and the professional development curriculum of personnel who have regular contact with school-age youth; or

I. Represent a variety of geographic regions throughout the State.

4. Grantee requirements. The department shall require that a grantee of a program grant award:

A. Maintain a separate financial accounting in the grantee's budget to facilitate monitoring and auditing of the use of program funds;

B. Cap administrative costs associated with the implementation of the program grant to 10% of the total award; and

C. Commit to nondiscrimination against individuals or groups by reason of race, color, familial status, religion, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, disability, the use of guide or support animals because of blindness or deafness or physical disability of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of guide animals.

§4100-D. Reporting requirements

1. Reporting. Each February 1st after a fiscal year in which funding is appropriated or allocated for the purpose of providing program grant awards to eligible providers under this chapter, the department shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters summarizing the operation of the program for the immediately preceding fiscal year. The report must include:

A. The criteria used to determine the eligibility of applicants for funding under the program;

B. The criteria used to select eligible providers for program grant awards and determine the program grant amount;

C. A summary of the process used by eligible applicants to apply for program grant funds, including sample copies of all application forms, instructions and guidelines and all deadlines;

D. A summary of the total amount of grant funds paid to grantees;

E. A summary of the allowable uses of grant funds under the program;

F. A listing by county of each eligible provider that submitted a grant application and an indication of whether the provider received funding and in what amount; and

G. For each grantee, the following information:

(1) The grantee's name;

(2) The grantee's address;

(3) The number of school-age youth served through the program by grade level;

(4) The number of at-risk school-age youth served through the program by grade level;

(5) The uses of program funds;

(6) To the extent possible, a financial summary indicating the total expenditures on out-of-school programming of the grantee and indicating as components of those expenditures

the total revenues received from the State under the program and the total revenues received from families with school-age youth enrolled in out-of-school programming; and

(7) The enrollment goals as set forth in the program grant application.

2. Report out legislation. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters may report out legislation relating to the report under subsection 1 in the year in which the report is presented to the committee.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Building Opportunity Through Out-of-school Time Program N966

Initiative: Provides a base allocation to establish the Building Opportunity Through Out-of-school Time Program Fund and allow for expenditures.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 502

H.P. 984 - L.D. 1500

An Act to Establish the Maine Community Development Financial Institution Fund to Support Small Businesses, Rural Economic Development and Affordable Housing

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §135, as amended by PL 2021, c. 231, §1, is further amended by enacting after the 7th paragraph a new paragraph to read:

The Treasurer of State may deposit, if funds are available, an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 in each calendar year with community development financial institutions authorized to do business in the State at a rate of return not more than 2% per year below the rate of return otherwise obtainable had the funds been invested with other financial institutions for a similar term, as determined by the Treasurer of State, for periods not to exceed 2 years. For the purposes of this paragraph, "community development financial institution"

has the same meaning as in section 13056-K, subsection 1, paragraph A.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §13056-K is enacted to read:

§13056-K. Maine Community Development Financial Institution Program

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Community development financial institution" means an institution that, as determined by the Secretary of State, is:

- (1) Legally qualified to do business within the State;
- (2) Subject to oversight by applicable federal or state financial institution or insurance regulatory agencies, if applicable; and
- (3) Certified by the United States Department of the Treasury as a community development financial institution.

B. "Financing" means any combination of loans, grants and forgivable loans.

C. "Fund" means the Maine Community Development Financial Institution Fund established in subsection 2.

D. "Program" means the Maine Community Development Financial Institution Program established in subsection 3.

E. "Project" means a project funded under the program.

F. "Underserved community" means a geographic area or targeted population identified by the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund at the United States Department of the Treasury as a target market for financing from community development financial institutions.

2. Fund established. The Maine Community Development Financial Institution Fund is established within the department for the purpose of providing funds for the program. The fund consists of money transferred to the fund by the Legislature in the form of appropriations, which may be provided as grants or loans, or by the Treasurer of State in the form of low-cost or no-cost loaned capital, which may be provided as loans.

Other funds may include grants and loans from federal, state and private sources and other types of funding from private sources. The fund is a dedicated nonlapsing fund, and all revenues deposited in the fund remain in the fund and must be disbursed in accordance with this section. The department may dedicate up to 10% of the appropriated and granted money in the fund for

the administrative and operational costs required to administer and manage the program, and any interest earned on money in the fund remains in the fund and must be credited to the fund.

3. Program established; duties. The Maine Community Development Financial Institution Program is established within the department to provide capital through grants and loans to community development financial institutions. The program must provide grants and loans to community development financial institutions for purposes that align with the program's goal of promoting housing and economic and community development, capital access, housing access and small business support. Community development financial institutions must deploy the funds in the form of loans, grants and forgivable loans to provide financial products to underserved communities in the State.

4. Rulemaking. The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules must include, but are not limited to, monitoring and accountability mechanisms for organizations receiving funding under the program. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

5. Reporting. Beginning January 1, 2026, and bi-annually thereafter, the department shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters on such matters regarding the fund as the department considers appropriate, including the amount of funding committed to projects from the fund, and other items as may be requested by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters. After reviewing the report, the committee may report out legislation to implement any recommendations contained in the report or address any other issues identified in the report.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Maine Community Development Financial Institution Fund N506

Initiative: Allocates ongoing funds for grants and loans to eligible institutions and enterprises to promote housing and community development, capital access, housing access and small business support.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 503
H.P. 1024 - L.D. 1566

**An Act to Provide
Compensation to Individuals
with Lived Experience Serving
on Certain Advisory Boards,
Commissions, Councils and
Similar Groups**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12002, sub-§3-B is enacted to read:

3-B. Member representing lived experience. "Member representing lived experience" means a board member serving on a board established in section 12004-I who has first-hand knowledge or direct experience related to the content, subject matter, responsibilities or authority of the board that helps increase equity in the representation of perspectives and backgrounds of members; is not otherwise compensated for the member's time serving on the board by the member's employer or the entity the member represents; and is explicitly identified as a member representing lived experience in the statutory language establishing the member's position as a member of a board.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §12002-B, first ¶, as amended by PL 1989, c. 503, Pt. B, §26, is further amended to read:

Members of boards ~~shall~~ must be paid a legislative per diem, another specified daily rate of compensation, a salary, expenses only or no compensation, as established for each board in sections 12004-A to 12004-L. Any board for which a legislative per diem, another specified daily rate of compensation or a salary is specified ~~shall~~ is also ~~be~~ authorized to receive expenses as provided in section 12002-A. If the rate of compensation specifies expenses only, the member ~~shall~~ must receive expenses as provided in section 12002-A. If the rate of compensation specifies "not authorized," the member ~~shall~~ may not receive ~~no~~ compensation or expenses except as authorized or allowed by subsection 3.

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §12002-B, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Lived experience compensation. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, beginning October 1, 2025, a member representing lived experience who is serving on a board established in section 12004-I and is not otherwise compensated for the member's time serving on the board by the member's employer or the entity the member represents may be compensated in an amount not to exceed the legislative per diem for the member's time and reimbursed for expenses, including but not limited to meals and refreshments provided during the meeting of the board, child

care and travel, to the extent that the department or agency of State Government with which the board is associated has sufficient money in the budget of the department or agency to provide the compensation and reimburse the expenses. The associated department or agency shall determine the amount and manner of compensation provided to members of the board. If the department or agency with which the board is associated does not have sufficient money in the budget of the department or agency to provide compensation and reimburse expenses, a member representing lived experience or the board with which the member is associated may apply for compensation pursuant to subsection 4.

Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §12002-B, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Lived experience funding; application for compensation. To the extent that funding is available and appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose of providing compensation to members with lived experience, a member or the board with which the member is associated may apply to the Secretary of State for compensation to the extent allowable pursuant to subsection 3. The Secretary of State shall establish policies or procedures, as necessary, to prioritize compensation for members representing lived experience.

Sec. 5. 5 MRSA §12003-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1989, c. 503, Pt. B, §28, is further amended to read:

2. Compensation of advisory boards. Compensation provided to members of boards, defined in section 12004-I as advisory boards or boards with minimal authority, ~~shall~~ may not exceed ~~\$25~~ the legislative per diem for their time and payment of expenses.

A. Advisory and other boards, as defined in section 12004-I, ~~which~~ that are not authorized by law to be reimbursed for expenses ~~shall~~ are not be eligible for this reimbursement except as authorized or allowed by section 12002-B, subsection 3.

Sec. 6. Lived experience funding distribution process developed by Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall develop a process for compensating members of boards or commissions who are identified as members representing lived experience as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12002, subsection 3-B and as allowable under Title 5, section 12002-B, subsections 3 and 4. The process must include the development of an application for members representing lived experience or the board with which the member is associated to apply for compensation, the development of a method of communication for any decisions to applicants who apply for compensation and the development of policies or procedures governing the prioritization of compensation requests. If no funding is available, the process is suspended.

Sec. 7. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF
Bureau of Corporations, Elections and
Commissions 0692**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to compensate individuals serving on boards and commissions with lived experience.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$5,000	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$5,000	\$0

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 504
H.P. 1095 - L.D. 1654**

**An Act to Exempt Certain
Sales and Transfers of Adult
Use Cannabis from Excise Tax**

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

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §4921, sub-§9-A is enacted to read:

9-A. Products manufacturing facility. "Products manufacturing facility" has the same meaning as in Title 28-B, section 102-A, subsection 51.

Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §4923, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 231, Pt. B, §7 and amended by PL 2021, c. 669, §5, is amended to read:

6. Multiple licenses. When a cultivation facility licensee also holds a license to operate another cannabis establishment, the taxes imposed by subsections 1 to 4 apply to any transfer of cannabis from the cultivation facility to the other cannabis establishment licensee or, if no such transfer is made, to any activity undertaken pursuant to Title 28-B, section 501, subsection 2 or 4 with regard to cannabis cultivated by the cultivation facility.

Sec. 3. 36 MRSA §4923, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

7. Sales and transfers between licensed cultivation facilities. Notwithstanding subsection 6, an excise tax is not imposed on a sale of adult use cannabis to a cultivation facility or on a transfer of adult use cannabis to a cultivation facility. This subsection does not apply to a sale or transfer by a nursery cultivation facility pursuant to Title 28-B, section 501, subsection 3, paragraph C.

Sec. 4. 36 MRSA §4923, sub-§8 is enacted to read:

8. Transfers to and from products manufacturing facility. Notwithstanding subsection 6, an excise tax is not imposed on the transfer of adult use cannabis

to a products manufacturing facility when the adult use cannabis is returned to the original cultivation facility in the same form and weight within 30 days.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 505
S.P. 663 - L.D. 1668**

**An Act Regarding the Voting
Requirement to Extend the
Date for Adjournment of the
Legislature**

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

Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §2, 2nd ¶, as amended by PL 2019, c. 475, §11, is further amended to read:

The first regular session of the Legislature, after its convening, ~~shall may not~~ adjourn ~~no~~ later than the 3rd Wednesday in June and the 2nd regular session of the Legislature ~~shall may not~~ adjourn ~~no~~ later than the 3rd Wednesday in April. The Legislature, in case of emergency, may by a the affirmative vote of ~~2/3~~ a majority of the members of each House present and voting, extend the date for adjournment for the first or 2nd regular session by no more than 5 legislative days, and in case of further emergency, may by a the affirmative vote of ~~2/3~~ a majority of the members of each House present and voting, further extend the date for adjournment by 5 additional legislative days. The times for adjournment for the first and 2nd regular sessions may also be extended for one additional legislative day for the purpose of considering possible objections of the Governor to any bill or resolution presented to the Governor by the Legislature under the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 2.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 506
S.P. 664 - L.D. 1669**

**An Act to Establish the
Cannabis Advisory Council**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§2-J is enacted to read:

2-J.

<u>Cannabis</u>	<u>Cannabis</u>	<u>Expenses Only</u>	<u>28-B MRSA</u>
	<u>Advisory</u>		<u>§115</u>
	<u>Council</u>		

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §2430, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2021, c. 181, Pt. A, §2, is further amended to read:

3. Uses of the fund. The fund may be used for expenses of the department to administer this chapter, for reimbursement for expenses of the Cannabis Advisory Council established by Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 2-J or for research in accordance with subsection 5, as allocated by the Legislature.

Sec. 3. 28-B MRSA §115 is enacted to read:

§115. Cannabis Advisory Council

1. Appointment; composition. The Cannabis Advisory Council, referred to in this section as "the council" and established by Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 2-J, consists of 12 members who are appointed as follows:

A. Two members who are registrants under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act, who are not also licensees under the Cannabis Legalization Act, of which at least one member is a registered caregiver who cultivates cannabis for medical use outdoors, appointed by the President of the Senate. In making the appointments under this paragraph, the President of the Senate shall consider up to 6 recommendations from associations representing the interests of registrants under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act;

B. Two members who are licensees under the Cannabis Legalization Act, who are not also registrants under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act, of which at least one member has a cultivation facility license, appointed by the Speaker of the House. In making the appointments under this paragraph, the Speaker of the House shall consider up to 6 recommendations from associations representing the interests of the adult use cannabis industry;

C. Two members who are registrants and licensees under both the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act and the Cannabis Legalization Act, of which at least one member has a manufacturing facility registration certificate or license, appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. In making the appointments under this paragraph, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall consider up to 6 recommendations from associations representing the interests of the cannabis industry;

D. One public member who is not a registrant under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act, a licensee under the Cannabis Legalization Act or a lobbyist or lobbyist associate as defined in Title 3, section 312-A, subsections 10 and 10-A, respectively, and who has knowledge of and interest in cannabis, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

E. Two members who are municipal officials in municipalities that have ordinances allowing for all registration types under the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act and all license types under the Cannabis Legalization Act, appointed by the director;

F. Two members who have a demonstrated knowledge of cannabis science, medicine or research and, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree, appointed by the director. The director shall make a reasonable effort to appoint a member who has at least 5 years of relevant experience; and

G. One member who is a public health professional, appointed by the director.

To the extent practicable, the membership of the council must reflect a geographic distribution across the State.

2. Cannabis business advocate. The cannabis business advocate established by Public Law 2023, chapter 683 serves as an ex officio nonvoting member of the council.

3. Purpose. The council shall make recommendations to the director and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over cannabis matters concerning:

A. How best to work with state agencies, municipal governments, the medical use cannabis industry and adult use cannabis industry and citizen groups to make improvements to and maintain the quality of the State's medical use cannabis industry and adult use cannabis industry; and

B. Matters of interest to the State's medical use cannabis industry and adult use cannabis industry, including, but not limited to, financial services, taxation, cannabis-related research and development, environmental and public health protection, cannabis policy in other states and federal legalization.

The council is responsible for bringing forward to the director and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over cannabis matters issues of concern to the cannabis industry and for assisting in the dissemination of information to members of the cannabis industry. The council may solicit and consider public comment during its meetings.

4. Terms. The term of a member appointed to the council is 3 years, except that a vacancy during an unexpired term must be filled in the same manner as for the original member for the unexpired portion of the member's term. A member may not serve more than 2 consecutive terms.

5. Chair and vice-chair. The council shall elect a member of the council as chair and a member as vice-chair at the first regular meeting of each year. The term of the chair and vice-chair is one year.

6. Meetings; staffing. The council shall meet at least 4 times a year and, to the extent practicable, at

more than one location throughout the State. It may also meet at other times at the call of the chair or the director. The office shall provide administrative and staff support for the council within existing resources.

7. Compensation. Council members are entitled to reimbursement for expenses in accordance with Title 5, chapter 379, which is paid in equal proportions from the Adult Use Cannabis Regulatory Coordination Fund established in section 1102 and the Medical Use of Cannabis Fund established in Title 22, section 2430.

Sec. 4. 28-B MRSA §1102, as amended by PL 2023, c. 679, Pt. B, §141, is further amended to read:

§1102. Adult Use Cannabis Regulatory Coordination Fund

The Adult Use Cannabis Regulatory Coordination Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a dedicated, nonlapsing Other Special Revenue Funds account in the office. The fund is administered and used by the director for the purposes of adopting rules under this chapter and, for the purposes of implementing, administering and enforcing this chapter and for the purpose of paying the reimbursement for expenses of the Cannabis Advisory Council established by Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 2-J. The director may expend money in the fund to enter into contracts with consultants and employ staff, as determined necessary by the director, conduct meetings with stakeholders and conduct any other activities related to the implementation, administration and enforcement of this chapter.

Sec. 5. Cannabis Advisory Council; staggered terms. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 28-B, section 115, subsection 4, of the initial members appointed to the Cannabis Advisory Council pursuant to Title 28-B, section 115, subsection 1, the first appointments made pursuant to subsection 1, paragraphs A, B, E and F are for one-year terms; the 2nd appointments made pursuant to subsection 1, paragraphs A, B, E and F are for 2-year terms; and all other appointments are for 3-year terms. An initial term of one year may not be considered a full term for the purposes of limiting the number of terms for which a member may serve.

Sec. 6. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Adult Use Cannabis Regulatory Coordination Fund Z264

Initiative: Provides funding for reimbursement of expenses for Cannabis Advisory Council members.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$5,877	\$5,877

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$5,877	\$5,877
FUNDS TOTAL		

Medical Use of Cannabis Fund Z265

Initiative: Provides funding for reimbursement of expenses for Cannabis Advisory Council members.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$5,877	\$5,877

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$5,877	\$5,877
FUNDS TOTAL		

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2025-26	2026-27

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$11,754	\$11,754

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$11,754	\$11,754

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 507

H.P. 1112 - L.D. 1677

An Act to Establish the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Prevention and Support Program

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§47-J is enacted to read:

47-J.

Human Services: Public Health	Healthy Brain Initiative Council	Not Authorized	22 MRSA §1700-H

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA c. 279 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 279

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS PREVENTION AND SUPPORT PROGRAM

§1700-F. Definitions

For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Council. "Council" means the Healthy Brain Initiative Council established in section 1700-H.

2. Plan. "Plan" means the Alzheimer's disease and related dementias prevention and support plan described in section 1700-I.

3. Program. "Program" means the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Prevention and Support Program established in section 1700-G.

§1700-G. Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Prevention and Support Program

The Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Prevention and Support Program is established in the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention within the department. The department shall implement the requirements of this chapter within existing budgeted resources. The department shall develop its budget for the requirements of this chapter to include state matching funds for federal funds, regardless of whether federal funding is received. The department may seek and receive private grant funds to support the requirements of this chapter.

1. Administration. The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall administer the program in consultation with the office of aging and disability services within the department.

2. Program objectives. The program shall engage in activities to support the following objectives:

- A. Educating and informing the public about Alzheimer's disease and related dementias using evidence-based public health research and data;
- B. Supporting early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias;
- C. Reducing the risk of potentially avoidable hospitalizations for individuals with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias;
- D. Reducing the risk of cognitive decline in individuals with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias; and
- E. Supporting care planning and management for individuals with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias.

§1700-H. Healthy Brain Initiative Council

The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention within the department shall establish and convene the Healthy Brain Initiative Council to examine the needs of individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias, the services available in the State for those individuals and the ability of health care providers and facilities to meet those individuals' current and future needs.

1. Membership. The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall invite individuals representing the following entities and constituencies to participate as members of the council:

A. Families affected by Alzheimer's disease or related dementias;

B. Providers of long-term services and supports, which may include, but are not limited to, providers from nursing facilities, providers from assisted living facilities and providers offering home and community-based services;

C. Physicians with experience diagnosing and treating Alzheimer's disease and related dementias;

D. Primary care physicians and other primary care providers;

E. Nationwide organizations advocating for older adults or individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias;

F. Area agencies on aging;

G. Institutions with experience in biomedical research related to Alzheimer's disease or related dementias;

H. The long-term care ombudsman program established pursuant to section 5106, subsection 11-C;

I. The office of aging and disability services within the department; and

J. Any other appropriate state agency.

2. Meetings. The council shall meet no fewer than 4 times per calendar year.

3. Duties. The council shall:

A. Examine:

- (1) The needs of individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias;
- (2) The services currently available in the State for individuals under subparagraph (1) and their family caregivers; and
- (3) The current ability of health care providers and facilities to meet the present and future needs of individuals under subparagraph (1);

B. Consider and make findings and recommendations on:

- (1) Trends in the populations and service needs of individuals in the State living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias;
- (2) The existing resources and services for the diagnosis and care of individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias in this State, including the State's capacity to offer these resources and services; and
- (3) Policies and strategies designed to address:
 - (a) Increasing public awareness of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias

and promoting brain health and risk reduction strategies;

(b) Educating health care providers to increase early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias;

(c) Improving access to and quality of care for individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias;

(d) Assisting unpaid caregivers for individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias;

(e) Increasing and improving research on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias;

(f) Improving the collection of data and information related to, and the public health burdens of, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias;

(g) Improving strategies to address the safety-related needs of individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias;

(h) Improving legal protections for individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias; and

(i) Improving the ways in which the State evaluates and adopts policies to assist individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias and their families; and

C. Collaborate with the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to develop the plan described in section 1700-I.

4. Funding. The council may accept grant funding and other funding as may be available from the Federal Government; any department, office or political subdivision of the State; or any individual, foundation or corporation to be used for the purpose of performing the council's duties pursuant to this section.

§1700-I. Alzheimer's disease and related dementias prevention and support plan

The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention within the department and the Healthy Brain Initiative Council shall create the Alzheimer's disease and related dementias prevention and support plan. The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall submit the plan to the Governor and the Legislature by December 3, 2025.

1. Contents of plan. The plan must contain the findings and recommendations of the council pursuant to section 1700-H, subsection 3. The plan must be de-

veloped with significant input from the nongovernmental members of the council. The plan must include recommendations of which state agencies should be involved in implementing the plan.

2. Implementation progress reports. Beginning January 30, 2027, and annually on January 30th each year thereafter, the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall submit to the Governor and the Legislature a report on the status of the implementation of the plan. The report must be made available to the public.

3. Update plan every 5 years. Every 5 years, beginning 5 years from the date the first plan is submitted, the council shall submit to the Governor and the Legislature an updated plan.

Sec. 3. Alzheimer's disease or related dementias prevention and support plan. A plan that is in effect on the effective date of this Act that was developed by the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention within the Department of Health and Human Services, in consultation with stakeholders, to address Alzheimer's disease or related dementias prevention and support, is deemed to fulfill the requirement to create a plan by December 3, 2025 under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 1700-I. Pursuant to Title 22, section 1700-I, the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall submit the plan to the Governor and the Legislature by December 3, 2025.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
DEPARTMENT OF**

Healthy Brain Initiative Council N538

Initiative: Provides allocations to establish a fund and allow expenditures.

	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS		
All Other	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 508

H.P. 1126 - L.D. 1691

**An Act to Expand Access to
Justice in Rural Maine by
Incentivizing Attorneys to
Practice in Underserved Areas**

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 426-A is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 426-A**ACCESS TO JUSTICE LOAN PROGRAM****§12311. Definitions**

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Authority. "Authority" means the Finance Authority of Maine.

2. Fund. "Fund" means the Access to Justice Loan Program Revolving Fund established in section 12313.

3. Maine resident. "Maine resident" means a person who, at the time the person submits an application for participation in the program, has been a resident of this State, for purposes other than enrolling in an accredited law school, for a minimum of 2 years and who satisfies any other criteria adopted by the authority by rule.

In adopting other criteria by rule, the authority shall, at a minimum, consider the following:

A. The length of a person's residence in the State for purposes other than enrolling in an accredited law school;

B. The secondary school attended by a person;

C. The legal residence of the parents of a person;

D. A person's place of voting registration, if registered to vote; and

E. The jurisdictions to which a person pays income or other taxes.

4. Program. "Program" means the Access to Justice Loan Program established in section 12312.

5. Underserved area. "Underserved area" means an area in the State, as determined by the authority, in which there is an insufficient number of licensed and practicing attorneys to satisfy the significant and unmet need for legal services of the individuals residing in that area.

§12312. Access to Justice Loan Program

1. Establishment. The Access to Justice Loan Program is established within and under the administration of the authority to annually, as funds permit, award loans to and enter into loan repayment agreements with eligible persons.

2. Eligibility. A person is eligible to participate in the program if the person:

A. Is a Maine resident;

B. Meets one of the following educational and financial criteria:

(1) Is enrolled or intends to enroll in an accredited law school and demonstrates financial need; or

(2) Has graduated from an accredited law school within the 5 years prior to applying to the program, is licensed or eligible to be licensed to practice law in the State and has outstanding law school loans;

C. Demonstrates an interest in or commitment to providing legal services in an underserved area; and

D. Meets other eligibility criteria established by the authority.

3. Funding options available; maximum amounts. As funds permit, the authority shall award loans to eligible applicants who meet the criteria in subsection 2, paragraph B, subparagraph (1) and shall enter into loan repayment agreements with eligible applicants who meet the criteria in subsection 2, paragraph B, subparagraph (2). The maximum loan or loan repayment amount available to each program participant is \$25,000 per year for a period of up to 4 years.

4. Loan agreement; forgiveness. An eligible applicant who meets the criteria in subsection 2, paragraph B, subparagraph (1) and is awarded a loan shall enter into a loan agreement as set out in this subsection.

A. Except as otherwise provided in this section, upon completion of the loan recipient's law school education, the recipient shall repay the loan as follows.

(1) If the loan recipient does not obtain loan forgiveness pursuant to subparagraph (2), the recipient shall repay the entire principal of the loan plus simple interest at a rate to be determined by the authority by rule. Interest may not begin to accrue on the loan until the loan recipient completes, withdraws from or otherwise fails to continue the recipient's law school education.

(2) A loan recipient who, upon conclusion of the recipient's law school education elects to offer legal services in an underserved area is forgiven 25% of the original outstanding indebtedness for each year the recipient offers those services.

B. Loans must be repaid over a term not longer than 10 years, except that the authority may extend the term of a loan recipient's loan as necessary to ensure repayment. Repayment must commence when the loan recipient completes, withdraws from or otherwise fails to continue the recipient's law school education.

5. Loan repayment agreement. An eligible applicant who meets the criteria in subsection 2, paragraph

B. subparagraph (2) and enters into a loan repayment agreement receives payment from the authority on the recipient's outstanding indebtedness for law school education at a rate of \$25,000 for each year, up to a maximum of 4 years, that the recipient continues to offer legal services in an underserved area.

6. Default. Except as provided in subsection 7, a loan recipient under subsection 4 who agrees to offer legal services in an underserved area and who fails to complete the period of service required to pay off the loan pursuant to subsection 4, paragraph A, subparagraph (2) is liable to the authority for an amount equal to the sum of the total amount paid by or on behalf of the authority to or on behalf of the recipient under the loan agreement plus interest at a rate determined by the authority. The authority shall award a loan recipient credit for offering legal services in an underserved area for each consecutive 12-month period that the recipient offers those services.

A loan recipient may petition the authority for permission to default without penalty from a loan agreement to provide legal services in an underserved area. Upon receipt of such petition, the authority may provide the loan recipient permission to default without penalty based on catastrophic or other circumstances that prevent the recipient from offering legal services in an underserved area for the required period of time. In the case of a default permitted by the authority, the loan recipient must receive credit for the number of months served and shall repay to the authority in cash payments under the terms of the original loan agreement the remaining financial obligation plus interest.

7. Deferments. The authority may grant a loan recipient under subsection 4 a deferment on repayment of a loan under the program for causes established by the authority by rule. The authority shall assess interest on the loan during the deferment at a rate to be determined by the authority by rule. A loan recipient shall repay the recipient's total financial obligation to the authority, including principal and interest, through return service or cash payments.

8. Rules. The authority may adopt rules as necessary for the implementation and administration of the program. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

§12313. Access to Justice Loan Program Revolving Fund

1. Fund established. The Access to Justice Loan Program Revolving Fund is established as a nonlapsing, interest-earning, revolving fund within and under the jurisdiction of the authority to carry out the purposes of the program. The fund must be administered in accordance with the following.

A. Any unexpended balance in the fund carries over for continued use under this chapter.

B. The authority may receive, invest and expend, on behalf of the fund, money from gifts, grants, bequests and donations in addition to money appropriated or allocated by the State.

C. Loan repayments by recipients of loans under this chapter or other repayments to the authority must be invested by the authority, as provided by law, with the earned income to be added to the fund.

D. Money received by the authority on behalf of the fund, except interest income, must be used for the designated purpose of awarding loans and entering into loan repayment agreements under the program; interest income may be used for the designated purposes of the program or to pay student financial assistance administrative costs incurred by the authority for the operation of the program.

2. Allocation of repayments. The authority may reallocate a portion of the annual loan repayments under subsection 1, paragraph C for the purpose of recruiting law school students and recent law school graduates to offer legal services in underserved areas. That portion may be used:

A. In accordance with criteria established by the authority, to encourage law school students and recent law school graduates to offer legal services in underserved areas; or

B. To repay education loans for the law school education of licensed attorneys to enable the attorneys to offer legal services in underserved areas in accordance with section 12312, subsection 5.

3. Rules. The authority may adopt rules as necessary for the implementation and administration of the fund. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

§12314. Stakeholder consultation

In implementing, administering and assessing the effectiveness of the program and the fund, the authority shall consult with the University of Maine System and may engage additional stakeholders from the legal community, including, but not limited to, representatives of legal education communities and legal practice communities in the State and organizations representing the interests of underserved areas in the State.

Sec. 2. Establishment of rural practice track at University of Maine School of Law; report. In accordance with the requirements of this section and to the extent sufficient funding is available, the University of Maine System shall establish at the University of Maine School of Law a rural practice track.

1. The rural practice track must support the practice of law in underserved areas in the State by:

A. Attracting and selecting, through recruitment and other measures, qualified law school applicants from rural and underserved areas in the State who demonstrate a commitment to and aptitude for practicing law in those areas upon graduation;

B. Placing or otherwise connecting enrolled and qualified law school students with internships, externships and other professional opportunities with organizations and other entities that provide legal services to individuals in underserved areas in the State;

C. Placing or otherwise connecting recent qualified law school graduates with employment or other professional opportunities providing legal services to individuals in underserved areas in the State; and

D. Encouraging collaboration between the school of law and secondary school students, undergraduate school students and other individuals in underserved areas in the State, as well as with organizations and other entities that provide legal services to individuals in those areas.

2. The school of law shall administer the rural practice track and develop and implement guidelines, policies and procedures for the operation of the track and for staff and students participating in the track. The school of law may accept gifts, bequests and endowments, as well as federal, private and other grants or donations, to support the objectives of the rural practice track. In administering the rural practice track, the school of law must:

A. Provide, in each academic year, a housing stipend sufficient to cover the cost of dormitory housing at the University of Southern Maine for up to 6 first-year or 2nd-year law school students who reside in underserved areas in the State or who have demonstrated a commitment to and aptitude for practicing law in those areas upon graduation, as determined by the school of law;

B. Provide, in each semester of the academic year and over the summer, internship, externship and other professional opportunities with organizations and other entities that provide legal services to individuals in underserved areas in the State for up to 6 2nd-year or 3rd-year law school students who reside in underserved areas in the State or who have demonstrated a commitment to and aptitude for practicing law in those areas upon graduation, as determined by the school of law;

C. Develop and implement a comprehensive marketing and communications plan to recruit and retain students from underserved areas in the State who demonstrate a commitment to and aptitude for practicing law in those areas upon graduation and support the placement or other employment of law

school students and recent graduates in those areas; and

D. Collaborate as necessary with the Finance Authority of Maine in its development, implementation and administration of the Access to Justice Loan Program established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 12312.

No later than January 1, 2026, the University of Maine System shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary outlining its plan for implementation of the rural practice track at the University of Maine School of Law, including any recommendations for legislative or other action. After reviewing the report, either committee may report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE

Access to Justice Loan Program Revolving Fund N541

Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize the expenditure of funds received for the Access to Justice Loan Program.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 509

H.P. 1156 - L.D. 1738

An Act to Establish the Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program to Support Public Health Efforts in the State

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA c. 252-A, headnote is amended to read:

CHAPTER 252-A

HYPODERMIC APPARATUS EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AND BIOHAZARD WASTE DISPOSAL GRANT PROGRAM

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §1342 is enacted to read:
§1342. Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program

1. Grant program established. The Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established to fund hypodermic apparatus mitigation and collection efforts in community settings. The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall administer the program, subject to available funding resources. The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention may hire staff to oversee and manage the program, including but not limited to: data collection, building community partnerships or coalitions and developing public education campaigns related to the program. Subject to available funding resources, the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall dispense funds on a quarterly basis to selected applicants.

2. Fund established. The Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program Fund is established within the department as a nonlapsing fund for the purposes specified in this section. The fund consists of any money received as contributions, grants or appropriations from private and public sources. The fund, to be accounted for within the department, must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts.

3. Eligibility. The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall make grants under the program available to:

- A. Community-based organizations, including hypodermic apparatus exchange programs certified pursuant to section 1341; and
- B. Municipalities, including municipal health departments.

4. Matching funds from opioid settlement resources. A municipality that receives opioid settlement funds and submits an application for funding under the program shall contribute matching funds from its opioid settlement allocation equal to the amount requested from the program. The matching funds must be dedicated to eligible uses as described in subsection 7.

5. Application process. The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall develop an application process for the program that includes, but is not limited to:

- A. Criteria to demonstrate community need;
- B. A narrative description of the proposed project, including goals and objectives, as determined by the office;
- C. Budgetary requirements, projected outcomes and a data collection plan; and
- D. For a municipality required to provide matching funds pursuant to subsection 4, documentation of the amount and source of matching funds, including a signed attestation that the matching funds are derived from opioid settlement allocations and will be used in accordance with subsection 7.

6. Funding prioritization. The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall give funding priority to applications that involve one or more of the following:

- A. Addressing geographic areas with a documented increase in calls for service regarding improperly discarded hypodermic apparatuses;
- B. A demonstrated collaborative approach involving community stakeholders; and
- C. Innovative or evidence-based strategies to increase access to biohazard waste disposal programming.

7. Use of funds. Grant funds must be used:

- A. To purchase and install disposal boxes suitable for indoor and outdoor use in locations strategically identified to maximize use and reduce biohazard exposure risk;
- B. For appropriate permanent disposal of collected hypodermic apparatuses by an in-state facility in good standing with the Department of Environmental Protection and applicable compliance-related standards or certifications;
- C. To hire and train staff of the grantee to collect and dispose of improperly discarded hypodermic apparatuses; and
- D. For other innovative or evidence-based strategies designed to mitigate and prevent improper disposal of hypodermic apparatuses.

8. Annual report. The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall submit a report annually to the Legislature summarizing grant program outcomes, including recommendations for improvements or additional funding needs. The reporting period begins on November 1st and ends on October 31st. The report may be included in the report under section 1341, subsection 3 or submitted at the same time annually.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program Fund N547

Initiative: Provides allocations to establish a fund and authorize expenditures.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$500	\$500
FUNDS TOTAL		

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 510
H.P. 1195 - L.D. 1784

**An Act to Require Police
Departments to Publish and
Make Accessible Their Policies
and Procedures and Require
Training of Officers**

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2801-A, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Law enforcement agency. "Law enforcement agency" has the same meaning as in section 3701, subsection 1.

Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §2803-B, sub-§8 is enacted to read:

8. Orientation and training. A law enforcement agency shall provide orientation and training on the policies and procedures of the agency under subsection 1.

Sec. 3. 25 MRSA §2808-B is enacted to read:

§2808-B. Accessibility of policies and procedures

1. Publishing of policies and procedures. Except as provided by subsection 4, by January 1, 2026, a law enforcement agency shall publish and make publicly available in clear and understandable language the agency's policies and procedures required under section 2803-B, including:

- A. A summary of each key policy of the agency;
- B. A comprehensive list of agency rules and guidelines governing law enforcement officer conduct, including any updates or revisions; and
- C. Contact information for a member of the public to request access to information under paragraph A or B.

2. Format and accessibility. A law enforcement agency shall publish the information in subsection 1 in a manner that clearly labels the information as the agency's policies and procedures and states the date the policies and procedures were published. The information must be made available:

- A. On a publicly accessible website in a readable format that allows the information to be downloaded. The information must be located on the agency's main website or a dedicated section of the website with no technical barriers preventing public access, including requiring a password or a fee; or
- B. In a printed paper copy format accessible at the agency's headquarters or principal location of operations. A law enforcement agency that makes

available printed paper copies under this paragraph shall make available during normal business hours to a member of the public a paper copy of the agency's policies and procedures under subsection 1 within 7 business days of the member's request. If a paper copy of the policies and procedures is not made available to a requesting member of the public within 7 business days of the request, the law enforcement agency shall inform the member of the public when the paper copy will be made available.

3. Agency compliance. No later than January 1st of each year, the chief administrative officer of a law enforcement agency shall certify to the board that the agency is in compliance with this section and section 2803-B, subsection 8.

4. Dissemination of intelligence and investigative record information prohibited. A law enforcement agency may not disseminate a record that contains intelligence and investigative record information that is confidential in accordance with Title 16, section 804.

5. Payment of costs. A law enforcement agency that provides printed paper copies of policies and procedures pursuant to subsection 2, paragraph B may charge a reasonable fee for the costs of producing the policies and procedures in accordance with Title 1, section 408-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 511
S.P. 698 - L.D. 1796

**An Act to Implement the
Recommendations of the Maine
Commission on Public Defense
Services to Clarify the Types of
Cases for Which the
Commission Is Responsible for
Providing Counsel**

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

Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §1802, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2021, c. 676, Pt. A, §3, is further amended to read:

4. Indigent legal services. "Indigent legal services" means legal representation provided to:

- A. ~~An~~ Legal representation provided to an indigent defendant in a criminal case in which the United States Constitution or the Constitution of Maine or federal or state law requires that the State provide representation;
- B. ~~An~~ Legal representation provided to an indigent party in a civil case in which the United States Constitution or the Constitution of Maine or federal or

state law, except any provision of Title 18-C, requires that the State provide representation;

C. Juvenile Legal representation provided to juvenile defendants; and

D. An Legal representation provided to an indigent defendant or party or a juvenile for the purpose of filing, on behalf of that indigent defendant or party or juvenile, a petition for certiorari to the Supreme Court of the United States from an adverse decision of the Law Court on a case for which services were previously provided to that defendant or party or juvenile pursuant to paragraph A, B or C-; and

E. Services performed by an attorney at the direction of the commission that aid the commission in fulfilling the commission's purpose under section 1801.

"Indigent legal services" does not include the services of a guardian ad litem appointed pursuant to any provision of Title 18-C or pursuant to Title 19-A, section 1658, subsection 2-A or Title 22, section 4005, subsection 1.

Sec. 2. 4 MRSA §1802-A, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 638, §4, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§1802-A. Employed counsel and public defender; direct assignment prohibited

1. Duties. An attorney may be employed by the commission both as employed counsel and as a public defender.

2. Direct assignment by court prohibited. A court may not directly assign or appoint a public defender or employed counsel to represent a party entitled to indigent legal services.

Sec. 3. 18-C MRSA §5-119, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. A, §14, is further amended to read:

1. Attorney for respondent. Unless the court has made a finding that the respondent is indigent and has appointed an attorney for the respondent on that basis, an attorney for a respondent in a proceeding under this Act is entitled to reasonable compensation and reimbursement of reasonable expenses from the property of the respondent. If the court has made a finding that the respondent is indigent and has appointed an attorney for the respondent on that basis, the court shall provide reasonable compensation to and reimburse the reasonable expenses of the attorney.

Sec. 4. 18-C MRSA §5-205, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 and affected by PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14, is amended to read:

4. Appointment of counsel. A nonconsenting parent whose parental rights have not been terminated is entitled to court-appointed legal counsel if indigent.

In a contested action, the court may also appoint counsel for any indigent guardian or petitioner when a parent or legal custodian has counsel. The court shall provide reasonable compensation to and reimburse the reasonable expenses of an attorney appointed under this subsection.

Sec. 5. 18-C MRSA §5-205, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 and affected by PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14, is amended to read:

5. Attorney for a minor; notice to minor. If the court determines at any stage of the proceeding, before or after appointment, that the interests of the minor are or may be inadequately represented, the court may appoint an attorney to represent the minor, giving consideration to the choice of the minor if the minor has attained 14 years of age. The court shall provide reasonable compensation to and reimburse the reasonable expenses of an attorney appointed for the minor under this subsection. A minor may appear with or through counsel, but the court is not restricted from requiring the minor to be present for some or all of a hearing or other proceeding. A minor 14 years of age or older must receive notice of any proceeding subsequent to the appointment of a guardian through the same means as required for any other party, and the minor may consent, object or otherwise participate in the proceeding.

Sec. 6. 18-C MRSA §5-210, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. A, §19, is further amended to read:

1. Modification of guardianship order. A guardian of a minor, a parent of a minor, a person interested in the welfare of a minor or the minor, if 14 years of age or older, may file a motion asking the court to modify the terms of an order appointing a guardian or to take other action in the best interest of the minor as circumstances require. The motion must be filed with the court and served on all parties entitled to notice. In a contested action, the court may appoint counsel for the minor or for any indigent guardian or parent. If the court appoints counsel for a minor or an indigent guardian or parent under this subsection, the court shall provide reasonable compensation to and reimburse the reasonable expenses of the attorney. Unless the motion specifies that it is filed with the consent of all parties entitled to notice, the matter must be set for hearing to determine whether there has been a substantial change in circumstances necessitating modification of the order and how the court should modify the order in furtherance of the best interest of the minor and the parent's rights. The court may identify certain requirements that must be met before specific provisions of the order are modified. A court may modify a term of a guardianship order as needed to grant relief to a party to address contempt or other failure to follow the order.

Sec. 7. 18-C MRSA §5-210, sub-§7, as amended by PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. A, §20, is further amended to read:

7. Parent's petition to terminate guardianship; burden of proof. A parent may bring a petition to terminate the guardianship of a minor. A parent's notification to the court of the revocation of prior consent for a guardianship must be considered a petition to terminate the guardianship. Before the court may apply the termination requirements in subsection 6, a party opposing a parent's petition to terminate a guardianship bears the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that the parent seeking to terminate the guardianship is currently unfit to regain custody of the minor, in accordance with the standard set forth in section 5-204, subsection 2, paragraph C. If the party opposing termination of the guardianship fails to meet its burden of proof on the question of the parent's fitness to regain custody, the court shall terminate the guardianship and make any further order that may be appropriate. In a contested action, the court may appoint counsel for the minor or for any indigent guardian or parent. If the court appoints counsel for a minor or an indigent guardian or parent under this subsection, the court shall provide reasonable compensation to and reimburse the reasonable expenses of the attorney. In ruling on a petition to terminate a guardianship, the court may modify the terms of the guardianship or order transitional arrangements pursuant to section 5-211.

Sec. 8. 18-C MRSA §5-406, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 and affected by PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14, is amended by enacting at the end a new first blocked paragraph to read:

Section 5-119, subsection 1 governs payment of an attorney appointed by the court to represent a respondent under this subsection.

Sec. 9. 18-C MRSA §5-406, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 and affected by PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14, is amended by enacting at the end a new first blocked paragraph to read:

If the court appoints counsel for a parent under this subsection and makes a finding that the parent is indigent, the court shall provide reasonable compensation to and reimburse the reasonable expenses of the attorney.

Sec. 10. 18-C MRSA §5-507, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 and affected by PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14, is amended by enacting at the end a new first blocked paragraph to read:

Section 5-119, subsection 1 governs payment of an attorney appointed by the court to represent a respondent under this subsection.

Sec. 11. 18-C MRSA §5-507, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 and affected by PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14, is amended by enacting at the end a new first blocked paragraph to read:

If the court appoints counsel for a parent under this subsection and makes a finding that the parent is indigent,

the court shall provide reasonable compensation to and reimburse the reasonable expenses of the attorney.

Sec. 12. 18-C MRSA §9-106, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 and affected by PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14, is amended to read:

1. Attorney for parents. The parents are entitled to an attorney for any hearing held pursuant to this Article. If a parent or putative parent wants an attorney but is unable to afford one, the parent or the putative parent may request the court to appoint an attorney. If the court finds the requesting party indigent, the court shall appoint and pay the reasonable costs and provide reasonable compensation to and reimburse the reasonable expenses of the attorney of the indigent party. The attorney may not be the attorney for the adoptive parents.

Sec. 13. 18-C MRSA §9-106, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 and affected by PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14, is amended to read:

2. Attorney for minor indigent parent. When the adoptee is unrelated to the petitioner, the court shall appoint an attorney who is not the attorney for the adoptive parents to represent a minor indigent parent at every stage of the proceedings unless the minor indigent parent refuses representation or the court determines that representation is unnecessary. If the court appoints counsel for a minor indigent parent under this subsection, the court shall provide reasonable compensation to and reimburse the reasonable expenses of the attorney.

Sec. 14. 18-C MRSA §9-315, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 and affected by PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14, is amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

The court may allocate the costs of the guardian ad litem to one or more of the parties and may appoint counsel for a minor adoptee or a party to the annulment proceedings. If the court appoints counsel for a minor or an indigent party under this paragraph, the court shall provide reasonable compensation to and reimburse the reasonable expenses of the attorney. A minor adoptee may appear and be represented by counsel.

Sec. 15. 19-A MRSA §1658, sub-§2-A, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 340, §2, is amended to read:

A. The court shall appoint an attorney for a parent who is the subject of a petition to terminate parental rights and responsibilities under this section and who is indigent. ~~In a contested action, the court may also appoint counsel for any indigent petitioner who files a petition under this section when the parent who is the subject of the petition is represented by counsel.~~

Sec. 16. 19-A MRSA §1658, sub-§2-A, ¶A-1 is enacted to read:

A-1. In a contested action, the court may appoint counsel for any indigent petitioner who files a petition under this section when the parent who is the subject of the petition is represented by counsel. The court shall provide reasonable compensation to and reimburse the reasonable expenses of an attorney appointed under this paragraph.

Sec. 17. 34-B MRSA §3864, sub-§10, as amended by PL 2007, c. 319, §10, is further amended to read:

10. Expenses. With the exception of expenses incurred by the applicant pursuant to subsection 5, paragraph F, the District Court is responsible for any expenses incurred under this section, including ~~fees of appointed counsel~~, witness and notice fees and expenses of transportation for the person but not fees of appointed counsel.

Sec. 18. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES, MAINE COMMISSION ON

Maine Commission on Public Defense Services Z112

Initiative: Reclassifies an Assistant Defender I position to a Deputy District Defender position.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$1,000	\$1,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,000	\$1,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 512

S.P. 723 - L.D. 1840

An Act to Amend the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §2423-A, sub-§2, ¶O, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 452, §4 and amended by PL 2021, c. 669, §5, is further amended to read:

O. ~~Transport~~ Sell, offer to sell, furnish or transport cannabis plants or harvested cannabis for authorized conduct in accordance with this chapter on the property or premises owned, leased or rented by the caregiver, subject to the terms of any lease or rental agreement; at trade shows or other industry-related events regarding cannabis for medical use; or through delivery to or private arrangement with a qualifying patient or registrant as long as the delivery or private arrangement occurs on property or at premises owned, leased or rented, subject to the

terms of any lease or rental agreement, by the caregiver, qualifying patient or registrant or on public property that is not designated as a safe zone by a municipality pursuant to Title 30-A, section 3253 or in any other public space where the sale, furnishing or transport of cannabis plants or harvested cannabis is prohibited in law;

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §2430-N, sub-§8, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 365, §25, is amended to read:

8. Sales Gross sales; sales tax revenue. The gross sales of cannabis for medical use for the current and prior fiscal years and the sales tax revenue from the sale of cannabis for medical use deposited into the General Fund for the current and prior fiscal years.

Sec. 3. Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Cannabis Policy; medical cannabis research grant program rule-making. On or before January 9, 2026, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Cannabis Policy shall provisionally adopt and submit for legislative review rules necessary to implement the medical cannabis research grant program in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 2430, subsection 5. Rules adopted by the office pursuant to this section are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 4. Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Cannabis Policy; availability of medical use of cannabis registration and renewal forms. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Cannabis Policy shall as expeditiously as possible make available on the office's publicly accessible website all registration and renewal forms in their entirety as a portable document file or similar file format that does not require the use of independent software, hardware or operating systems. The office shall also make available registration and renewal forms in their entirety in paper form available at the office.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 513

S.P. 741 - L.D. 1871

An Act to Permit Sealing Criminal History Record Information of Victims of Sex Trafficking or Sexual Exploitation

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA c. 239 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 239

**REGULATION OF BUSINESS SCREENING
SERVICES' HANDLING OF CRIMINAL
HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION**

§1500-AA. Definitions

For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Business screening service. "Business screening service" means a person regularly engaged in the business of collecting, assembling, evaluating or disseminating criminal history record information related to specific individuals for a fee. "Business screening service" does not include a government entity or the news media.

2. Conviction. "Conviction" means any of the following accepted and recorded by the court:

A. A plea of guilty; or

B. A verdict of guilty by a jury or a finding of guilty by the court.

3. Criminal history record information. "Criminal history record information" or "record" has the same meaning as in Title 16, section 703, subsection 3.

§1500-BB. Criminal records

A business screening service may disseminate only criminal history record information that reflects the complete and accurate record provided by the source of the criminal history record information. A complete and accurate record is a record that has been updated within 30 days of its receipt or been verified with the source of the criminal history record information within the previous 90 days as being up-to-date.

§1500-CC. Correction and deletion of criminal history record information

If the completeness or accuracy of criminal history record information maintained by a business screening service is disputed by the individual who is the subject of the record, the business screening service shall, without charge, investigate the disputed record.

1. Investigations. In conducting an investigation, the business screening service shall review and consider all relevant information submitted by the subject of the criminal history record information with respect to the disputed record to determine whether the record maintained by the business screening service accurately reflects the content of the official record, as maintained by the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police, State Bureau of Identification.

2. Correction and deletion of criminal history record information. If, upon investigation, the business screening service determines that the criminal history record information does not accurately reflect the content of the official record, the business screening

service shall correct the disputed record so as to accurately reflect the content of the official record. If the disputed record is found to be sealed or the subject of a pardon, the business screening service shall promptly delete the record. A business screening service that complies with this subsection has satisfied its obligation to correct or delete records pursuant to this section.

3. Terminating frivolous investigations. A business screening service may terminate an investigation of disputed criminal history record information if the business screening agency reasonably determines that the dispute is frivolous, and that determination may be based on the failure of the subject of the record to provide sufficient information to investigate the disputed record. Upon making a determination that the dispute is frivolous, the business screening service shall inform the subject of the record of the specific reasons why it has determined that the dispute is frivolous and provide a description of any information required to investigate the disputed record.

4. Notice to subject of criminal history record information. Within 30 days from the date when the business screening service receives notice that the subject of a criminal history record information is disputing the record, the business screening service shall notify the subject of the record of the results of the investigation, including:

A. Whether the investigation was completed or terminated; and

B. Any records corrected or deleted as a result of the investigation.

§1500-DD. Date and notice required

A business screening service that disseminates criminal history record information that was collected on or after July 1, 2010, shall include the date when the record was collected by the business screening service and a notice that the information may include criminal history record information that has been sealed or otherwise has become inaccessible to the public since that date.

§1500-EE. Effect of Fair Credit Reporting Act; violation; jurisdiction; remedies

Violations of this chapter are governed by this section.

1. Violation. A business screening service is considered to be in compliance with this chapter if the business screening service is in compliance with those provisions of the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 United States Code, Chapter 41, Subchapter III that regulate maintaining accuracy of records; investigations of disputed records, including correction and deletion of records; and providing a notice with disseminated records similar to that required in section 1500-DD. If the conduct of a business screening service violates both the federal provisions described in this subsection and

the provisions of this chapter, the business screening service is in violation of this chapter and is liable to the individual who is the subject of the criminal history record information in accordance with subsection 3.

2. Foreign corporations; service of process and jurisdiction. A business screening service, that is a foreign corporation, that disseminates criminal history record information in this State or that obtains a criminal record from a government entity or a court in this State is considered to have consented to service of process in this State for purposes of Title 13-B, sections 1212-A and 1213 or any other applicable law and to the jurisdiction of courts in this State for actions involving a violation of this chapter as described in subsection 1 or for the recovery of remedies under this chapter. For the purposes of this subsection, "foreign corporation" has the same meaning as in Title 13-B, section 102, subsection 6.

3. Remedies. A business screening service considered in violation of this chapter as described in subsection 1 is liable to the individual who is the subject of the criminal history record information for a penalty of \$1,000 or actual damages caused by the violation, whichever is greater, plus costs and disbursements and reasonable attorney's fees.

Sec. 2. 15 MRSA §2261, sub-§6, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 639, §1, is amended to read:

A. A conviction for a current or former Class E crime, except a conviction for a current or former Class E crime under Title 17-A, chapter 11; and

Sec. 3. 15 MRSA §2261, sub-§6, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 639, §1, is amended by amending subparagraph (5) to read:

(5) Unlawful possession of a scheduled drug under Title 17-A, former section 1107 when that drug was marijuana and the underlying crime was a Class D crime; and

Sec. 4. 15 MRSA §2261, sub-§6, ¶C is enacted to read:

C. For a motion under section 2262-B, a criminal conviction for any current or former crime.

Sec. 5. 15 MRSA §2261, sub-§8 is enacted to read:

8. Sex trafficking. "Sex trafficking" means:

A. Promoting sexual exploitation by compelling a person to enter into, engage in or remain in sexual exploitation;

B. Promoting the sexual exploitation of a person less than 18 years of age; or

C. Promoting the sexual exploitation of a person who suffers from a mental disability that is reasonably apparent or known to the actor and that in fact

renders the other person substantially incapable of appraising the nature of the conduct involved.

Sec. 6. 15 MRSA §2261, sub-§9 is enacted to read:

9. Sexual exploitation. "Sexual exploitation" means engaging in the exchange of sex for money or resources because of a person's history of trauma, adverse childhood experiences, substance use disorder or other circumstances of victimization, exploitation or oppression.

Sec. 7. 15 MRSA §2262, first ¶, as amended by PL 2023, c. 409, §1, is further amended to read:

Except as provided in ~~section~~ sections 2262-A and 2262-B, criminal history record information relating to a specific criminal conviction may be sealed under this chapter only if:

Sec. 8. 15 MRSA §2262-A, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 409, §2, is repealed.

Sec. 9. 15 MRSA §2262-A, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 409, §2, is amended to read:

2. Time since sentence fully satisfied. At least one year has passed since the person has fully satisfied each of the sentencing alternatives imposed under Title 17-A, section 1502, subsection 2 for the eligible a criminal conviction; and

Sec. 10. 15 MRSA §2262-B is enacted to read:

§2262-B. Sealing criminal history record information of victims of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation

Criminal history record information relating to an eligible criminal conviction, as described in section 2261, subsection 6, paragraph C, must be sealed under this chapter if the person filing the motion establishes:

1. Victim of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation. That the person has been a victim of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation; and

2. Commission of crime result of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation. That the commission of the crime for which the person was convicted was a substantial result of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation.

A motion under this section may be filed at any time after the criminal conviction is entered.

Sec. 11. 15 MRSA §2263, as amended by PL 2023, c. 409, §3, is further amended to read:

§2263. Motion; persons who may file

A person may file a written motion seeking a court order sealing the person's criminal history record information relating to a specific criminal conviction in the underlying criminal proceeding based on a court determination that the person satisfies the statutory prerequisites specified in section 2262 ~~or~~, 2262-A or 2262-B.

The written motion must briefly address each of the statutory prerequisites.

Sec. 12. 15 MRSA §2264, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 674, §1, is amended to read:

1. Filing motion. A motion filed pursuant to section 2263 must be filed in the underlying criminal proceeding. After the motion is filed, the clerk shall set the motion for hearing. If multiple motions are filed, the court shall consolidate the motions to one location.

Sec. 13. 15 MRSA §2264, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Motions under section 2262-B; witnesses; presumption. For motions filed under section 2262-B:

A. The person filing the motion and any witnesses may participate remotely, unless the court finds that the person filing the motion or a particular witness resides in this State and interests of justice require in-person participation;

B. Official documentation of a person's status as a victim of sexual exploitation or sex trafficking is not required to satisfy section 2262-B, subsection 1. If official documentation is presented, the official documentation creates a presumption that the person's participation in an offense was a substantial result of the sexual exploitation or sex trafficking; and

C. Official documentation of a person's status as a victim of sexual exploitation or sex trafficking includes, but is not limited to:

(1) A copy of an official record, certification or eligibility letter from a federal, state, tribal or local proceeding, including an approval notice or a certification generated from a federal immigration proceeding, that shows the person filing the motion was a victim of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation;

(2) An affidavit or sworn testimony from a member of the clergy, a medical professional, a staff member of a victim services organization or other professional from whom the person filing the motion has sought legal counsel or other assistance in addressing the trauma and other challenges associated with being a victim of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation; and

(3) Any other evidence the court determines is of sufficient credibility or probative value.

Sec. 14. 15 MRSA §2264, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2023, c. 409, §4, is further amended to read:

5. Hearing; order; written findings. The court shall hold a hearing on a motion filed under this section, except that for a motion filed under section 2262-B, the

court may grant the motion without a hearing if the representative for the State consents to the motion. At the conclusion of the hearing, if the court determines that the person who filed the motion has established by a preponderance of the evidence each of the statutory prerequisites specified in section 2262 ~~or~~, 2262-A or 2262-B, the court shall grant the motion and shall issue a written order sealing the criminal history record information of the eligible criminal conviction that was the subject of the motion. If, at the conclusion of the hearing, the court determines that the person has not established one or more of the statutory prerequisites specified in section 2262 ~~or~~, 2262-A or 2262-B, the court shall issue a written order denying the motion. The order must contain written findings of fact supporting the court's determination. A copy of the court's written order must be provided to the person and the prosecutorial office that represented the State pursuant to subsection 3.

Sec. 15. 15 MRSA §2264, sub-§7, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 674, §1, is amended to read:

7. Subsequent new criminal conviction; automatic loss of eligibility; person's duty to notify. Notwithstanding a court order sealing the criminal history record information pursuant to subsection 5, if at any time subsequent to the court's order the person is convicted of a new crime in this State or in another jurisdiction, the criminal history record information must be unsealed. This subsection does not apply to records sealed pursuant to section 2262-A or 2262-B.

A. In the event of a new criminal conviction, the person shall promptly file a written notice in the underlying criminal proceeding of the person's disqualification from eligibility, identifying the new conviction, including the jurisdiction, court and docket number of the new criminal proceeding. If the person fails to file the required written notice and the court learns of the existence of the new criminal conviction, the court shall notify the person of the apparent existence of the new conviction and offer the person an opportunity to request a hearing to contest the fact of a new conviction.

B. If the person requests a hearing under paragraph A, the court shall, after giving notice to the person and the appropriate prosecutorial office, hold a hearing. At the hearing, the person has the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that the person has not been convicted of a crime subsequent to issuance of the sealing order. At the conclusion of the hearing, if the court determines that the person has not satisfied the burden of proof, it shall find that the person has been newly convicted of the crime and as a consequence is no longer eligible for the sealing order and shall issue a written order unsealing the criminal history record information, with written findings of fact. If,

at the conclusion of the hearing, the court determines that the person has satisfied the burden of proof, it shall find that the person has not been convicted of the new crime and issue a written order certifying this determination. A copy of the court's written order must be provided to the person and the prosecutorial office that represented the State.

C. If the person does not request a hearing under paragraph A, the court shall determine that the person has not satisfied the burden of proof and the court shall find that the person has been convicted of the new crime and as a consequence is no longer eligible for the sealing order and shall issue a written order unsealing the criminal history record information, with written findings of fact. A copy of the court's written order must be provided to the person and the prosecutorial office that represented the State.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 514

H.P. 1268 - L.D. 1897

An Act Regarding Outdoor Cultivation in the Medical Use Cannabis and Adult Use Cannabis Industries

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §2423-A, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 2017, c. 452, §4 and PL 2021, c. 669, §5, is further amended to read:

A. Possess all harvested cannabis produced by the caregiver's cultivation of cannabis plants under paragraph B or B-1;

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §2423-A, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by PL 2021, c. 662, §10 and c. 669, §5, is further amended to read:

B. Cultivate up to 30 mature cannabis plants, up to 60 immature cannabis plants and unlimited seedlings or cultivate up to 500 square feet of mature plant canopy, up to 1,000 square feet of immature plant canopy and unlimited seedlings. A caregiver may not cultivate immature plants by canopy if cultivating mature plants by plant count and may not cultivate immature plants by plant count if cultivating mature plants by canopy. A caregiver cultivating cannabis under this paragraph may not cultivate cannabis under paragraph B-1;

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §2423-A, sub-§2, ¶B-1 is enacted to read:

B-1. Notwithstanding paragraph B, for a caregiver who cultivates mature cannabis plants only in an

outdoor cultivation area, cultivate between the months of March and December up to 150 mature cannabis plants, up to 300 immature cannabis plants and unlimited seedlings or cultivate between the months of March and December up to 2,500 square feet of mature plant canopy, up to 5,000 square feet of immature plant canopy and unlimited seedlings. A caregiver may not cultivate immature plants by canopy if cultivating mature plants by plant count and may not cultivate immature plants by plant count if cultivating mature plants by canopy. A caregiver cultivating cannabis under this paragraph may not cultivate cannabis under paragraph B. For the purposes of this paragraph, "outdoor cultivation area" means a cultivation area that primarily uses sunlight for the cultivation of mature cannabis plants;

Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §2423-A, sub-§3, ¶B, as amended by PL 2023, c. 679, Pt. A, §6, is further amended to read:

B. A caregiver cultivating cannabis plants for a patient's medical use ~~must~~ shall keep all plants in a cultivation area unless the plants are being transported pursuant to subsection 2, paragraph O. The cultivation area must be enclosed and equipped with locks or other security devices that permit access only by a person authorized to have access to the area under this chapter.

(1) The caregiver shall ensure that the mature cannabis plants, immature cannabis plants and seedlings cultivated by the caregiver are kept in separate cultivation areas. The cultivation area for mature cannabis plants and the cultivation area for immature cannabis plants and seedlings may be located on separate parcels or tracts of land, whether the parcels or tracts of land are contiguous or noncontiguous, as long as the caregiver discloses the locations of all cultivation areas to the department. The caregiver may not maintain more than 2 cultivation areas. The caregiver shall ensure that the cultivation area for mature cannabis plants and the cultivation area for immature cannabis plants comply with the plant count or plant canopy limitations of subsection 2, paragraph B or B-1.

(2) Access to cultivation areas is limited to the caregiver, except that ~~an elected official invited by the caregiver for the purpose of providing education to the elected official on cultivation by the caregiver~~, emergency services personnel, an assistant of a caregiver or a cannabis testing facility ~~or~~, a person who needs to gain access to a cultivation area in order to perform repairs or maintenance or to do construction may access a cultivation area to

provide those professional services while under the direct supervision of the caregiver or another person under the direct supervision of the caregiver.

Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §2425-A, sub-§10, ¶B-1 is enacted to read:

B-1. There is an annual registration fee for a caregiver who cultivates cannabis plants on behalf of a qualifying patient pursuant to section 2423-A, subsection 2, paragraph B-1.

(1) For a caregiver registering based upon plant count, the fee may not be less than \$50 or more than \$240 for each group of up to 30 mature cannabis plants cultivated by the caregiver. The caregiver shall notify the department of the number of cannabis plants the caregiver cultivates in the calendar year, which may not exceed the maximum number established in section 2423-A, subsection 2, paragraph B-1.

(2) For a caregiver registering based upon plant canopy, the fee may not be less than \$50 or more than \$1,500 for a total mature plant canopy of 2,500 square feet or less in the calendar year.

Sec. 6. 28-B MRSA §102-A, sub-§32-A is enacted to read:

32-A. Indoor cultivation. "Indoor cultivation" means cultivation of mature cannabis plants that does not meet the definition of "outdoor cultivation" under subsection 41-A.

Sec. 7. 28-B MRSA §102-A, sub-§41-A is enacted to read:

41-A. Outdoor cultivation. "Outdoor cultivation" means cultivation of mature cannabis plants between the months of March and December in a cultivation area that primarily uses sunlight for such cultivation.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 515

H.P. 1288 - L.D. 1927

An Act to Add Mold to the Implied Warranty and Covenant of Habitability

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

Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §6021, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 401, §4, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

1. Definition. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Dwelling unit" includes mobile homes, apartments, buildings and other structures, including the common areas thereof, that are rented for human habitation.

B. "Leaking event" means a water leak from flooding or a system or structural failure, such as a failure of a roof, window, door, plumbing system, foundation or appliance.

Sec. 2. 14 MRSA §6021, sub-§6-B is enacted to read:

6-B. Mold; bacteria; other biological organisms. It is a breach of the implied warranty of fitness for human habitation when a landlord offers for rent a dwelling unit in which there is a leaking event, chronic moisture or humidity conditions outside of the control of a tenant that result in the growth of mold, bacteria or other biological organisms.

A municipality may adopt more stringent standards by ordinance than those provided in this section.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 516

H.P. 1295 - L.D. 1934

An Act to Promote Responsible Outdoor Lighting

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA c. 21 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 21

RESPONSIBLE OUTDOOR LIGHTING

§481. Responsible outdoor lighting

1. Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings:

A. "ANSI/IES lighting standard" means a standard developed by the Illuminating Engineering Society and adopted by the American National Standards Institute or successor organizations to describe adequate outdoor lighting that does not unnecessarily brighten the night sky when used for particular purposes or in particular settings, including, but not limited to, the following standards:

(1) RP-6: outdoor sports and recreational areas;

(2) RP-7: outdoor industrial areas;

(3) RP-8: roadway and parking facilities;

(4) RP-40: port terminals; and

(5) RP-43: outdoor pedestrian areas.

B. "Correlated color temperature" means the measured color appearance of light emitted by a light source, described using a nominal value stated in kelvins.

C. "Fully shielded luminaire" means a luminaire that is shielded in such a manner that no light is emitted, either directly or indirectly, at or above a horizontal plane running through the lowest light-emitting part of the luminaire.

D. "Light level" means the maintained luminance or illuminance value.

E. "Light trespass" means artificial lighting illuminating across property lines at night without permission. Unless specified otherwise, light trespass limits are measured at any location along a property line both horizontally at the ground plane facing upward and vertically at 1.5 meters above the ground plane with the light meter aimed toward the light source in question.

F. "Lumen" means a unit of measure of the luminous flux of a light source.

G. "Luminaire" means a complete lighting unit, including the light source, housing, optics, electronics and other necessary components for the purpose of providing illumination.

H. "Lux" means the metric system unit of measure for illuminance, the total luminous flux incident at a point on a surface.

I. "Nadir" means a downward vertical vector directly beneath a luminaire, opposite to zenith.

J. "Nighttime hours" means the time between 10:00 p.m. and sunrise or 7:00 a.m., whichever comes earlier, except that for facilities, offices, activities and events with operating hours later than 10:00 p.m., nighttime hours begin one hour after the end of the operating hours.

K. "Nonessential lighting" means public outdoor lighting that does not improve the physical safety of motor vehicles or pedestrians, including, but not limited to, landscape lighting, illuminated signage or advertising during nighttime hours, facade lighting, vacant sports field lighting, decorative lighting and seasonal lighting.

L. "Outdoor sports lighting" means public outdoor lighting for illumination of sporting events or activities, including, but not limited to, playing fields for team sports and similar outdoor recreational facilities, excluding ski facilities.

M. "Public entity" means an agency as defined in section 43 and any political subdivision or public instrumentality of the State.

N. "Public improvement" means any improvement or replacement of facilities or equipment undertaken by, on behalf of or pursuant to a contract or grant agreement with a public entity.

O. "Public outdoor lighting" means any public improvement that includes the installation or replacement of luminaires for the purpose of providing outdoor illumination.

P. "Seasonal lighting" means public outdoor lighting that is portable, temporary, decorative and used in connection with festivals, celebrations, holidays and traditions. "Seasonal lighting" includes, but is not limited to, string lighting, icicle lighting and lighted inflatables, none of which are intended for general illumination.

2. Requirements. Beginning October 1, 2026, public outdoor lighting that is installed or replaced must comply with the requirements of this subsection as follows:

A. Public outdoor lighting, with the exception of outdoor sports lighting, may not exceed 125% of the light level recommended by the applicable ANSI/IES lighting standard or a more stringent standard specified by rule adopted pursuant to subsection 4 or an ordinance authorized by subsection 5;

B. Light trespass to a federally designated or state-designated wilderness, natural area, habitat or reserve may not measure greater than 0.1 lux;

C. Luminaires emitting more than 1,000 lumens must be fully shielded luminaires and may not emit more than 5% of their total lumen output above 80 degrees from the luminaires' nadir;

D. Nonessential lighting must be extinguished during nighttime hours;

E. The maximum allowable correlated color temperature of outdoor luminaires is 3,000 kelvins. This restriction does not apply to outdoor sports lighting, Department of Transportation roadway lighting pursuant to Title 23, section 708, Maine Turnpike Authority roadway lighting and pedestrian lighting for sidewalks and crosswalk facilities; and

F. Outdoor sports lighting must meet the following standards in addition to the standards in paragraphs B to D:

(1) Eighty-five percent of the lumens generated must be confined to within 10 meters of the playing field or the spectator track or bleacher area, whichever is greater;

(2) Lighting applications for sports in which the height of a ball in play would, in the normal course of playing the sport, exceed the height

of the sports lighting poles must have a maximum of 8% of their total lumen output above 80 degrees from the lighting's nadir;

(3) Luminaires must use the lowest possible correlated color temperature necessary for the sport, class of play and viewing audience, except that the correlated color temperature may not exceed 5,700 kelvins; and

(4) Outdoor sports lighting must comply with paragraphs A and E except during the seasons and times of day when the activities for which the lighting is designed are taking place or maintenance to support those activities is being conducted.

3. Exemptions. This chapter does not apply to public outdoor lighting to the extent that:

A. Regulations, orders or guidance from the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Highway Administration or other division of the United States Department of Transportation requires lighting that exceeds or otherwise fails to comply with the standards in subsection 2;

B. Rules adopted pursuant to subsection 4 by the Department of Public Safety require lighting necessary to protect public safety or security that does not comply with the requirements of subsection 2;

C. Law enforcement officers and authorized first responders use public outdoor lighting during emergency procedures that does not comply with subsection 2;

D. Rules adopted pursuant to subsection 4 by the Department of Transportation permit temporary lighting to ensure safety and efficiency in completion of road construction and repair, as long as such lighting deviates from the standards in subsection 2 to the minimum extent necessary;

E. Rules adopted pursuant to subsection 4 by the Maine Turnpike Authority permit temporary lighting to ensure safety and efficiency in completion of road construction and repair, as long as such lighting deviates from the standards in subsection 2 to the minimum extent necessary;

F. Luminaires replicating historical character and lighting effect are protected pursuant to a law governing historical registration;

G. Seasonal lighting complies with subsection 2, paragraphs B and D;

H. The public outdoor lighting is used at a ski facility; and

I. The public outdoor lighting is regulated or implemented pursuant to Title 23, section 708.

4. Rulemaking. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services may adopt rules governing the implementation of this chapter and may establish appropriate exemptions to the requirements of this chapter. The Department of Public Safety may adopt rules establishing exemptions as described in subsection 3, paragraph B. The Department of Transportation may adopt rules governing the lighting of roadways and pedestrian facilities to ensure the safety and efficiency of the traveling public. The Maine Turnpike Authority may adopt rules governing temporary lighting necessary to ensure safety and efficiency in completion of road construction and repair as described in subsection 3, paragraph E. Any entity proposing rules pursuant to this subsection that affect municipalities shall confer with the Maine Office of Community Affairs before proposing those rules. All rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as defined in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

5. Local ordinances authorized. A municipality in the State may adopt a local ordinance to promote compliance with this chapter and to extend its standards as appropriate beyond public improvements governed by this chapter. The Maine Office of Community Affairs shall develop and share with municipalities a model ordinance for these purposes when the office has sufficient resources to accomplish this.

This subsection may not be construed to prohibit a municipality from adopting lighting ordinances stricter than those adopted by the State pursuant to this chapter, except that municipalities may not adopt lighting ordinances that conflict with any of the provisions in Title 23, section 708.

Sec. 2. Effective date. This Act takes effect September 30, 2026.

Effective September 30, 2026.

CHAPTER 517

H.P. 1315 - L.D. 1971

An Act to Protect Workers in This State by Clarifying the Relationship of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies with Federal Immigration Authorities

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA c. 337-E is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 337-E

IMMIGRATION

§4761. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Department of Homeland Security. "Department of Homeland Security" means the United States Department of Homeland Security, or its successor agency, and any of its component agencies, including the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the United States Customs and Border Protection.

2. Hold request. "Hold request" means a request issued by an immigration authority to a local law enforcement agency, including an immigration detainer, that the law enforcement agency maintain custody of a person in the law enforcement agency's custody beyond the time the person would otherwise be eligible for release in order to facilitate transfer to the immigration authority.

3. Immigration authority. "Immigration authority" means a federal, state or local officer, employee or other person performing immigration enforcement functions, including the Department of Homeland Security.

4. Immigration detainer. "Immigration detainer" means a written request, including a civil or administrative warrant, issued on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security to a federal, state or local law enforcement agency to provide notice of release of and to detain an individual based on an inquiry into immigration status or an alleged violation of a civil immigration law, including detainers issued pursuant to 8 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 287.7 or 236.1, or on a Department of Homeland Security form requesting voluntary notification of a pending release of a person identified by the Department of Homeland Security as a suspected priority alien or requesting a law enforcement agency to voluntarily take action to maintain custody of a detained person.

5. Immigration enforcement. "Immigration enforcement" means any effort to investigate, enforce or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any federal civil immigration law and includes any effort to investigate, enforce or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any violations of Title 8 of the United States Code.

6. Inmate. "Inmate" means an individual in the custody of a law enforcement agency.

7. Law enforcement agency. "Law enforcement agency" means an agency in the State, including an employee or agent of the agency, charged with enforcement of state, county or municipal laws or with managing custody of detained persons in the State and includes but is not limited to municipal police departments, sheriff's departments, the State Police, a univer-

sity or college campus police department, safety department or the equivalent, the Department of Corrections and the Department of Public Safety.

§4762. Activities unaffected

This chapter may not be construed to prohibit:

1. Exchanging information consistent with federal law. A law enforcement agency from sending to or requesting or receiving from an immigration authority information regarding the immigration status of a person or maintaining or exchanging that information with any other federal, state or local governmental entity under 8 United States Code, Section 1373 or 1644; or

2. Actions against person pursuant to certain criminal laws. A law enforcement agency from investigating, lawfully detaining, executing a criminal warrant or taking other action against a person pursuant to state criminal law or federal law as provided in section 4763, subsection 2.

§4763. Prohibited activities

1. Prohibited activities. A law enforcement agency may not:

A. Except as provided in subsection 2, use agency or department money or personnel to investigate, interrogate, detain, detect, stop, arrest or search a person for immigration enforcement purposes, including:

- (1) Inquiring into a person's immigration status;
- (2) Detaining a person solely on the basis of a hold request;
- (3) Providing to immigration authorities information regarding the person's release date unless that information is available to the public;
- (4) Providing to immigration authorities personal information about the person, including the person's home address or work address;
- (5) Making or intentionally participating in an arrest based upon a hold request;
- (6) Assisting immigration authorities in activities described in 8 United States Code, Section 1357(a)(3); or
- (7) Performing the functions of an immigration authority;

B. Place a law enforcement officer under the supervision of a federal agency or employ a law enforcement officer deputized as a special federal officer or special federal deputy for immigration enforcement;

C. Use an agent or employee of an immigration authority as an interpreter for local law enforcement agency matters regarding a person in the law enforcement agency's custody; or

D. Transfer a person to an immigration authority unless authorized by a court order or criminal warrant.

With the exception of willful or wanton misconduct, a law enforcement agency that acts in good faith compliance with this section in releasing a person subject to a hold request is immune from civil or criminal liability as a result of making the release.

2. Permitted activities. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1, if an activity does not violate a policy of the law enforcement agency or a state or local law or policy of the jurisdiction in which the agency is operating, a law enforcement agency may:

A. Investigate, take enforcement action against or detain a person upon reasonable suspicion of or arrest a person for a violation of 8 United States Code, Section 1326 that may be subject to the enhancement specified under 8 United States Code, Section 1326(b)(2) and that is detected during an unrelated law enforcement activity. A transfer to an immigration authority under this paragraph is permitted only if authorized by a court order or criminal warrant;

B. Respond to a request from an immigration authority for information about a specific person's criminal history, including a previous criminal arrest or conviction or similar public criminal history record information accessed under Title 16, chapter 7, when otherwise permitted by state law;

C. Conduct enforcement or investigative duties associated with a joint law enforcement task force, including the execution of a warrant or sharing of confidential information with a federal law enforcement agency or another law enforcement agency, for the purpose of a task force investigation, if:

(1) The primary purpose of the joint law enforcement task force is not immigration enforcement;

(2) The enforcement or investigative duties are primarily related to a violation of state or federal law, including but not limited to terrorism, drug trafficking or human trafficking; and

(3) Participation in the task force by the law enforcement agency does not violate any state or local law or policy to which the agency is subject;

D. Make an inquiry into information necessary to certify an individual identified as a potential crime or trafficking victim for a visa pursuant to 8 United

States Code, Section 1101(a)(15)(T) or 1101(a)(15)(U) or to comply with 18 United States Code, Section 922(d)(5); or

E. Give an immigration authority access to interview an individual in the custody of the agency, as long as the immigration authority's interview request is supported by a valid court order.

§4764. Duties of custodial law enforcement agencies

A law enforcement agency shall, for an inmate in the agency's custody:

1. Written consent for voluntary interview. In advance of an interview between the inmate and an immigration authority regarding a civil immigration violation, provide the inmate with a written consent form that explains the purpose of the interview, that the interview is voluntary and that the inmate may decline the interview or be interviewed only with the inmate's attorney present. The consent form must be written in the primary language of the inmate and read to the inmate by a person who is not an immigration authority. This paragraph does not establish a right of counsel that otherwise does not exist in law; and

2. Notice of hold request. Upon receiving a hold request, provide a copy of the request to the inmate and inform the inmate that the law enforcement agency is prohibited under section 4763 from detaining an inmate based solely on the hold request.

§4765. Records

A law enforcement agency shall make reasonable efforts to retain for a period of 4 years a copy of a hold request and any other request along with any accompanying information or documentation provided by an immigration authority and information on the inmate subject to the hold request.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 518

H.P. 1332 - L.D. 1985

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Abandoned and Discontinued Roads Commission

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

Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §159-E is enacted to read:

§159-E. Limited liability for repairs and maintenance of public easement

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Public easement" has the same meaning as in Title 23, section 3021, subsection 2 and as described in Title 23, section 3022.

B. "Repairs and maintenance" includes, but is not limited to, snowplowing, snow removal, sanding and ice control; grading and adding gravel and surface material; installing reclaimed asphalt or grinding existing pavement for reuse; installing, cleaning and replacing culverts; creating and maintaining ditches, drains and other storm water management infrastructure; creating and maintaining sight distances on curves and at intersections; and cutting brush, trees and vegetation in the right-of-way.

2. Limitation of liability; repairs and maintenance of public easement. Except as otherwise provided in this section, an owner, lessee or occupant of property abutting a public easement or a portion of a public easement, including, but not limited to, a road association formed under Title 23, Part 3, chapter 305, subchapter 2 and a member of that road association, or an agent of such persons, is not liable for personal injury, property damage or death caused by:

A. Repairs and maintenance conducted on that public easement by the owner, lessee or occupant, or the agent of such persons, if the repairs and maintenance were conducted in order for the owner, lessee or occupant to access the owner's, lessee's or occupant's property over the public easement from a public way; or

B. Public access or public use of the public easement.

3. Exception; dangerous conditions. The limitations in subsection 2 do not limit any liability that may otherwise exist for a willful or malicious creation of, or failure to guard or warn against, a dangerous condition on a public easement that is reasonably known to an owner, lessee or occupant of property abutting the public easement.

4. Duty not created. This section does not create a duty of care for an owner, lessee or occupant of property abutting a public easement to keep, or grounds for liability for injury to a person or property for failure to keep, a public easement safe for public access or public use for persons entering the public easement for such purposes.

5. Landowner liability for environmental damage by others. In accordance with this section, an owner, lessee or occupant of property abutting a public easement, including, but not limited to, a road association formed under Title 23, Part 3, chapter 305, subchapter 2 and a member of that road association, or an agent of such persons, that conducts repairs and maintenance on the public easement or suffers the public access or use of the public easement:

A. In accordance with Title 12, section 685-C, subsection 11 and Title 38, section 347-A, subsection 7, is not subject to criminal sanctions or civil penalties or forfeitures for a violation of laws or rules enforced by the Maine Land Use Planning Commission or the Department of Environmental Protection, as applicable, if the owner, lessee or occupant provides substantial credible evidence to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission or the Department of Environmental Protection, as applicable, that the violation was committed by a person other than the owner, lessee or occupant or a contractor, employee or agent of the owner, lessee or occupant; and

B. Notwithstanding Title 12, section 685-C, subsection 11 and Title 38, section 347-A, subsection 7, if the owner, lessee or occupant provides the substantial credible evidence described in paragraph A, the owner, lessee or occupant may not be held responsible for remediating or abating the environmental damage caused by the violation or for the costs of such remediation or abatement.

6. Legal costs; attorney's fees. If an owner, lessee or occupant of property abutting a public easement or a portion of a public easement, including, but not limited to, a road association formed under Title 23, Part 3, chapter 305, subchapter 2 and a member of that road association, or an agent of such persons, that conducts repairs and maintenance on the public easement or suffers the public access or use of the public easement is found not liable for personal injury, property damage or death pursuant to this section, the court shall award the owner, lessee or occupant any direct legal costs, including reasonable attorney's fees.

Sec. 2. 23 MRSA §3105-A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 642, §2, is further amended to read:

§3105-A. Use of town equipment

The legislative body of any town or village corporation at a legal town or village corporation meeting may authorize the municipal officers of the town or assessors of the village corporation to use the town's or village corporation's highway equipment on ~~private ways~~ public easements within such town or village corporation to plow, maintain or repair those ~~private ways~~ public easements to the extent directed by the legislative body and whenever such municipal officers or assessors consider it advisable in the best interest of the town or village corporation for fire and police protection. As used in this section, "public easement" has the same meaning as in section 3021, subsection 2 and as described in section 3022.

1. Repairs and maintenance of public easements. The municipal officers of a town or the assessors of a village corporation, on their own initiative or upon written petition pursuant to Title 30-A, section 2521 of the owners, lessees or occupants of property

used as year-round primary residences that are located along or only accessible over one or more public easements, may request the legislative body of the town or village corporation to vote to provide a minimum level of year-round repairs and maintenance for the public easement or easements. The minimum level of year-round repairs and maintenance for a public easement or easements that may be provided by a town or village corporation under this subsection:

A. May be provided up to the driveway of the last year-round primary residence that is located along or only accessible over the public easement and that is furthest from the nearest public way;

B. Must be lower than the standard for maintenance of highways, town ways and streets under section 3651;

C. May include annual grading, repair, maintenance, snowplowing and replacement of drains and culverts as required to keep the public easement reasonably passable for residential access as determined by the town or village corporation; and

D. If approved by a vote of the legislative body of the town or village corporation, must continue to be provided until the legislative body votes to discontinue providing year-round repairs and maintenance.

2. Required signage. A town or village corporation that votes to provide a minimum level of year-round repairs and maintenance of a public easement pursuant to subsection 1 shall, at each intersection of such public easement with a public way or private road, install and maintain a sign reasonably visible to drivers at the entrance to the public easement that reads: "Minimum Maintenance Road - Travel at Your Own Risk." The sign required under this subsection must conform to the requirements of the most recent Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways published by the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, including, but not limited to, the requirement that the sign be a minimum 24-inch-by-24-inch diamond shape with black lettering at least 3 inches high on a yellow retroreflective background.

3. Liability. A town or village corporation that votes to provide a minimum level of year-round repairs and maintenance of a public easement pursuant to subsection 1 is immune from liability relating to that repairs and maintenance under the Maine Tort Claims Act and under Title 23, chapter 313.

Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §2395, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2017, c. 25, §1, is further amended to read:

4. Designation by counties and municipalities. County commissioners and municipal officers may designate public ways, other than those in subsection 3, and

public easements, regardless of whether the county or municipality maintains or repairs the public easement, and impose restrictions within their respective jurisdictions similar to those made by the Department of Transportation under subsection 3. Any vehicle delivering home heating fuel or organic animal bedding material and operating in accordance with a permit issued by the Department of Transportation pursuant to this section may travel over any county or town way or public easement without a specific municipal or county permit. A municipality may impose additional restrictions for a vehicle delivering home heating fuel or organic animal bedding material to operate on public ways and public easements within that municipality but may not require a permit to operate according to those restrictions. As used in this subsection, "public easement" has the same meaning as in Title 23, section 3021, subsection 2 and as described in Title 23, section 3022.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE

Road Commission Fund Z353

Initiative: Provides ongoing appropriations of \$6,500 to the Road Commission Fund program to provide expense reimbursement for members and to support the work of the Maine Abandoned and Discontinued Roads Commission.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$6,500	\$6,500
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$6,500	\$6,500

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 519

H.P. 10 - L.D. 46

An Act to Establish a Grant Program to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities for Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this legislation establishes the Inclusive Higher Education Grant Program to support programs at institutions of higher education designed to increase postsecondary educational opportunities for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder; and

Whereas, the Department of Health and Human Services is currently designing a Medicaid home and community-based services waiver, known as the Lifespan Waiver, to support individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder; and

Whereas, the grant program established by this legislation could constructively inform the design of the Lifespan Waiver and should therefore be initiated as soon as possible before the Lifespan Waiver is expected to go into effect in 2025; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 408 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 408

INCLUSIVE HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

§10601. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Developmental disability. "Developmental disability" means a disability attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments that:

A. Is manifested before the person reaches 22 years of age;

B. Is likely to continue indefinitely;

C. Results in substantial functional limitations in 3 or more of the following areas of major life activity:

(1) Self-care;

(2) Receptive and expressive language;

(3) Learning;

(4) Mobility;

(5) Self-direction;

(6) Capacity for independent living; and

(7) Economic self-sufficiency; and

D. Reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary or generic care, treatment or other services that are of a life-long or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

2. Grant program. "Grant program" means the Inclusive Higher Education Grant Program established in section 10602.

3. Inclusive higher education. "Inclusive higher education" means a program of higher education that offers students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder, to the greatest extent possible, the same rights, privileges, experiences, benefits and outcomes that result in a higher education experience similar to students without disabilities.

4. Intellectual disability. "Intellectual disability" means a condition of significantly subaverage intellectual functioning resulting in or associated with concurrent impairments in adaptive behavior that manifested during the person's developmental period.

5. Program plan. "Program plan" means an inclusive higher education plan developed by an institution of higher education in the State.

§10602. Inclusive Higher Education Grant Program established; administration; qualifications; scholarships; reports

The Inclusive Higher Education Grant Program is established in the department to support postsecondary educational opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder. Under the grant program, the department shall award competitive grants to institutions of higher education in the State to develop and implement program plans.

1. Administration. The department shall administer the grant program. To carry out the purposes of the grant program, the department shall:

A. Include in the administration of the grant program a representative of at least one of the following offices within the department: the office supporting special education and inclusive education services, the office supporting innovation in education and policy implementation and the office supporting workforce development;

B. Develop and send to each institution of higher education in the State the following materials related to the grant program:

(1) Materials describing the purpose and goals of the grant program;

(2) An application for the grant program;

(3) Compliance requirements and information concerning available funding; and

(4) Information outlining the requirements for qualifying as a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program under the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, 20 United States Code, Section 1140 (2010);

C. Designate a person to be available to answer questions from institutions of higher education in the State concerning grant program qualifications and funding;

D. Develop application requirements consistent with subsection 2;

E. Review and approve applications and award grants to institutions of higher education in the State on a competitive basis; and

F. Adopt rules as necessary for the operation of the grant program. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

2. Qualifications. To qualify for a grant under the grant program, a proposed program plan must:

A. Offer the supports necessary to allow students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder to have the same rights, privileges, experiences, benefits and outcomes as students without disabilities;

B. Ensure that students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder have access to a wide array of academic courses that students without disabilities attend;

C. Ensure that students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder have access to and support for participation in campus life, including social activities and organizations, institution facilities and other institution resources, including technological resources, available to students without disabilities;

D. Provide students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder with the supports and experiences necessary to seek and sustain competitive employment;

E. Develop and promote the self-determination skills of students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder;

F. Offer peer mentoring;

G. Adopt admissions standards that do not require students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder to possess a high school diploma or to participate in a curriculum-based achievement college entrance examination that is administered nationwide. For the purposes of this paragraph, "curriculum-based achievement college entrance examination" means a college entrance examination composed of questions directly related to high school curricula. "Curriculum-based achievement college entrance examination" does not include an examination primarily designed to measure scholastic aptitude;

H. Include the development of one or more meaningful credentials for students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder to earn on successful completion of the program plan; and

I. Use as a model the requirements for a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program under the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, 20 United States Code, Section 1140 (2010) to the extent practicable and to the extent that those requirements do not conflict with any provision of this chapter.

A grant application must show that the institution of higher education has engaged stakeholders in the development of the program plan.

3. Scholarships required. An institution of higher education awarded funding under the grant program shall use 25% of the funds received to provide scholarships to students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder participating in the program plan. A scholarship recipient under this subsection is not required to possess a high school diploma.

4. Reports. An institution of higher education participating in the grant program and the department shall submit the following reports.

A. Beginning January 1, 2026, and every 6 months thereafter, an institution of higher education awarded a grant under the grant program shall submit to the department a report that includes:

(1) A strategy for the sustainability of the institution of higher education's program plan, including enrollment projections;

(2) Any needs for training, technical assistance and any other support necessary to provide for continuation of the program plan; and

(3) An evaluation by the institution of higher education of the program plan and identification of best practices with the goal of promoting the development of a statewide model program plan for use by other institutions of higher education in the State.

B. On or before March 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the department shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters on the effectiveness and success of the grant program.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Inclusive Higher Education Grant Program N487

Initiative: Provides one-time funds for the initial start-up costs associated with implementing the grant program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$50,000	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$50,000	\$0

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective January 11, 2026.

CHAPTER 520

S.P. 111 - L.D. 245

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, Resolve 2023, chapter 99 reestablished the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State, which was directed to examine and make recommendations on the structure, support and delivery of emergency medical services in the State; and

Whereas, the commission included in its published final report critical recommendations to ensure appropriate funding to cover the cost of sustaining emergency medical services in the State, to provide for necessary regulation and oversight of the emergency medical services system and to better support the resilience and sustainability of that system; and

Whereas, the expedient and efficient implementation of the commission's recommendations is necessary to support the short-term and long-term future of the emergency medical services system at a time when many emergency medical services entities are at immediate or future risk of failing and leaving their service areas without adequate access to emergency medical services; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-J, sub-§22 is enacted to read:

22.

Emergency Medical Services	Maine Emergency Medical Services Commission	Legislative Per Diem and Expenses	32 MRSA §99

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA c. 154 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 154

MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

§3171. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Ambulance service. "Ambulance service" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 83, subsection 5.

2. Transporting emergency medical services. "Transporting emergency medical services" means emergency medical services provided by an ambulance service.

§3172. Municipal emergency medical services

1. Adoption of plan. The municipal officers of a municipality shall adopt a plan stipulating the method by which transporting emergency medical services will be delivered within the municipality. A municipality is not required under this subsection to directly or indirectly provide or fund the delivery of transporting emergency medical services within the municipality. The municipal officers may as necessary amend a plan adopted pursuant to this subsection.

2. Posting and submission of plan. When a municipality adopts or amends a plan pursuant to subsection 1, the municipal officers shall ensure that the plan is posted in the same manner as ordinances are posted and shall submit the plan or amended plan for the purpose of collecting data to the Department of Public Safety, Maine Emergency Medical Services and the Maine Emergency Medical Services Commission established in Title 32, section 99, subsection 1.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §99 is enacted to read:

§99. Maine Emergency Medical Services Commission

1. Commission established. The Maine Emergency Medical Services Commission, referred to in this section as "the commission," is established pursuant to Title 5, section 12004-J, subsection 22 to monitor and evaluate the State's emergency medical services system and to provide recommendations to the appropriate state

agencies and to the Legislature regarding necessary changes in the emergency medical services system.

2. Members. The commission consists of 18 members as follows:

A. Two members of the Senate, including one member of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and one member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature, appointed by the President of the Senate;

B. Two members of the House of Representatives, including one member of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and one member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

C. The director or the director's designee;

D. The chair of the board or the chair's designee;

E. The following 6 members, appointed by the President of the Senate:

(1) A member who represents an organization that is primarily engaged in the provision of nonemergency medical transportation services;

(2) A member who is a practicing emergency medical services person;

(3) A member who represents a nonmunicipal ambulance service;

(4) A member who represents a municipal ambulance service;

(5) A representative of a statewide association representing hospitals; and

(6) A representative of a statewide association representing municipalities; and

F. The following 6 members, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

(1) A member representing an emergency medical services training center;

(2) A member who is a practicing emergency medical dispatcher primarily working in an emergency medical dispatch center;

(3) A member who represents an air ambulance service;

(4) A representative of a statewide association representing ambulance services;

(5) A member who is a physician with expertise or a background in emergency medical services; and

(6) A representative of a statewide association representing fire chiefs.

3. Terms. Members of the commission are appointed for 3-year terms, except that the terms of appointment for legislative members appointed pursuant to subsection 2, paragraphs A and B coincide with their respective legislative terms of office. Members of the commission may serve beyond their designated terms until their successors are appointed.

4. Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy on the commission, the member's unexpired term must be filled through an appointment by the appointing authority for the vacant seat.

5. Quorum. A quorum of the commission consists of 10 members.

6. First meeting; officers. The director shall call the first meeting of the commission as soon as all appointments are made and to the extent resources are available. At the first meeting, the commission shall select a chair, a vice-chair, a secretary and a treasurer from among its members. The commission may select new officers annually.

7. Meetings. The commission may meet as often as necessary but shall meet at least quarterly. A meeting may be called by the chair or by any 4 members. The commission shall take and maintain minutes of all meetings.

8. Staffing. To the extent resources are available, the commission may employ staff as needed.

9. Funding. The commission may seek, accept and expend outside funding to carry out its duties.

10. Duties. The commission shall:

A. Regularly advise the Governor and officers of executive departments, the Legislature, Maine Emergency Medical Services, licensed emergency medical service and emergency medical services persons and any other parties affected by the commission's recommendations regarding emergency medical services;

B. Submit a report containing the results of the commission's studies, findings and recommendations to the Governor and to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public safety matters by January 1, 2026 and annually thereafter. As resources permit, the report must include, but is not limited to:

(1) An assessment of existing and needed resources and expected resource needs within the State's emergency medical services system and recommendations for funding those needs;

(2) An evaluation of existing emergency medical services programs, initiatives and resources, including recommendations for improvements, new programs and initiatives and

funding options for oversight and administration of the State's emergency medical services system;

(3) Recommendations regarding effective management of resources within the State's emergency medical services system, enhancing the collection and distribution of emergency medical services data, methods to evaluate the State's emergency medical services system and recruitment and retention of emergency medical services persons, both paid and volunteer; and

(4) The status of municipal emergency medical services plans adopted and submitted pursuant to Title 30-A, section 3172 and an analysis of those plans.

After reviewing the report submitted under this paragraph, the committee may report out legislation relating to the report;

C. Adopt rules of procedure necessary to carry out the commission's duties. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A; and

D. Conduct public hearings, conferences, workshops and other meetings to obtain information about and discuss and publicize the needs of and solutions to problems concerning the State's emergency medical services system.

Sec. 4. Staggered terms. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, section 99, subsection 3, of the initial appointments made to the Maine Emergency Medical Services Commission under Title 32, section 99, subsection 2, paragraphs E and F, each appointing authority shall appoint 2 members for terms of 3 years, 2 members for terms of 2 years and the remaining members for a term of one year.

Sec. 5. Maine Emergency Medical Services funding needs analysis; report. The Department of Public Safety, Maine Emergency Medical Services shall conduct a funding needs analysis of communities seeking to engage in regional collaboration or the adoption of a regional model in the delivery of emergency medical services.

On or before December 3, 2025, Maine Emergency Medical Services shall submit a report describing the findings of its analysis and including recommendations and any proposed legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. After reviewing the report, the committee may report out legislation relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Sec. 6. Maine Emergency Medical Services structural reorganization proposal. By December 3, 2025, the Department of Public Safety, Maine Emergency Medical Services shall submit to the Joint

Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety a report, including proposed draft legislation, for the reorganization of the Emergency Medical Services' Board, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-A, subsection 15, consistent with the document titled "Maine EMS: Two-Year Action Plan" published by Maine Emergency Medical Services on October 27, 2023. The report must include, but is not limited to, identification of the necessary statutory changes and funding needs associated with the reorganization of the Emergency Medical Services' Board and any associated structural and organizational changes within Maine Emergency Medical Services and within the state and regional governance system for the emergency medical services program, as outlined in the document titled "Maine EMS: Two-Year Action Plan." After reviewing the report, the committee may report out legislation relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Sec. 7. Maine Emergency Medical Services public information campaign; report. The Department of Public Safety, Maine Emergency Medical Services shall, as resources allow, develop and, not later than July 1, 2026, implement a public information campaign designed to enhance the public's understanding and appreciation of the delivery of emergency medical services, the design and funding of the emergency medical services system in the State and the essentiality of the services provided by emergency medical services entities.

On or before December 3, 2025, Maine Emergency Medical Services shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety regarding its development and anticipated implementation of the public information campaign required under this section. The report must include, but is not limited to, an assessment of the resource needs associated with the public information campaign and identification of any anticipated resource needs not currently available within the existing budgeted resources of Maine Emergency Medical Services necessary for successful implementation of the campaign. After reviewing the report, the committee may report out legislation relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

LEGISLATURE

Legislature 0081

Initiative: Appropriates funds for the costs of Legislators serving on the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$440	\$440
All Other	\$1,920	\$1,920

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$2,360	\$2,360

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective January 11, 2026.

CHAPTER 521
S.P. 472 - L.D. 1141

**An Act to Increase the
Procurement of Maine Foods
by Certain State Institutions**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the people of Maine take enormous pride in the local food producers that support their communities and keep alive time-honored traditions that make Maine a unique place to live; and

Whereas, state agencies are some of the largest customers of local food producers, and state purchasing practices have an enormous impact on the communities that rely on local food producers; and

Whereas, many local food producers have developed strong and long-standing relationships with state agencies to sell high-quality food and food products at a significant discount, supporting local Maine businesses and families in the process; and

Whereas, it is critically important that the state agencies are able to continue and expand such procurement practices as soon as practicable and in perpetuity to support the people of Maine and protect the viability of the local food-producing communities; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §211, as amended by PL 2019, c. 677, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§211. Statement of policy

It is the policy of the State to encourage food self-sufficiency for the State. All state institutions must purchase Maine food and food products in accordance with this subchapter to increase the viability of Maine farms

and food businesses, enhance rural economic development and increase the environmental and social wealth of rural communities.

Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §212, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Opportunity buying. "Opportunity buying" means the purchasing of food and food products from Maine food producers that are only available for a short period of time before the food or food products become unavailable for purchase.

Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §212, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. State institutions. "State institutions" means the Department of Corrections; the Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center and the Riverview Psychiatric Center within the Department of Health and Human Services; and the Maine Veterans' Homes.

Sec. 4. 7 MRSA §214-A, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 677, §7, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§214-A. Maine food and food products procurement program

In accordance with this section, the commissioner shall implement and promote a Maine food and food products procurement program. State institutions may not be prohibited from procuring food and food products directly from Maine food producers, taking advantage of opportunity buying, coordinating dietary requirements and establishing healthy menus consistently throughout state institutions. The program must measurably improve the quality of food and food products for state institutions with the goal that, no later than 2030, at least 30% of all food and food products procured by state institutions are Maine food or food products.

1. Institutional food procurement coordinator. The commissioner shall designate an employee of the department as an institutional food procurement coordinator, referred to in this section as "the coordinator," to assist in the coordination of food procurement for all state institutions. In order to achieve the procurement goal set forth in this section, the coordinator shall:

A. Implement and oversee a strategy to strengthen connections between Maine food producers, distributors and state institutions for off-contract purchase agreements pursuant to subsection 2;

B. Assist the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services in the solicitation and review of bids from distributors and Maine food producers throughout the procurement process;

C. Identify Maine food producers throughout the State who can provide food and food products directly to state institutions for off-contract purchase agreements pursuant to subsection 2;

D. Establish and promote guidelines to assist state institutions in procuring Maine food and food products directly from Maine food producers, including, but not limited to, guidelines for opportunity buying and other off-contract purchase agreements pursuant to subsection 2;

E. To the extent practicable and within existing resources, convene an annual meeting to explore opportunities for cooperation to increase the purchase of Maine food and food products by state institutions. The coordinator may invite representatives from appropriate state agencies and quasi-governmental entities, Maine food producers and food service professionals, for-profit and nonprofit organizations and other relevant stakeholders outside of State Government to participate in the annual meeting; and

F. Perform other duties as determined by the commissioner.

2. Off-contract purchases directly from Maine food producers. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, state institutions may negotiate directly with Maine food producers and execute agreements for off-contract purchases of food or food products by commodity type, including, but not limited to, vegetables, fruit, eggs, grain or grain products, herbs, seasonings or spices, milk or milk products, meat or meat products, poultry or poultry products, fish or fish products, seafood or seafood products, cider or juice, canned or frozen foods, honey, maple products and condiments. Food or food products purchased under this subsection may be priced up to 15% higher than the same food or food product available under contract.

4. Advisory committee. The commissioner may establish an advisory committee to assist the coordinator in advancing strategies for increasing purchases of Maine food and food products by state institutions. The commissioner may invite representatives from appropriate state agencies and quasi-governmental entities, Maine food producers and food service professionals, for-profit and nonprofit organizations and other relevant stakeholders outside of State Government to serve on the advisory committee. To the extent practicable, the advisory committee membership must reflect the diversity of the State, including, but not limited to, diversity in geographic location, background and professional experience.

5. Report. The commissioner shall include a description of the progress toward reaching the procurement goal under this section in the biennial report submitted to the Legislature pursuant to section 2, subsection 5.

Sec. 5. 7 MRSA §215-A, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 677, §9, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§215-A. Rules

The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to carry out the provisions of this subchapter.

The rules must establish guidelines for off-contract purchase agreements pursuant to section 214-A, subsection 2. The rules must establish a method and baseline to determine the percentage of Maine food or food products procured by state institutions based on dollars spent for different commodity types. The rules must establish reasonable and measurable benchmarks to achieve the overall procurement goal under this subchapter.

Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective January 11, 2026.

CHAPTER 522

H.P. 1163 - L.D. 1745

An Act to Stabilize Residential Treatment Capacity for Children and Youth in Maine

Emergency preamble. **Whereas**, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this legislation must take effect immediately to ensure that the data collection required for reporting from the Department of Health and Human Services begins as soon as possible and prior to 90 days after adjournment; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §8111 is enacted to read:

§8111. Closure notice requirements for children's residential care facilities

After October 1, 2025, the department shall notify the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters whenever a children's residential care facility ceases to

operate no later than 2 weeks after the facility has ceased operations. The notification to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters must include information about the facility, including but not limited to the name of the facility, the services provided, the number of beds, the number of employees, the stated reasons for closure and a de-identified summary of the transition and discharge plan for the children who were in the facility at the time of closure. The notification must also include a description of any actions taken by the department to prevent the closure.

Sec. 2. 34-B MRSA §15003, sub-§9, as amended by PL 2021, c. 191, §1, is further amended to read:

9. Reports. The department shall report by January 1st of each year to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters on the following matters:

A. The operation of the program, including numbers of children and families served and their residences by county; any waiting lists; the progress of the department in implementing improvement strategies; and appeals procedures requested, held and decided, including the results of decided appeals;

B. Initiatives in acquiring and using federal grant funding;

C. Barriers to improved delivery of care to children and their families and the progress of the department in overcoming those barriers; ~~and~~

D. The number of children served by crisis providers and the number of children who waited for the appropriate level of behavioral health treatment in a hospital emergency room after being cleared for discharge, along with the length of stay, and denials for services by providers of children's residential services during the preceding year. The department shall make a reasonable effort to obtain information from providers, including implementing a standardized system for the reporting of data. Data collected pursuant to this paragraph must protect the confidentiality of all persons involved to the same extent as otherwise required by state or federal law or rule;

E. The number of children in a hospital emergency department who have arrived in the hospital emergency department directly from a residential setting, including, but not limited to, a children's home as defined in Title 22, section 8101, subsection 1; a children's residential care facility as defined in Title 22, section 8101, subsection 4; or another hospital;

F. The number of children receiving services in out-of-state placements and the total cost to the

State of the out-of-state placements, including travel for the children and their families;

G. The number of children receiving services in children's residential care facilities as defined in Title 22, section 8101, subsection 4 with a length of stay that is longer than one year; and

H. The number of closures of children's residential care facilities as defined in Title 22, section 8101, subsection 4 as reported by the department to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters pursuant to Title 22, section 8111.

Sec. 3. Provider engagement and needs assessment. The Department of Health and Human Services shall convene a stakeholder group of child residential treatment providers to identify the short-term and long-term staffing and resources needs to ensure the sustainability of child residential treatment providers. The department shall submit a report, no later than December 3, 2025, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters with its findings, a needs assessment and recommendations. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters is authorized to report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Sec. 4. Stabilizing and expanding child and youth residential capacity. The Department of Health and Human Services shall engage in outreach to providers of residential services, inpatient psychiatric services and community-based services in this State to counsel those providers on resource needs to prevent additional closures and encourage the reopening of beds for child and youth residential treatment.

Sec. 5. Children's behavioral health services data and policy report. The Department of Health and Human Services shall develop and submit a report, no later than December 3, 2025, to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services that includes data and policy efforts as follows:

1. A gap analysis that describes all of the children's residential beds and programs added since 2018 and removed since 2018;

2. Current information on waiting lists for children's programs, including the average and median wait time to access approved services;

3. The number of children who are experiencing homelessness;

4. An update on efforts to implement a so-called high fidelity wraparound service for children;

5. An update on the implementation of multidimensional treatment foster care services;

6. An update on efforts to support existing home and community treatment services, assertive community treatment services and school-based treatment services programs;

7. An update on the development of the level of care provided by a psychiatric residential treatment facility for children in this State;

8. An update on the federal certified community behavioral health clinic Medicaid demonstration program;

9. An update on the development of crisis receiving centers for children; and

10. An update on the services that are needed and unavailable, causing children to remain in hospital emergency departments and inpatient settings awaiting behavioral health services after they are cleared for discharge.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective January 11, 2026.

CHAPTER 523

S.P. 62 - L.D. 15

An Act to Modify the Excise Tax on Camper Trailers

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

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §1482, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 2013, c. 263, §1, is further amended to read:

C. For the privilege of operating a motor vehicle ~~or camper trailer~~ on the public ways, each motor vehicle, other than a stock race car, ~~or each camper trailer~~ to be so operated is subject to excise tax as follows, except as specified in subparagraph (3), (4) or (5): a sum equal to 24 mills on each dollar of the maker's list price for the first or current year of model, 17 1/2 mills for the 2nd year, 13 1/2 mills for the 3rd year, 10 mills for the 4th year, 6 1/2 mills for the 5th year and 4 mills for the 6th and succeeding years. The minimum tax is \$5 for a motor vehicle other than a bicycle with motor attached, and \$2.50 for a bicycle with motor attached, ~~\$15 for a camper trailer other than a tent trailer and \$5 for a tent trailer~~. The excise tax on a stock race car is \$5.

(1) On new registrations of automobiles, trucks and truck tractors, the excise tax payment must be made prior to registration and is for a one-year period from the date of registration.

(2) Vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan are subject to an excise tax determined on a monthly proration basis if their registration period is less than 12 months.

(3) For commercial vehicles manufactured in model year 1996 and after, the amount of excise tax due for trucks or truck tractors registered for more than 26,000 pounds and for Class A special mobile equipment, as defined in Title 29-A, section 101, subsection 70, is based on the purchase price in the original year of title rather than on the list price. Verification of purchase price for the application of excise tax is determined by the initial bill of sale or the state sales tax document provided at point of purchase. The initial bill of sale is that issued by the dealer to the initial purchaser of a new vehicle.

(4) For buses manufactured in model year 2006 and after, the amount of excise tax due is based on the purchase price in the original year of title rather than on the list price. Verification of purchase price for the application of excise tax is determined by the initial bill of sale or the state sales tax document provided at point of purchase. The initial bill of sale is that issued by the dealer to the initial purchaser of a new vehicle.

(5) For trucks or truck tractors registered for more than 26,000 pounds that have been reconstructed using a prepackaged kit that may include a frame, front axle or body but does not include a power train or engine and for which a new certificate of title is required to be issued, the amount of excise tax due is based on the maker's list price of the prepackaged kit.

For motor vehicles being registered pursuant to Title 29-A, section 405, subsection 1, paragraph C, the excise tax must be prorated for the number of months in the registration.

Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §1482, sub-§1, ¶C-1 is enacted to read:

C-1. For the privilege of operating a camper trailer on the public ways, each camper trailer is subject to an annual excise tax as specified in this paragraph.

(1) The excise tax is based on the overall length of the camper trailer as follows:

(a) For a camper trailer less than 13 feet in length, \$6;

(b) For a camper trailer at least 13 feet but less than 14 feet in length, \$7;

(c) For a camper trailer at least 14 feet but less than 15 feet in length, \$8;

(d) For a camper trailer at least 15 feet but less than 16 feet in length, \$9;

(e) For a camper trailer at least 16 feet but less than 17 feet in length, \$11;

(f) For a camper trailer at least 17 feet but less than 18 feet in length, \$13;

(g) For a camper trailer at least 18 feet but less than 19 feet in length, \$16;

(h) For a camper trailer at least 19 feet but less than 20 feet in length, \$19;

(i) For a camper trailer at least 20 feet but less than 21 feet in length, \$22;

(j) For a camper trailer at least 21 feet but less than 22 feet in length, \$26;

(k) For a camper trailer at least 22 feet but less than 23 feet in length, \$30;

(l) For a camper trailer at least 23 feet but less than 24 feet in length, \$51;

(m) For a camper trailer at least 24 feet but less than 25 feet in length, \$56;

(n) For a camper trailer at least 25 feet but less than 26 feet in length, \$61;

(o) For a camper trailer at least 26 feet but less than 27 feet in length, \$68;

(p) For a camper trailer at least 27 feet but less than 28 feet in length, \$75;

(q) For a camper trailer at least 28 feet but less than 29 feet in length, \$82;

(r) For a camper trailer at least 29 feet but less than 30 feet in length, \$89;

(s) For a camper trailer at least 30 feet but less than 31 feet in length, \$96;

(t) For a camper trailer at least 31 feet but less than 32 feet in length, \$103;

(u) For a camper trailer at least 32 feet but less than 33 feet in length, \$110;

(v) For a camper trailer at least 33 feet but less than 34 feet in length, \$117;

(w) For a camper trailer at least 34 feet but less than 35 feet in length, \$125;

(x) For a camper trailer at least 35 feet but less than 36 feet in length, \$133;

(y) For a camper trailer at least 36 feet but less than 37 feet in length, \$141;

(z) For a camper trailer at least 37 feet but less than 38 feet in length, \$149;

(aa) For a camper trailer at least 38 feet but less than 39 feet in length, \$158;

(bb) For a camper trailer at least 39 feet but less than 40 feet in length, \$167;

(cc) For a camper trailer at least 40 feet but less than 41 feet in length, \$177;

(dd) For a camper trailer at least 41 feet but less than 42 feet in length, \$187;

(ee) For a camper trailer at least 42 feet but less than 43 feet in length, \$198;

(ff) For a camper trailer at least 43 feet but less than 44 feet in length, \$210;

(gg) For a camper trailer at least 44 feet but less than 45 feet in length, \$223;

(hh) For a camper trailer at least 45 feet but less than 46 feet in length, \$237;

(ii) For a camper trailer at least 46 feet but less than 47 feet in length, \$252;

(jj) For a camper trailer at least 47 feet but less than 48 feet in length, \$268;

(kk) For a camper trailer at least 48 feet but less than 49 feet in length, \$284;

(ll) For a camper trailer at least 49 feet but less than 50 feet in length, \$301;

(mm) For a camper trailer at least 50 feet but less than 51 feet in length, \$318;

(nn) For a camper trailer at least 51 feet but less than 52 feet in length, \$335;

(oo) For a camper trailer at least 52 feet but less than 53 feet in length, \$352; and

(pp) For a camper trailer at least 53 feet in length, \$18 for each additional foot of length, rounded up to the next full foot, in addition to the amount specified in division (oo).

(2) On a new registration of a camper trailer, the excise tax payment must be made prior to registration and is for a one-year period from the date of registration.

(3) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, an excise tax on a camper trailer may not be assessed by value or age of the camper trailer.

(4) Annually, beginning in 2026, by September 15th, the assessor shall multiply the cost-of-living adjustment for taxable years beginning in the succeeding calendar year by the amounts in subparagraph (1). For purposes of this subparagraph, "cost-of-living adjustment" means the Chained Consumer Price Index, as defined in section 5402, subsection 1, for the 12-month period ending June 30th of the preceding calendar year divided by the Chained

Consumer Price Index for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2025. The result must be rounded to the nearest integer. If the cost-of-living adjustment for any calendar year would be less than the cost-of-living adjustment for the preceding calendar year, the cost-of-living adjustment is the same as for the preceding calendar year.

Sec. 3. Effective date. This Act takes effect January 1, 2026.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 524

H.P. 25 - L.D. 61

An Act to Regulate Employer Surveillance to Protect Workers

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA c. 7, sub-c. 1-E is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 1-E

EMPLOYER SURVEILLANCE

§620-A. Employer surveillance

1. Definitions. As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Employee" means an individual who provides services or labor for an employer for wages or other remuneration.

B. "Employer" means any private or public employer, including the State and political subdivisions of the State.

C. "Employer surveillance" means the monitoring of an employee by an employer through the use of an electronic device or system, including but not limited to the use of a computer, telephone, wire or radio or an electromagnetic, photoelectronic or photo-optical system. "Employer surveillance" does not include the use by an employer of surveillance cameras for security or safety purposes or the use of global positioning system tracking or other safety devices on vehicles owned by the employer but operated by the employee.

D. "Personal care services" means services provided by a licensed personal care agency and includes, but is not limited to, services related to activities of daily living, household tasks and medication reminders.

2. Employer surveillance. An employer may not use employer surveillance unless the employer notifies the employee before beginning the use of employer surveillance.

3. Audiovisual monitoring restrictions. An employer may not use audiovisual monitoring in an employee's residence or personal vehicle or on the employee's property as a means of employer surveillance unless the audiovisual monitoring is required by the employer for duties of the job.

4. Employee personal electronic devices. An employee may decline a request by an employer to install data collection or transmission applications on the employee's personal electronic devices for the purposes of employer surveillance.

5. Notice to prospective employee. An employer using employer surveillance shall inform a prospective employee during the employment interview process that the employer engages in employer surveillance, and the employer shall provide written notice at least once per calendar year to all current employees that the employer engages in employer surveillance.

6. Personal care services settings; applicability. This section does not apply to employer surveillance that has been installed or caused to be installed by an employer, patient, client or unpaid caregiver in a setting in which personal care services are expected to be provided by an employee.

7. Penalties; enforcement. An employer that violates this section is subject to a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$500 for each violation. The Department of Labor shall enforce this section within existing resources using strategic enforcement.

8. Rulemaking. The Department of Labor may adopt rules as necessary to implement this subchapter. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

9. Relation to state and federal laws. This section may not be construed to limit the ability of an employer to comply with state and federal laws, rules or regulations related to security, safety and transmission and handling of data.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 525
H.P. 145 - L.D. 222

An Act to Establish a Take-back and Disposal Program for Firefighting and Fire-suppressing Foam to Which Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Have Been Added

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §424-C, sub-§5-A is enacted to read:

5-A. Take-back and disposal program. In consultation with the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal, when funds are available, the department shall design and, by July 1, 2027, implement a take-back and disposal program for firefighting and fire-suppressing foam to which PFAS have been intentionally added that is located in the State and that is in the possession of a person located in the State. The program must provide for the collection of such firefighting or fire-suppressing foam from a person that voluntarily requests collection and for the safe and contained disposal of the collected foam. The department may contract with a 3rd-party entity to implement and administer the program and may adopt rules as necessary for the implementation and administration of the program, which are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. The department may receive funds, grants or contributions from public or private sources to design and implement the program.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,
DEPARTMENT OF**

Firefighting Foam Disposal Program N968

Initiative: Provides baseline allocation to establish an account to accept funding for contracted services related to the take-back and disposal of firefighting and fire-suppressing foam containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$500	\$500
FUNDS TOTAL		

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 526
S.P. 126 - L.D. 259

An Act to Establish the Criminal Records Review Commission in Statute

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§52-D is enacted to read:

52-D.

Judiciary: Criminal Records	Criminal Records Review Commission	Legislative Per Diem and Expenses for Legislators	16 MRSA §901

Sec. 2. 16 MRSA c. 11 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 11

CRIMINAL RECORDS REVIEW COMMISSION

§901. Establishment

The Criminal Records Review Commission, established by Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 52-D and referred to in this chapter as "the commission," is established for the purpose of conducting a continuing review of laws, rules and procedures pertaining to criminal history record information and submitting to the Legislature its findings and recommendations on an annual basis. For the purposes of this chapter, "criminal history record information" has the same meaning as in section 703, subsection 3.

§902. Membership; terms; chair; vacancies; quorum

1. Membership. The commission consists of the following members:

A. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, including one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

B. Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, including one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

C. The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee;

D. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee;

E. The Commissioner of Public Safety or the commissioner's designee;

F. The Commissioner of Corrections or the commissioner's designee;

G. The chair of the Right To Know Advisory Committee, established in Title 1, section 411, or the chair's designee;

H. The president of an organization representing the interests of prosecutors in the State, or that president's designee, appointed by the President of the Senate;

I. The president of an organization representing criminal defense lawyers in the State, or that president's designee, appointed by the President of the Senate;

J. A representative of a civil rights organization whose primary mission includes the advancement of racial justice, appointed by the President of the Senate;

K. A representative of an organization that provides legal assistance on immigration, appointed by the President of the Senate;

L. A representative of an organization whose primary mission is to address issues related to poverty, appointed by the President of the Senate;

M. A representative of a statewide nonprofit organization whose mission includes advocating for victims and survivors of domestic violence, appointed by the President of the Senate;

N. A representative of a substance use disorder treatment or recovery community, appointed by the President of the Senate;

O. A representative of an adult and juvenile prisoners' rights organization, appointed by the President of the Senate;

P. A representative of newspaper and other press interests, appointed by the President of the Senate;

Q. The president of an organization representing county sheriffs, or that president's designee, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

R. The president of an organization representing municipal police chiefs, or that president's designee, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

S. A representative of broadcasting interests, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

T. A representative of a statewide nonprofit organization whose mission includes advocating for victims and survivors of sexual assault, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

U. A representative of an organization that provides free civil legal assistance to citizens of the State with low incomes, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

V. A representative of a mental health advocacy organization, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

W. A representative of an organization whose primary mission is the protection of civil liberties, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

X. A representative of a nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to advocate for victims and survivors of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

Y. A representative of an organization involved in advocating for juvenile justice reform, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

Z. A representative of a public records access advocacy organization, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The commission shall invite the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court to designate a member of the judicial branch to serve as a member of the commission.

2. Terms. Members of the commission who are Legislators serve during the term of office for which they were elected. Members of the commission who are not Legislators serve for a term of 2 years and may be reappointed. Members of the commission who are not Legislators may serve beyond their designated terms until their successors are appointed.

3. Chairs. The first-named Senate member is the Senate chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the commission.

4. Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy on the commission, the member's unexpired term must be filled through appointment by the appointing authority for the vacant seat.

5. Quorum. A quorum of the commission consists of 15 members.

§903. Duties and powers

1. Review of laws, rules and procedures. The commission shall review laws, rules and procedures pertaining to criminal history record information in this State, including but not limited to:

A. Procedures within the Department of Public Safety regarding the collection, maintenance and dissemination of criminal history record information;

B. The criteria and eligibility for sealing criminal history record information;

C. Public access to criminal history record information; and

D. The vacating of criminal history record information.

2. Recommendations; legislation. The commission may submit to the Legislature, at the start of each regular session, proposed changes to the laws pertaining to criminal history record information that the commission determines appropriate. The commission may also make recommendations to the Department of Public Safety, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, the judicial branch's advisory committee on the Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure and any other organization or committee whose affairs pertain to the use, maintenance or dissemination of criminal history record information.

§904. Consultation; outside funding

1. Consultation. At the commission's discretion, the commission may seek the advice of consultants or experts, including representatives of the executive and judicial branches and representatives of public interest organizations, in fields related to its duties.

2. Outside funding. The commission may seek outside funding contributions to partially or fully fund the costs of the commission, including staffing. All funding is subject to approval by the Legislative Council in accordance with its policies.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

LEGISLATURE

Legislature 0081

Initiative: Appropriates funds for the costs of Legislators serving on the Criminal Records Review Commission.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$440	\$880
All Other	\$960	\$1,920
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$1,400	\$2,800

Sec. 4. Effective date. This Act takes effect January 1, 2026.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 527 **H.P. 224 - L.D. 324**

An Act Regarding Funding for Educational Programs and Opportunities

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §253, sub-§10 is enacted to read:

10. Funding for educational programs and opportunities. The commissioner may raise and expend private funds to support a fund established for specific educational programs and opportunities.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Innovative Teaching and Learning Z394

Initiative: Provides ongoing funds for an early literacy grant program as well as for grant programming related to the implementation of best practices for mathematics instruction in schools.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 528 **H.P. 352 - L.D. 533**

An Act to Allow Residents of the Department of Corrections to Opt In to Additional Restitution for Their Victims

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §3360-I, first ¶, as amended by PL 2023, c. 316, §1 and c. 412, Pt. GG, §1, is further amended to read:

As part of the sentence or fine imposed, the court shall impose an assessment of \$70 on any person convicted of murder, a Class A crime, a Class B crime or a Class C crime and \$40 on any person convicted of a Class D crime or a Class E crime, except that the court shall impose an assessment of \$2,000 on any person convicted of aggravated sex trafficking as described in Title 17-A, section 852, an assessment of \$1,000 on any person convicted of sex trafficking as described in Title 17-A, section 853, an assessment of \$1,000 on any person for the first conviction and \$2,000 for each subsequent conviction of engaging a person for prostitution as described in Title 17-A, section 853-B and an assessment of \$1,000 on any person for the first conviction and \$2,000 for each subsequent conviction of commercial sexual exploitation of a minor or commercial sexual exploitation of a person with a mental disability as described in Title 17-A, section 855. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the court may not waive the imposition of the assessment required by this section. For purposes of collection and collection procedures, this assessment is considered part of the fine.

At the time of commitment, the court shall inform the Department of Corrections or the county sheriff of any unpaid balances on assessments owed by the offender to the Victims' Compensation Fund. All funds collected as a result of these assessments or transferred in accordance with Title 34-A, section 1214-C, subsection 5 accrue to the Victims' Compensation Fund.

Sec. 2. 34-A MRSA §1214-C is enacted to read:

§1214-C. Victims' Reparative Account

The Victims' Reparative Account, referred to in this section as "the account," is established within the department for the purpose of providing a mechanism for offenders to voluntarily make reparations to the victims of their crimes.

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Offender" has the same meaning as in Title 17-A, section 2002, subsection 5; and

B. "Victim" includes an authorized claimant for restitution described in Title 17-A, section 2004, subsection 1 or 4.

2. Administration. The Victim Services Coordinator under section 1214 shall administer the account. Except as otherwise provided in this section, all administrative costs of the account must be absorbed by the department.

3. Funding. Money donated by an offender seeking to make reparations to the offender's victims must be deposited into the account and designated to the victim for whose benefit the offender wishes to deposit the money. Money may not be donated to the account by an offender if the donation would affect the offender's ability to pay any court-ordered restitution to all victims of the offender's crimes. Once deposited in the account, an offender may not reclaim the money.

4. Use. The Victim Services Coordinator shall ensure that reasonable efforts are made to locate and notify the victim for whose benefit an offender has deposited money into the account. If a victim opts to claim the money deposited for that victim's benefit, a victim may use the money claimed under this section for any purpose.

5. Final disposition. If, within 5 years of deposit from an offender, money has not been claimed by the victim for whose benefit the offender has deposited the money, the department may deduct an amount necessary to defray administrative costs of the account and shall transfer the remaining money in the account designated for that victim to the Victims' Compensation Fund established by Title 5, section 3360-H.

6. Confidentiality. All records of deposits or claims in the account and the use of the money deposited in accordance with subsections 3 and 4 are confidential and may not be disclosed except by the victim. The records may also be disclosed to employees of the department as necessary for those employees in the performance of any official duty.

7. Participation voluntary. The deposit of money in the account by an offender is voluntary. An adverse action may not be threatened or taken against an offender for not depositing funds in the account. An offender may not be offered or given any incentive for participating in the deposit of money in the account and the decision of an offender whether to deposit funds into the account may not be used as either a mitigating or aggravating factor in any decision made by the department. An offender may not disclose the offender's donation of money to the account for any purpose, including to influence a clemency petition. If an offender violates this subsection, the chief administrative officer of the correctional facility shall prohibit the offender from donating to the account.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

CORRECTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF

Office of Victim Services 0046

Initiative: Establishes the Victims' Reparative Account with a base Other Special Revenue Funds allocation of \$500.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 529

S.P. 270 - L.D. 587

An Act to Require School Boards to Adopt a Policy on Automated External Defibrillator Access at School-sponsored Athletic Events

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6304-A is enacted to read:

§6304-A. Policy for access to automated external defibrillators

Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, a school administrative unit shall develop and implement a policy that provides access to automated external defibrillators at all school-sponsored athletic events in which students are participating on school property, including team practices. The policy must include how a person can access an automated external defibrillator while attending a school-sponsored athletic event. An automated external defibrillator acquired by a school administrative unit pursuant to this section must be tested and maintained according to the manufacturer's operational guidelines. Appropriate first aid, ambulance, rescue service or other appropriate local emergency medical service providers must be notified of the location and type of automated external defibrillator acquired.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6304-B is enacted to read:

§6304-B. Athletic emergency action plans; automated external defibrillator

A school administrative unit shall develop and implement an athletic emergency action plan based on recommendations from a nationally recognized heart health organization or nationally recognized athletic training organization that addresses the appropriate, venue-specific use of an automated external defibrillator by school personnel to respond to an individual experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or a similar life-threatening emergency while attending or participating in a school-sponsored athletic event on school property, including a team practice.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 530

S.P. 314 - L.D. 697

**An Act to Direct the Maine
Prescription Drug
Affordability Board to Assess
Strategies to Reduce
Prescription Drug Costs and to
Take Steps to Implement
Reference-based Pricing**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §2041, sub-§2, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §5, is amended to read:

2. Membership. The board ~~has 5~~ consists of 6 members with expertise in health policy, health care data, health care economics or clinical medicine, who may not be affiliated with or represent the interests of a pharmaceutical manufacturer or a public payor, ~~as that term is defined in section 2042, and who are appointed~~ as follows:

A. Two members appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall also appoint one alternate board member who will participate in deliberations of the board in the event a member appointed by the President of the Senate elects to be recused as provided in subsection 7, paragraph B;

B. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall also appoint one alternate board member who will participate in deliberations of the board in the event a member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives elects to be recused as provided in subsection 7, paragraph B; ~~and~~

C. One member appointed by the Governor. The Governor shall also appoint one alternate board member who will participate in deliberations of the board in the event the member appointed by the Governor elects to be recused as provided in subsection 7, paragraph B; ~~and~~

D. The executive director of the Maine Health Data Organization established by Title 22, section 8703, or the executive director's designee, who serves as an ex officio, nonvoting member.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §2041, sub-§9, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §5, is amended to read:

9. Compensation. ~~A~~ Except for the member under subsection 2, paragraph D, a member of the board and a member of the advisory council appointed pursuant to subsection 10, paragraph L are entitled to legislative per diem and reimbursement for expenses as provided in section 12004-G, subsection 14-I.

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §2041, sub-§10, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §5, is amended to read:

10. Advisory council. ~~A 12-member 13-member advisory council is established to advise the board on establishing annual spending targets pursuant to section 2042, subsection 1 and determining methods for meeting those spending targets pursuant to section 2042, subsection 3. The advisory council consists of:~~

A. The Governor or the governor's designee;

B. The Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services or the commissioner's designee;

C. The Commissioner of Corrections or the commissioner's designee;

D. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee;

E. The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee;

F. The Executive Director of Employee Health and Benefits, within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Human Resources, or the executive director's designee;

G. A representative from the Maine State Service Employees Association, appointed by the Governor, based on a nomination by the association;

H. A representative from the Maine Education Association, appointed by the Governor, based on a nomination by the association;

I. A representative from the Maine Municipal Association, appointed by the Governor, based on a nomination by the association;

J. A representative from the University of Maine System, appointed by the Governor, based on a nomination by the system;

K. A representative from the Maine Community College System, appointed by the Governor, based on a nomination by the system; and

L. A representative of consumer interests, appointed by the Governor, who serves a 3-year term; and

M. A representative of health insurance carriers, appointed by the Governor, who serves a 3-year term.

Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §2041, sub-§12, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §5, is repealed.

Sec. 5. 5 MRSA §2042, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §5, is amended to read:

§2042. Powers and duties of the board

The board has the following powers and duties.

1. Prescription drug spending targets. ~~The board has the following powers and duties. For the purposes of this section, the term "public payor" means any division of state, county or municipal government that administers a health plan for employees of that division of state, county or municipal government or an association of state, county or municipal employers that administers a health plan for its employees, except for the MaineCare program. The board shall:~~

~~A. Beginning for the year 2021 and in consultation with the advisory council established under section 2041, subsection 10, determine annual spending targets for prescription drugs purchased by public payors based upon a 10-year rolling average of the medical care services component of the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index medical care services index plus a reasonable percentage for inflation and minus a spending target determined by the board for pharmacy savings;~~

~~B. Determine spending targets on specific prescription drugs that may cause affordability challenges to enrollees in a public payor health plan; and~~

~~C. Determine which public payors are likely to exceed the spending targets determined under paragraph A.~~

1-A. Strategies to reduce costs of prescription drugs. The board shall:

A. Review prescription drug spending and utilization data to identify causes of high spending or rising spending affecting public payors and private payors and impacting consumers;

B. Solicit public input to identify cost-related barriers to accessing prescription drugs; and

C. Assess strategies to reduce the cost of prescription drugs and reduce the rate of growth in prescription drug spending and to reduce cost barriers for consumers. The review of strategies must include consideration of the strategies' likely impact on consumers and overall health care costs and the feasibility of implementing such strategies. At a minimum, the board shall assess the following strategies:

(1) Empowering the board to assess the affordability of drugs and to establish upper payment limits;

(2) Implementing reference-based pricing, including reviewing potential savings for the state employee group health plan under Title 5, section 285 by implementing reference-based pricing for the first 10 drugs negotiated under the Medicare drug price negotiation program established in United States Public Law 117-169 (August 16, 2022);

(3) Recommending annual spending targets for prescription drugs for public payors and implementing strategies for the purchase of prescription drugs by public payors in order to meet those annual spending targets, including group purchasing and formulary alignment. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "public payor" means any division of state, county or municipal government that administers a health plan for employees of that division of state, county or municipal government or an association of state, county or municipal employers that administers a health plan for its employees, except for the MaineCare program;

(4) Recommending annual spending targets for prescription drugs that could be applied to one or more segments of the state-regulated

commercial insurance market and implementing strategies to meet those annual spending targets;

(5) Implementing transparency requirements and regulation of supply chain entities, including, but not limited to, pharmacy benefits managers, including regarding the role of discounts and rebates in prescription drug costs;

(6) Implementing strategies to reduce out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs through the regulation of insurance and the rate review process of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance;

(7) Developing opportunities for engagement with providers and other health care professionals to disseminate information about prescription drug costs and pricing; and

(8) Aligning the payment for prescription drugs with actual drug acquisition costs.

1-B. Other states' experiences. To accomplish the duties under subsection 1-A, the board shall consider and review the experiences of other states, including, but not limited to, the role of prescription drug affordability boards established in other states that are authorized to assess affordability of prescription drugs and to establish upper payment limits or reference-based pricing requirements and their regulation of pharmacy benefits managers.

2. Prescription drug spending data. The board may consider the following prescription drug spending data to accomplish its duties under this section:

~~A. A public payor's prescription drug spending data, which the 3rd party administrator or insurer for the public payor's health plan shall provide to the board on behalf of the public payor upon request notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, including:~~

~~(1) Expenditures and utilization data for prescription drugs for each plan offered by a public payor;~~

~~(2) The formulary for each plan offered by a public payor and prescription drugs common to each formulary;~~

~~(3) Pharmacy benefit management services and other administrative expenses of the prescription drug benefit for each plan offered by a public payor; and~~

~~(4) Enrollee cost sharing for each plan offered by a public payor; and~~

B. Data compiled by the Maine Health Data Organization under Title 22, chapter 1683; and

C. Publicly available data that is available for purchase or for free.

If there is additional data required by the board and its staff that is not already available pursuant to paragraphs B and C, the board may recommend that the Maine Health Data Organization adopt rules to collect additional prescription drug spending data, including data relating to the prescription drugs common to each formulary. Prescription drug spending data provided to the board and its staff under this subsection is confidential to the same extent it is confidential while in the custody of the entity that provided the data to the board.

3. Recommendations. ~~Based upon the prescription drug spending data received under subsection 2, the board, in consultation with a representative of each public payor identified under subsection 1, paragraph A, shall determine methods for the public payor to meet the spending targets established under subsection 1. The board shall determine whether the following methods reduce costs to individuals purchasing prescription drugs through a public payor and allow public payors to meet the spending targets established under subsection 1:~~

~~A. Negotiating specific rebate amounts on the prescription drugs that contribute most to spending that exceeds the spending targets;~~

~~B. Changing a formulary when sufficient rebates cannot be secured under paragraph A;~~

~~C. Changing a formulary with respect to all of the prescription drugs of a manufacturer within a formulary when sufficient rebates cannot be secured under paragraph A;~~

~~D. Establishing a common prescription drug formulary for all public payors;~~

~~E. Prohibiting health insurance carriers in the State from offering on their formularies a prescription drug or any of the prescription drugs manufactured by a particular manufacturer when the methods described in paragraph B or C are implemented;~~

~~F. Purchasing prescription drugs in bulk or through a single purchasing agreement for use among public payors;~~

~~G. Collaborating with other states and state prescription drug purchasing consortia to purchase prescription drugs in bulk or to jointly negotiate rebates;~~

~~H. Allowing health insurance carriers providing coverage to small businesses and individuals in the State to participate in the public payor prescription drug benefit for a fee;~~

~~I. Procuring common expert services for public payors, including but not limited to pharmacy benefit management services and actuarial services; and~~

~~J. Any other method the board may determine.~~

4. Report. The board shall report ~~its any recommendations, including prescription drug spending targets, and the progress of implementing those recommendations regarding strategies to reduce the cost of prescription drugs, other states' experiences and prescription drug spending data~~ to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health coverage and insurance matters no later than ~~October 1, 2020 and on~~ January 30th annually thereafter. The joint standing committee may report out legislation based upon the report.

5. Rulemaking. The board may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this chapter. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined by chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 6. 22 MRSA §8712, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 471, §3, is amended to read:

6. Data shared with Maine Prescription Drug Affordability Board. The organization may share data collected under this chapter with the Maine Prescription Drug Affordability Board, established under Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 14-I, and its staff as long as any data shared pursuant to this subsection is not further disseminated.

Sec. 7. Affordability program. The Maine Prescription Drug Affordability Board established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 2041, referred to in this section as "the board," in consultation with its advisory council established under Title 5, section 2041, subsection 10 and any technical committees the board may establish, shall develop a program to reduce the impact of prescription drug costs on the State's health care system, stem the rate of growth in prescription drug spending and reduce cost barriers for consumers. The program must be based on the prescription drug spending data received under Title 5, section 2042, subsection 2 and the assessment conducted under Title 5, section 2042, subsections 1-A and 1-B, include recommended implementation and enforcement strategies and identify necessary funding and regulatory and legislative authority.

1. The board shall adopt and submit a preliminary plan for a prescription drug affordability program in its annual report due by January 30, 2026 pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 2042, subsection 4 to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. The preliminary plan must include any proposals for legislative action needed to implement the program. The joint standing committee may report out legislation based upon the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

2. The board shall adopt and submit its final plan for a prescription drug affordability program in a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health coverage, insurance and financial services matters by October 1, 2027. The final

plan must include any proposals for legislative action needed to implement the program. The joint standing committee may report out legislation based upon the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

OFFICE OF AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

Office of Affordable Health Care Z320

Initiative: Establishes and provides funding for one Public Service Manager III position to support the Maine Prescription Drug Affordability Board with strategic direction, government and stakeholder relations, research, writing and administrative work effective October 1, 2025.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	1.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL		
Personal Services	\$105,855	\$147,099
All Other	\$1,962	\$2,019
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$107,817	\$149,118

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 531

S.P. 343 - L.D. 784

An Act to Create a Rebuttable Presumption Related to Specialized Risk Screening for First Responders

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

Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §4301-A, sub-§5-B is enacted to read:

5-B. First responder. "First responder" means an employee or occasional employee of a state, county or municipal government entity or volunteer of a state, county or municipal government entity that provides or has the authority to provide fire, emergency medical, emergency communications, correctional or police services.

Sec. 2. 24-A MRSA §4301-A, sub-§19-A is enacted to read:

19-A. Specialized risk screening. "Specialized risk screening" means any of the following standard, medically accepted tests:

A. Tests for evidence of any cancer with a known employment-related risk of exposure for a first responder;

B. Blood tests, including tests conducted for a complete blood count, comprehensive metabolic panel, renal panel and hepatic panel;

C. Mammography, colonoscopy or prostate examinations regardless of the age of the person who is the subject of the examination;

D. Tests of any measure of serum activity of lipoprotein-associated phospholipase enzyme A2, oxidized low-density lipoprotein or additional indicators of endovascular inflammation; or

E. Tests to measure vitamin deficiencies, nutritional deficits and mineral levels.

Sec. 3. 24-A MRSA §4313, sub-§15 is enacted to read:

15. Rebuttable presumption. In a cause of action under this section or under Title 18-C, section 2-807 as permitted under subsection 14, there is a rebuttable presumption that a carrier has failed to exercise ordinary care when making an adverse health care treatment decision to deny coverage under a health plan for covered specialized risk screening for an enrollee who is a first responder and whose provider has determined the enrollee's receipt of specialized risk screening is medically appropriate and has meaningful potential for preventive clinical benefit to the enrollee.

Sec. 4. Application. This Act applies to an adverse health care treatment decision made by a carrier, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 24-A, section 4301-A, subsection 3, on or after the effective date of this Act.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 532

S.P. 372 - L.D. 839

An Act to Create the Net Energy Billing Cost Stabilization Fund

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3209-F is enacted to read:

§3209-F. Net Energy Billing Cost Stabilization Fund

1. Fund established. There is established the Net Energy Billing Cost Stabilization Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," as an account within the commission. The fund is a nonlapsing, revolving fund administered by the commission for the purpose of offsetting the costs to ratepayers associated with the net energy billing program under section 3209-A and section 3209-B.

2. Sources for fund. The commission may receive and deposit in the fund funds from the following sources:

A. Federal funds and awards that may be used for the purposes specified in this section;

B. Appropriations and transfers authorized by the Legislature; and

C. Any other funds from public or private sources received for the purposes of this section.

3. Use of funds. To the extent that funds are available, the commission shall use the fund exclusively to make payments to reimburse transmission and distribution utilities for any costs incurred as a result of the net energy billing program under section 3209-A and section 3209-B that would have otherwise been paid by ratepayers.

4. Rules. The commission may adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

5. Report. By February 1st of any year in which the commission has paid a reimbursement from the fund to a transmission and distribution utility in the prior calendar year, the commission shall provide a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over electricity matters that includes the amount of the reimbursement paid in the prior calendar year, the source of any funds received by the fund in the prior calendar year and any other relevant information as determined by the commission. The committee may report out a bill related to the commission's report.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Net Energy Billing Cost Stabilization Fund N540

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the purpose of making payments to transmission and distribution utilities that would have otherwise been paid by ratepayers.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$0

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 533
H.P. 544 - L.D. 858

**An Act to Ensure Behavioral
and Mental Health Services
Are Available to Students by
Providing Grants to Schools
That Contract for Those
Services**

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 223, sub-c. 10, head-note is amended to read:

SUBCHAPTER 10

**~~YOUTH BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL
HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING~~**

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6672 is enacted to read:

§6672. Behavioral and mental health grant program

1. Grant program. The department shall establish and administer a grant program to provide grants to school administrative units that contract for behavioral and mental health services provided by licensed behavioral and mental health service providers.

2. Limitation on use of funds. Funds provided under the grant program under this section may be used only for behavioral and mental health services that are not otherwise covered or reimbursable through the MaineCare program. Funds must be used in a manner that ensures that contracted behavioral and mental health service providers do not supplant qualified and available school administrative unit behavioral and mental health staff.

3. Grant program funding based on population. In administering the grant program under this section, the department shall provide grant funds according to the population of a school administrative unit as follows:

- A. Two hundred fifty or fewer students, \$3,000;
- B. Two hundred fifty-one students to 500 students, \$6,000; and
- C. More than 500 students, \$9,000.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF
School and Student Supports Z270

Initiative: Provides one-time funds in fiscal year 2025-26 and fiscal year 2026-27 only for grants to school administrative units for contracted behavioral and mental health services for students. The grants are based on the population of each school administrative unit.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$100,000	\$100,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$100,000	\$100,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 534
H.P. 556 - L.D. 870

**An Act Regarding the
Membership of the Maine
Land Use Planning
Commission**

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §683-A, first ¶, as amended by PL 2013, c. 256, §3, is further amended to read:

The Maine Land Use Planning Commission, as established by Title 5, section 12004-D, subsection 1-A to carry out the purposes stated in section 681, is created within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and in this chapter called "the commission." The commission is charged with implementing this chapter. The commission consists of ~~9~~ 11 members, appointed in accordance with subsections ~~1-A~~ and 2. All appointments under this section are subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over conservation matters and to confirmation by the Senate.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §683-A, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2013, c. 256, §3, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §683-A, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Appointments by Governor. Except as provided in subsection 2, the Governor shall appoint 2 members to the commission as follows:

A. One appointee who resides or works in the commission's jurisdiction, is a former resident of the commission's jurisdiction or has significant professional experience working within the commission's jurisdiction and who has expertise in one or more of the areas of forestry, land use planning, conservation, fisheries, wildlife, outdoor recreation and natural resources-related businesses that operate in the commission's jurisdiction; and

B. One appointee who is a member of a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in this State based on the joint recommendation of the federally recognized Indian nations, tribes and bands in the State.

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §683-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2013, c. 256, §3, is further amended to read:

2. Appointment of members representing a county. One member must be appointed by each of the 8 counties with the most acreage in the unorganized or deorganized areas subject to the jurisdiction of the commission. The board of county commissioners for each of the counties shall appoint by majority vote a resident of that county to serve as a member of the commission. A county commissioner who is a candidate for appointment to serve on the commission may not vote on that appointment. In making the appointment, the board of county commissioners shall actively seek and give consideration to persons residing in or near the unorganized or deorganized areas within the county. The At least 3 months before the end of a term for a commissioner appointed by a board of county commissioners, the director of the commission shall provide that board of county commissioners with general information about the commission's jurisdiction, the roles and responsibilities of a member of the commission and other materials that the board of county commissioners may share with interested applicants. Each board of county commissioners shall advertise the position for at least 30 days and in the same manner as the county advertises personnel positions. The board of county commissioners shall accept written or electronic applications from candidates, conduct interviews with candidates as determined by the board, evaluate candidates based on required qualifications and select from among those candidates an appointee.

An appointee under this subsection must have expertise in ~~commerce and industry, fisheries and wildlife, forestry or, conservation issues as they relate to the commission's jurisdiction and must, fisheries, wildlife, land use planning, outdoor recreation or natural resources-based businesses that operate in the commission's jurisdiction and must reside or work in the commission's jurisdiction~~, be a former resident of the commission's jurisdiction or have significant professional experience working within the commission's jurisdiction.

- ~~A. Reside in the commission's jurisdiction;~~
- ~~B. Work in the commission's jurisdiction; or~~
- ~~C. Be a former resident or be retired after having worked for a minimum of 5 years within the commission's jurisdiction.~~

If a board of county commissioners fails to appoint a member to the commission under this subsection within 90 business days of a vacancy on the commission to be filled by that county, the Governor shall appoint a resident of that county meeting the criteria in subsection ~~1-A~~ to fill the vacancy.

For any county appointee, the board of county commissioners shall provide to the Office of the Governor, the President of the Senate and, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the director of the commission the name and address of the appointee, together with information concerning that person's background and

qualifications, in the same manner required of the Governor for nominations made pursuant to Title 3, section 154. A board of county commissioners has the same authority as the Governor, pursuant to Title 3, section 154, to withdraw the name of an appointee at any time before the Senate votes. The provisions of Title 3, sections 155 to 158 apply to the process of legislative review and confirmation of all county appointees to the commission.

Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §683-A, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Legislative appointment. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall jointly appoint one at-large member to the commission who has a scientific or technical background in one or more of the areas of forestry, land use planning, conservation, fisheries, wildlife, outdoor recreation and natural resource-based businesses that operate in the commission's jurisdiction and through life or work experience demonstrates knowledge of issues important to the commission's jurisdiction.

Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §683-A, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2013, c. 256, §3, is further amended to read:

4. Terms. All members are appointed to 4-year terms and may not serve more than 2 consecutive terms. Any member who has not been reappointed by the Governor or a board of county commissioners prior to the expiration of that member's term may not continue to serve on the commission, unless the Governor notifies the Legislature in writing prior to the expiration of that member's term that extension of that member's term is required to ensure fair consideration of specific major applications pending before the commission. That member's term ends upon final commission decisions on the specific applications identified in the Governor's communication. Any member reappointed by the Governor or a board of county commissioners prior to the expiration of that member's term continues to serve on the commission until the appointment is acted upon by the Legislature. Once a member of the commission has been appointed by the Governor or a board of county commissioners, a vacancy of that seat must be filled by the same appointing authority as provided in this section. A vacancy during an unexpired term is filled only for the unexpired portion of the term.

Sec. 7. 12 MRSA §684, first ¶, as amended by PL 2011, c. 682, §8, is further amended to read:

The commission shall elect annually, from its own membership, a chair, vice-chair and such other officers it considers necessary. Meetings are held at the call of the chair or at the call of more than 1/2 of the membership. Meetings must be held at a location within the jurisdiction of the commission or another convenient location approved by the chair. The commission, acting in accordance with the procedures set forth in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter ~~2~~ 2-A, may adopt whatever

rules it considers necessary for the conduct of its business. The commission shall keep minutes of all proceedings, which are a public record available and on file in the office of the commission. Members of the commission are compensated as provided in Title 5, chapter 379. Commission members must receive an orientation and annual continuing education on this chapter, commission rules and planning and regulatory processes. A quorum of the commission for the transaction of business is ~~5 members. No action may be taken by the commission unless upon approval by a vote of 5 members a simple majority of commission members.~~

Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

Maine Land Use Planning Commission Z236

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for laptops and other technology items for 2 additional board members.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$6,850	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$6,850	\$0

Maine Land Use Planning Commission Z236

Initiative: Provides funding for associated administrative overhead for additional board members.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$9,960	\$9,960
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$9,960	\$9,960

Maine Land Use Planning Commission Z236

Initiative: Provides funding for per diem expenses of additional board members.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$990	\$990
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$990	\$990

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$17,800	\$10,950
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$17,800	\$10,950

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 535
H.P. 616 - L.D. 957**

An Act to Integrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander History into the Statewide System of Learning Results

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4706, as amended by PL 2023, c. 537, §§1 and 2, is further amended to read:

§4706. Instruction in American history, African American studies, Maine studies, Wabanaki studies and the history of genocide and Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history

Instruction in American history, African American studies, government, citizenship, Maine studies ~~and~~, the history of genocide and Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history must be aligned with the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements established under section 6209.

1. American history. American history, government and citizenship, including the United States Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the importance of voting and the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship, must be taught in and required for graduation from all elementary and secondary schools, both public and private. African American studies and Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history must be included in the review of content standards and performance indicators of the system of learning results conducted in accordance with section 6209, subsection 4.

2. Maine studies. Maine history, including the Constitution of Maine, Maine geography and environment and the natural, industrial and economic resources of Maine and Maine's cultural and ethnic heritage, must be taught. A required component of Maine studies is Wabanaki studies, and Wabanaki studies may be taught as a component of other content areas, as appropriate, including but not limited to the content areas of English language arts, mathematics, science and fine arts. Wabanaki studies, Maine Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history and Maine African American studies must be included in the review of content standards and performance indicators of the learning results conducted in accordance with section 6209, subsection 4. Wabanaki studies must address the following topics:

A. Wabanaki governments and political systems and their relationship with local, state, national and international governments;

B. Wabanaki cultural systems and the experience of tribal people throughout history;

C. Wabanaki territories; and

D. Wabanaki economic systems.

3. History of genocide. The history of genocide, including the Holocaust, must be included in the review of content standards and performance indicators of the system of learning results conducted in accordance with section 6209, subsection 4.

4. Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history. Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history instruction pursuant to subsections 1 and 2 must consider, but is not limited to:

A. The history of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the State, the region and the United States; and

B. The contributions of:

(1) Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders toward advancing civil rights from the 19th century to the present day;

(2) Individual Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in government, the arts, humanities and sciences; and

(3) Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities to the economic, cultural, social and political development of the United States.

As used in this section, "Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history" includes, but is not limited to, the history of Americans of East Asian, Southeast Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander descent.

Sec. 2. Resource development; advisory group; curriculum audit; report. The Department of Education is responsible for fulfilling the requirements of this section.

1. Development of resources. The department shall identify and make available to schools resources and materials for teaching Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history, including Maine Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4706, subsection 4.

2. Advisory group. The department shall, within 30 days after the effective date of this Act, convene a volunteer advisory group to collect information and prepare materials for the teaching of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history. The advisory group must include scholars of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history and cul-

ture; representatives from Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander civil rights organizations in the State; Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history and cultural organizations; the State Archivist; and members of the public with personal experience that would inform the collection of information and the preparation of materials under this section. The department shall include at least one member from the advisory group in any group or committee convened to review the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements for social studies pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209, subsection 4.

3. Guidance; best practices; exemplar modules. The department shall develop guidance, best practices and exemplar modules to support the integration of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history into the instruction of American history and Maine history.

4. Curriculum audit. The department shall develop a process that supports and enables a local school administrative unit to conduct an internal audit of its curriculum to ensure an equitable representation of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander voices and an accurate historical account of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history and culture.

5. Reporting. The department shall submit a report on the progress of the implementation of this Act to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs matters no later than April 1, 2030.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Innovative Teaching and Learning Z394

Initiative: Provides one-time funds for the cost of convening the advisory group to collect information and prepare materials for the teaching of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$15,000	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$15,000	\$0

Sec. 4. Effective date. That section of this Act that amends the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4706 takes effect July 1, 2029 or at the start of the next major substantive rule review initiated pursuant to Title 20-A, section 6209, subsection 4 following the general effective date of laws enacted during the First Special Session of the 132nd Legislature, whichever is sooner. The Commissioner of Education shall notify the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Revisor of Statutes of the date of the start of the next major substantive rule review initiated pursuant to Title 20-A, section

6209, subsection 4 following the general effective date of laws enacted during the First Special Session of the 132nd Legislature.

See title page for effective date, unless otherwise indicated.

**CHAPTER 536
S.P. 429 - L.D. 1012**

**An Act to Fund the Operations
of the University of Maine
Cooperative Extension Tick
Laboratory**

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA c. 421 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 421

**UNIVERSITY OF MAINE COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION TICK LABORATORY
OPERATIONS FUND**

§2481. Fund established

The University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory Operations Fund, referred to in this chapter as "the fund," is established. The fund consists of revenues received pursuant to Title 8, section 374, subsection 6 and any funds received as contributions from private and public sources. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Eligible investment earnings credited to the assets of the fund become part of the assets of the fund. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year must be carried forward to the next fiscal year. The fund is administered by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

§2482. Expenditures from fund; distribution

Funds in the fund must be distributed as provided under this section.

1. Funds received from State. All funds received from the State dedicated to the fund must be expended on the operations of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension tick laboratory or successor laboratory, including, but not limited to, supplies, educational materials development, salaries, equipment and travel.

2. Funds received from private or public sources. All funds received from private or public sources that were directed to the fund by the donating source must be spent on the operations of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension tick laboratory or successor laboratory, including, but not limited to, supplies, educational materials development, salaries, equipment and travel.

Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §374, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Tick laboratory lottery game. No later than July 1, 2026, the commission, in consultation with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, shall develop and initiate a tick laboratory instant lottery game designed to raise funds for the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory Operations Fund established in Title 7, section 2481. Tickets for the instant lottery game established under this subsection must be sold for \$4 and must be changed by the commission periodically throughout the year. The commission shall annually provide 20% of the net proceeds of the lottery game established in accordance with this subsection to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory Operations Fund and 80% to the General Fund.

Sec. 3. 8 MRSA §387, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 1995, c. 494, §5, is further amended to read:

C. For payment to the General Fund; ~~and~~

Sec. 4. 8 MRSA §387, sub-§1, ¶D, as amended by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. B, §18 and affected by c. 614, §9, is further amended to read:

D. For payment to the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund pursuant to Title 12, section 10302-; ~~and~~

Sec. 5. 8 MRSA §387, sub-§1, ¶E is enacted to read:

E. For payment to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory Operations Fund pursuant to Title 7, section 2481.

Sec. 6. Report. By December 15, 2028, the State Liquor and Lottery Commission shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over lottery matters detailing the status of the tick laboratory instant lottery game established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8, section 374, subsection 6, including revenues received by the General Fund and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory Operations Fund established in Title 7, section 2481. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over lottery matters may report out legislation related to the report to the 134th Legislature in 2029.

Sec. 7. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory Operations Fund N532

Initiative: Provides allocations to authorize expenditures of funds received from the tick laboratory lottery game.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$108,623
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$108,623

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 537 H.P. 745 - L.D. 1126

An Act Requiring Serial Numbers on Firearms and Prohibiting Undetectable Firearms

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

Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §1060 is enacted to read:

§1060. Undetectable firearms prohibited

1. Definition. As used in this section, "undetectable firearm" means a firearm that can operate while in a form that is not as detectable as a security exemplar, as defined in 18 United States Code, Section 922(p)(2)(C), and that is constructed of 3.7 ounces of material type 17-4 PH stainless steel in a shape resembling a handgun, as defined in 18 United States Code, Section 921(a)(30).

2. Undetectable firearms prohibited. A person may not:

A. Manufacture or cause to be manufactured within this State, import into this State or offer or expose for sale, sell or transfer an undetectable firearm; or

B. Intentionally or knowingly possess an undetectable firearm.

3. Violations. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A person who manufactures or causes to be manufactured within this State, who imports into this State or who offers or exposes for sale, sells or transfers an undetectable firearm commits a Class C crime.

B. A person who intentionally or knowingly possesses an undetectable firearm commits a Class D crime.

Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §2016, sub-§1, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 678, §1 and reallocated by RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. A, §40, is amended to read:

C. "Firearm" has the same meaning as in Title 17-A, section 2, subsection 12-A and also includes an unfinished frame or receiver as defined in section 2036, subsection 10.

Sec. 3. 25 MRSA §2016, sub-§4, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 678, §1 and reallocated by RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. A, §40, is amended to read:

B. The sale of a firearm to a firearm dealer; ~~or~~

Sec. 4. 25 MRSA §2016, sub-§4, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 678, §1 and reallocated by RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. A, §40, is amended by amending subparagraph (3) to read:

(3) A background check is not required under federal or state law; ~~or~~

Sec. 5. 25 MRSA §2016, sub-§4, ¶D is enacted to read:

D. The return of a firearm or frame or receiver, as defined in section 2036, subsection 8, to a person by a firearm dealer after the dealer has imprinted a serial number on the firearm or frame or receiver pursuant to federal law or section 2039 if the dealer returns the firearm or frame or receiver to the same person from whom the firearm or frame or receiver was received.

Sec. 6. 25 MRSA c. 253-A is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 253-A

FIREARMS WITHOUT SERIAL NUMBERS

§2036. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Computer numerical control milling machine. "Computer numerical control milling machine" means a manufacturing device that cuts or shapes material into a specified shape as directed by computer code.

2. Federal firearms licensee. "Federal firearms licensee" means a federally licensed firearms dealer, federally licensed firearms importer or federally licensed firearms manufacturer.

3. Federally licensed firearms dealer. "Federally licensed firearms dealer" has the same meaning as in Title 15, section 395, subsection 1, paragraph E.

4. Federally licensed firearms importer. "Federally licensed firearms importer" means a licensed importer as defined in 18 United States Code, Section 921(a)(9).

5. Federally licensed firearms manufacturer. "Federally licensed firearms manufacturer" means a licensed manufacturer as defined in 18 United States Code, Section 921(a)(10).

6. Firearm. "Firearm" has the same meaning as in Title 17-A, section 2, subsection 12-A and also includes an unfinished frame or receiver.

7. Fire control component. "Fire control component" means a component necessary for a firearm to initiate, complete or continue a firing sequence, including a hammer, bolt, bolt carrier, breechblock, cylinder, trigger mechanism, firing pin, striker or slide rails.

8. Frame or receiver. "Frame or receiver" means a part of a firearm that, when the complete firearm is assembled, provides housing or a structure designed to hold or integrate one or more fire control components, even if pins or other attachments are required to connect the fire control components. Any part of a firearm imprinted with a serial number is presumed to be a frame or receiver unless the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives makes an official determination otherwise or there is other reliable evidence to the contrary.

9. Three-dimensional printer. "Three-dimensional printer" means a computer-aided manufacturing device capable of producing a 3-dimensional object from a 3-dimensional digital model through an additive manufacturing process that involves the layering of cross sections formed of a resin or similar material that are fused together to form a 3-dimensional object.

10. Unfinished frame or receiver. "Unfinished frame or receiver" means any forging, casting, printing, extrusion, machined body or similar article that has reached a stage in manufacture when it may readily be completed, assembled or converted to be used as the frame or receiver of a functional firearm or that is marketed or sold to the public to become or be used as the frame or receiver of a functional firearm once completed, assembled or converted.

§2037. Prohibited conduct

1. Prohibited conduct. A person may not:

A. Intentionally or knowingly possess one or more unfinished frames or receivers unless each unfinished frame or receiver has been imprinted with a serial number by a federal firearms licensee pursuant to federal law or section 2039;

B. Intentionally or knowingly import into this State, transfer or offer to transfer an unfinished frame or receiver unless the unfinished frame or receiver has been imprinted with a serial number by a federal firearms licensee pursuant to federal law or section 2039;

C. Intentionally or knowingly purchase an unfinished frame or receiver imprinted with a serial number without undergoing a background check pursuant to 18 United States Code, Section 922(t) or Title 15, section 395;

D. Intentionally or knowingly possess one or more firearms or frames or receivers that are not each imprinted with a serial number by a federal firearms licensee pursuant to federal law or section 2039;

E. Intentionally or knowingly import into this State, transfer or offer to transfer a firearm or frame or receiver that is not imprinted with a serial number by a federal firearms licensee pursuant to federal law or section 2039; or

F. Intentionally or knowingly purchase a frame or receiver imprinted with a serial number without undergoing a background check pursuant to 18 United States Code, Section 922(t) or Title 15, section 395.

2. Exceptions. The following are exceptions to the provisions of subsection 1.

A. Subsection 1, paragraphs A and B do not apply to:

(1) A federal firearms licensee acting within the scope of the licensee's license;

(2) An unfinished frame or receiver possessed by or transferred to a law enforcement officer for legitimate law enforcement purposes;

(3) The transfer of an unfinished frame or receiver for the purpose of having the unfinished frame or receiver imprinted with a serial number pursuant to federal law or section 2039; or

(4) A person who:

(a) Is in possession of an unfinished frame or receiver that has been without a serial number for no more than 48 hours; and

(b) Has an appointment with a federal firearms licensee pursuant to section 2039, subsection 1, paragraph C to have the unfinished frame or receiver imprinted with a serial number.

B. Subsection 1, paragraphs D and E do not apply to:

(1) A federal firearms licensee acting within the scope of the licensee's license;

(2) A firearm or frame or receiver without a serial number possessed by or transferred to a law enforcement officer for legitimate law enforcement purposes;

(3) The transfer of a firearm or frame or receiver for the purpose of having the firearm or frame or receiver imprinted with a serial number pursuant to federal law or section 2039;

(4) A person who:

(a) Is in possession of a firearm or frame or receiver that has been without a serial number for no more than 48 hours; and

(b) Has an appointment with a federal firearms licensee pursuant to section

2039, subsection 1, paragraph C to have the firearm or frame or receiver imprinted with a serial number;

(5) An antique firearm as defined in Title 15, section 394, subsection 1, paragraph A;

(6) A curio or relic, as defined in 27 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 478.11, as in effect on November 19, 2019;

(7) A firearm that has been rendered permanently inoperable; or

(8) A firearm that was manufactured before 1968.

§2038. Violations

Beginning January 1, 2027, the following provisions apply to violations of this chapter.

1. Unlawful possession. A person who violates section 2037, subsection 1, paragraph A or D:

A. For a first offense, commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$50 may be adjudged;

B. For a 2nd offense, commits a Class D crime; and

C. For a 3rd or subsequent offense, commits a Class C crime.

2. Unlawful importation, transfer, offer to transfer or purchase. A person who violates section 2037, subsection 1, paragraph B, C, E or F:

A. For a first offense, commits a Class D crime; and

B. For a 2nd or subsequent offense, commits a Class C crime.

3. Unlawful use. A person who uses a firearm without a serial number while committing a Class A or Class B crime or while committing reckless conduct under Title 17-A, section 211 commits a Class C crime.

§2039. Serial number imprinted; federal firearms licensees

1. Federal firearms licensees. A federal firearms licensee:

A. May imprint a serial number on a firearm or frame or receiver without a serial number pursuant to this section;

B. May schedule an appointment with a person to imprint a serial number on a firearm or frame or receiver without a serial number pursuant to this section;

C. Who schedules an appointment with a person to imprint a serial number on a firearm or frame or receiver without a serial number pursuant to this

section shall, at the time the appointment is scheduled:

(1) Make a record of the appointment, which must be retained by the federal firearms licensee for no less than 30 days; and

(2) Provide the person with whom the appointment is scheduled with a physical or digital record confirming that appointment;

D. Who imprints a serial number on a firearm or frame or receiver pursuant to this section shall make and retain records of the imprinting that comply with the requirements under federal law for the sale of a firearm. In addition to any record required by federal law, the record must include the date of the imprinting; name, age and residence of any person to whom the firearm or frame or receiver is transferred; and the serial number imprinted on the firearm or frame or receiver; and

E. May not be deemed a firearms manufacturer solely for imprinting a serial number on a firearm or frame or receiver pursuant to this section.

2. Failure to make or retain records; violation.

A person who violates subsection 1, paragraph D:

A. For a first offense, commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$250 may be adjudged;

B. For a 2nd offense, commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$500 may be adjudged; and

C. For a 3rd or subsequent offense, commits a Class E crime.

3. Serial number imprinted. A serial number imprinted pursuant to this section must begin with the federal firearms licensee's abbreviated federal firearms license number, which is the first 3 and last 5 digits of the license number, and must be followed by a hyphen and then by a unique identification number. The serial number may not be duplicated on any other firearm or frame or receiver imprinted by the federal licensee and must be imprinted in a manner that complies with the requirements under 27 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 478.92 for imprinting serial numbers on firearms, including that the serial number be at the minimum size and depth and not susceptible to being readily obliterated, altered or removed.

4. Returning firearm or frame or receiver imprinted with serial number. Returning a firearm or frame or receiver to a person after the firearm or frame or receiver has been imprinted with a serial number pursuant to federal law or this section constitutes a transfer that requires a background check of the transferee. A federal firearms licensee that imprints a serial number on a firearm or frame or receiver pursuant to this section

shall conduct a background check on the transferee pursuant to 18 United States Code, Section 922(t) or Title 15, section 395. If the transfer is denied pursuant to the background check, the federal firearms licensee shall deliver the firearm or frame or receiver to a law enforcement agency for disposition. The law enforcement agency shall provide the federal firearms licensee with a receipt on agency letterhead for the firearm or frame or receiver.

5. Manufacturers of frames or receivers. A person who manufactures a frame or receiver, including by a 3-dimensional printer or computer numerical control milling machine, shall cause the frame or receiver to be imprinted with a serial number by a federal firearms licensee pursuant to federal law and this section.

6. Exceptions for manufacturers of frames or receivers. Subsection 4 does not apply to:

A. A federally licensed firearms manufacturer acting within the scope of the manufacturer's license;

B. The transfer of a frame or receiver for the purpose of having the frame or receiver imprinted with a serial number pursuant to federal law or this section; or

C. A person who:

(1) Is in possession of a frame or receiver that has been without a serial number for no more than 48 hours; and

(2) Has an appointment with a federal firearms licensee to have the frame or receiver imprinted with a serial number pursuant to section 2039, subsection 1, paragraph C.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 538

H.P. 769 - L.D. 1164

An Act to Create Economic Opportunity for the Wabanaki Nations Through Internet Gaming

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

Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §1205, sub-§1, ¶E, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 681, Pt. J, §6, is amended by amending subparagraph (3) to read:

(3) Has engaged in conduct in this State or any other jurisdiction that would constitute a violation of this chapter; chapter 11 involving gambling; chapter 31; chapter 33; chapter 39; Title 17, chapter 13-A or 62; Title 17-A, chapter 39; or substantially similar offenses in other jurisdictions;

Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §1210, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 681, Pt. J, §6, is amended to read:

1. License required. A person may not be employed by an operator to be engaged directly in sports wagering-related activities or otherwise to conduct or operate sports wagering without a valid occupational license issued by the director under this section. The director shall issue an occupational license to a person who meets the requirements of this section, section 1204 and section 1205. The director shall by rule establish a process for issuance of occupational licenses that is, as far as possible, identical to the process for occupational licenses issued under section 1409 and for licensing employees of a casino under section 1015.

Sec. 3. 8 MRSA §1210, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 681, Pt. J, §6, is amended to read:

5. Exception. An individual who is actively licensed under section 1015 as an employee of a casino that has a facility sports wagering license or who is actively licensed under section 1409 as an employee of an Internet gaming operator may obtain or renew a license under this section without paying an initial license fee or a renewal license fee under this section.

Sec. 4. 8 MRSA c. 39 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 39

REGULATION OF INTERNET GAMING

§1401. Authorization of Internet gaming; license required

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the operation of Internet gaming and ancillary activities are lawful when conducted in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter.

A person or entity may not engage in any activities in this State that require a license under this chapter unless all necessary licenses have been obtained in accordance with this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter.

§1402. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts. "Adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts" means an operator's gross receipts from Internet gaming less the total of all winnings paid to patrons, which includes the cash equivalent of any merchandise or thing of value awarded as a prize, and less excise tax payments remitted to the Federal Government.

2. Commissioner. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Safety.

3. Department. "Department" means the Department of Public Safety.

4. Director. "Director" means the director of the Gambling Control Unit within the department.

5. Internet gaming. "Internet gaming" means a card game, dice game or other game of chance approved by the director, including but not limited to blackjack, poker, dice, craps, roulette or baccarat, offered through an approved mobile application or other digital platform that involves, at least in part, the use of the Internet. "Internet gaming" does not include a table game or slot machine under chapter 31; the sale of pari-mutuel pools authorized under chapter 11; the operation of fantasy contests as defined in section 1101, subsection 4; mobile sports wagering under chapter 35; or advance deposit wagering as defined in section 1001, subsection 1-A. Internet gaming is not a game of chance under Title 17, section 1831, subsection 5.

6. License. "License" means any license applied for or issued by the director under this chapter, including but not limited to:

A. An Internet gaming license under section 1406 to permit an operator to operate Internet gaming through an approved mobile application or other digital platform that involves, at least in part, the use of the Internet;

B. A supplier license under section 1407 to sell goods and services to be used in connection with Internet gaming, but not to directly accept wagers;

C. A management services license under section 1408 to manage Internet gaming on behalf of an Internet gaming licensee; and

D. An occupational license under section 1409 to be employed by an Internet gaming licensee to operate Internet gaming when the employee performs duties in furtherance of or associated with the operation of Internet gaming.

7. Operator. "Operator" means a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in this State that conducts Internet gaming.

8. Person. "Person" means an individual or an entity, including but not limited to a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in this State.

9. Wager. "Wager" means a sum of money or thing of value risked on an uncertain occurrence.

§1403. Powers and duties of director

1. Powers and duties. In administering and enforcing this chapter, the director:

A. Has the power to regulate the conduct of Internet gaming;

B. Shall determine the eligibility of a person to hold or continue to hold a license, shall issue all

licenses and shall maintain a record of all licenses issued under this chapter;

C. Shall levy and collect all fees, civil penalties and tax on adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts imposed by this chapter, except as otherwise provided under this chapter;

D. May sue to enforce any provision of this chapter or any rule of the director by civil action or petition for injunctive relief;

E. May hold hearings, administer oaths and issue subpoenas or subpoenas duces tecum in the manner provided by applicable law; and

F. May exercise any other powers necessary to effectuate the provisions of this chapter and the rules of the director.

2. Rules. The director shall adopt rules governing the conduct of Internet gaming in the State, which must, at a minimum, include the following:

A. The methods of operation of Internet gaming, including but not limited to the permitted systems and methods of wagers; the use of credit and checks by persons making wagers; the types of wagering receipts that may be used; the method of issuing receipts; the protection of patrons placing wagers; and the promotion of social responsibility and responsible gaming and display of information on resources for problem gambling;

B. Standards for the adoption of comprehensive house rules governing Internet gaming by operators and the approval of house rules by the director as required under section 1410;

C. Minimum design and security requirements for applications and digital platforms for the acceptance of wagers by operators, including required methods for verifying the age and identity of a person who places a wager with an operator, for verifying that the person making the wager is physically located in the State and is not prohibited from making a wager under section 1412 and for requiring the refund of any wager determined to have been placed by a person prohibited from making a wager under section 1412;

D. The types of interested parties from whom operators are prohibited from accepting wagers under section 1412, subsection 3;

E. Minimum design, security, testing and approval requirements for Internet gaming equipment, systems or services sold by suppliers licensed under section 1407;

F. Minimum requirements for a contract between a management services licensee under section 1408 and an operator on whose behalf the management services licensee conducts Internet gaming, including but not limited to requirements that the person

providing management services be licensed prior to entering a contract; that the contract be approved by the director prior to the conduct of Internet gaming; that, if the management services licensee contracts with more than one operator, the contract include a condition requiring the management services licensee to employ a method approved by the director for separately accounting for each operator's gross receipts from Internet gaming and adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts; and that the contract not authorize the person providing management services to receive more than 30% of the operator's adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts, except that the director may approve a contract authorizing the management services licensee to receive up to 40% of the operator's adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts if the director determines that the management services licensee has demonstrated that the fee is commercially reasonable given the management services licensee's capital investments and the operator's projected adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts;

G. Provisions allowing individuals to restrict themselves from Internet gaming upon request by placing themselves on the list pursuant to section 1003, subsection 3, paragraph I. The rules adopted under this paragraph must define the standards for involuntary placement on the list and for removal from the list;

H. Minimum internal control standards for operators and management services licensees, including but not limited to procedures for safeguarding assets and revenues; the recording of cash and evidence of indebtedness; the maintenance of reliable records, accounts and reports of transactions, operations and events; required audits; and the content and frequency of reports of Internet gaming activities and revenues that must be made to the director; and

I. Restrictions on the advertisement and marketing of Internet gaming, including but not limited to prohibiting misleading, deceptive or false advertisements; requiring an operator to disclose its status as a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in this State or a business entity wholly owned by a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in this State; and restricting, to the extent permissible, advertising that has a high probability of reaching persons under 21 years of age or that is specifically designed to appeal particularly to persons under 21 years of age.

3. Rulemaking. Rules adopted by the director pursuant to this chapter are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

§1404. Application; criminal history record check

1. Application. An application for a license or for renewal of a license required under this chapter must be submitted on a form or in a format approved by the director. An application submitted to the director must, at a minimum, include the following:

A. The full name, current address and contact information of the applicant;

B. Disclosure of each person that has control of the applicant as described in subsection 2;

C. Consent to permit the director to conduct a criminal history record check in accordance with subsection 3 of the applicant and each person disclosed under paragraph B in accordance with procedures established by the director;

D. For the applicant and each person disclosed under paragraph B, a record of previous issuances and denials of or any adverse action taken against a gambling-related license or application under this Title or in any other jurisdiction. For purposes of this paragraph, "adverse action" includes, but is not limited to, a condition resulting from an administrative, civil or criminal violation, a suspension or revocation of a license or a voluntary surrender of a license to avoid or resolve a civil, criminal or disciplinary action; and

E. Any additional information required by the director by rule.

2. Persons that have control. The following persons are considered to have control of an applicant or a licensee:

A. Each corporate holding company, parent company or subsidiary company of a corporate applicant or licensee and each person that owns 10% or more of the corporate applicant or licensee and that has the ability to control the activities of the corporate applicant or licensee or elect a majority of the board of directors of that corporate applicant or licensee, except for a bank or other licensed lending institution that holds a mortgage or other lien acquired in the ordinary course of business;

B. Each person associated with a noncorporate applicant or licensee that directly or indirectly holds a beneficial or proprietary interest in the noncorporate applicant's or licensee's business operation or that the director otherwise determines has the ability to control the noncorporate applicant or licensee; and

C. Key personnel of an applicant or licensee, including any executive, employee or agent, having the power to exercise significant influence over decisions concerning any part of the applicant's or licensee's relevant business operation.

3. Criminal history record check. The director shall request a criminal history record check in accordance with this subsection for each applicant for initial licensure and each person required to be disclosed by the applicant for initial licensure under subsection 1, paragraph B. The director may require a criminal history record check in accordance with this subsection from a licensee seeking to renew a license, from any person the licensee is required to disclose under subsection 1, paragraph B as part of the license renewal application and from any person identified by the licensee under subsection 4. A criminal history record check conducted pursuant to this subsection must include criminal history record information obtained from the Maine Criminal Justice Information System established in Title 16, section 631 and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

A. Criminal history record information obtained from the Maine Criminal Justice Information System pursuant to this subsection must include a record of public criminal history record information as defined in Title 16, section 703, subsection 8.

B. Criminal history record information obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation pursuant to this subsection must include other state and national criminal history record information.

C. An individual required to submit to a criminal history record check under this subsection shall submit to having the individual's fingerprints taken. The State Police, upon payment by the individual of the fee required under paragraph E, shall take or cause to be taken the individual's fingerprints and shall immediately forward the fingerprints to the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police, State Bureau of Identification. Any person who fails to transmit criminal fingerprint records to the State Bureau of Identification pursuant to this paragraph is subject to the provisions of Title 25, section 1550.

D. The Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police, State Bureau of Identification shall conduct the state and national criminal history record checks required under this subsection. Except for the portion of a payment, if any, that constitutes the processing fee for a criminal history record check charged by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, all money received by the State Police under this subsection must be paid to the Treasurer of State, who shall apply the money to the expenses incurred by the Department of Public Safety in the administration of this subsection.

E. The director shall by rule set the amount of the fee to be paid for each criminal history record check required to be performed under this subsection.

F. The subject of a Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history record check may obtain a copy of the criminal history record check by following the procedures outlined in 28 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 16.32 and 16.33. The subject of a state criminal history record check may inspect and review the criminal history record information pursuant to Title 16, section 709.

G. State and national criminal history record information obtained by the director under this subsection may be used only for the purpose of screening an applicant for a license or a license renewal under this chapter.

H. All criminal history record information obtained by the director pursuant to this subsection is confidential, is for the official use of the director only and may not be disseminated by the director or disclosed to any other person or entity except as provided in paragraph F.

I. The director, after consultation with the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police, State Bureau of Identification, shall adopt rules to implement this subsection.

4. Material change to application. A person licensed under this chapter shall give the director written notice within 30 days of any material change to any information provided in the licensee's application for a license or renewal, including any change in the identity of persons considered to have control of the licensee as described in subsection 2.

5. Gambling Control Unit employees prohibited. An employee of the Gambling Control Unit within the department may not be an applicant for a license issued under this chapter.

§1405. Denial of license; administrative sanctions

1. Grounds for denial of license or imposition of administrative sanctions. The following are grounds for the director to deny a license or license renewal or for the imposition of administrative sanctions, in accordance with this section, on a person licensed under this chapter:

A. If the applicant or licensee has knowingly made a false statement of material fact to the director;

B. If the applicant or licensee has not disclosed the existence or identity of other persons that have control of the applicant or licensee as required by section 1404, subsections 1 and 4;

C. If the applicant or licensee has had a license revoked by any government authority responsible for regulation of gaming activities;

D. If the applicant, the licensee or a person having control of the applicant or licensee under section 1404, subsection 2 is not of good moral character. In determining whether the applicant, licensee or

person is of good moral character, the director shall consider qualities that include but are not limited to honesty, candor, trustworthiness, diligence, reliability, observance of fiduciary and financial responsibility and respect for the rights of others;

E. If the applicant, the licensee or a person having control of the applicant or licensee under section 1404, subsection 2:

(1) Has, in any jurisdiction, been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to a crime punishable by one year or more of imprisonment;

(2) Has, in any jurisdiction, been adjudicated of committing a civil violation or been convicted of a criminal violation involving dishonesty, deception, misappropriation or fraud;

(3) Has engaged in conduct in this State or any other jurisdiction that would constitute a violation of this chapter; chapter 11 involving gambling; chapter 31; chapter 33; chapter 35; Title 17, chapter 13-A or 62; Title 17-A, chapter 39; or substantially similar offenses in other jurisdictions;

(4) Is a fugitive from justice, a drug user, a person with substance use disorder, an undocumented noncitizen or a person who was dishonorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States; or

(5) Is not current in filing all applicable tax returns and in the payment of all taxes, penalties and interest owed to this State, any other state or the United States Internal Revenue Service, excluding items under formal appeal;

F. If the applicant or licensee has not demonstrated to the satisfaction of the director sufficient financial assets to meet the requirements of the licensed business or proposed business and to meet any financial obligations imposed by this chapter;

G. If the applicant, the licensee or a person having control of the applicant or licensee under section 1404, subsection 2 has not demonstrated financial responsibility. For the purposes of this paragraph, "financial responsibility" means a demonstration of a current and expected future condition of financial solvency sufficient to satisfy the director that the applicant, the licensee or the person can successfully engage in business without jeopardy to the public health, safety and welfare. Financial responsibility may be determined by an evaluation of the total history concerning the applicant, the licensee or the person, including past, present and expected condition and record of financial solvency, business record and accounting and managerial practices;

H. If the applicant or licensee has not met the requirements of this chapter; or

I. If the applicant or licensee has violated any provision of this chapter or of the rules adopted under this chapter.

2. Denial of initial license or renewed license; notice; hearing. The director may deny an application for a license or for renewal of a license for the reasons set forth in subsection 1. The director shall notify the applicant or the licensee in writing of the decision and of the opportunity to request a hearing conducted by the commissioner.

If the applicant or licensee fails to request a hearing within 30 days of the date that the notice was mailed under this subsection, the director may issue a final decision denying the application for a license or for renewal of a license. If the applicant or licensee makes a timely request for a hearing, the commissioner shall conduct an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 4. The director's decision to deny the license or license renewal stands until the commissioner issues a decision to uphold, modify or overrule the director's decision.

After hearing, if the commissioner finds grounds for denying a license or license renewal under subsection 1, the commissioner may deny the application for a license or for renewal of a license.

3. Investigation of complaints; notice; hearing. The director or the director's designee shall investigate a complaint on the director's own motion or upon receipt of a written complaint regarding noncompliance with or violation of this chapter or of any rules adopted under this chapter. Following the investigation, the director may mail the licensee a notice of violation informing the licensee of the administrative sanction under subsection 4 the director proposes to impose and of the licensee's opportunity to request a hearing.

If the licensee fails to request a hearing within 30 days of the date that a notice was mailed under this subsection, the director may issue a final decision imposing the sanction proposed in the notice. If the licensee makes a timely request for a hearing, the commissioner shall conduct an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 4. If, after the hearing, the commissioner finds that the factual basis of the complaint is true and is of sufficient gravity to warrant further action, the commissioner may impose an administrative sanction under subsection 4.

4. Administrative sanctions. The director or the commissioner may, pursuant to subsection 3, impose the following administrative sanctions on a licensee:

A. A written reprimand;

B. Conditions of probation of a license;

C. A license suspension;

D. A license revocation; or

E. A civil penalty of up to \$25,000 per violation of any provision of this chapter or rule adopted pursuant to this chapter.

5. Appeals. A person aggrieved by the final decision of the commissioner under subsection 2 or 3 may appeal the commissioner's decision to the Superior Court in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 7.

§1406. Internet gaming license

1. Issuance of license. The director shall issue an Internet gaming license upon finding that the applicant meets all requirements of this section, sections 1404 and 1405 and rules adopted under this chapter. The provisions of Title 30, Part 5 apply to the issuance of licenses under this chapter. The director shall by rule establish a process for issuance of an Internet gaming license under this chapter that is, to the extent practicable, identical to the process for a mobile sports wagering license under section 1207.

2. Eligibility; transfer to wholly owned entity. To be eligible to receive an Internet gaming license, an applicant must be a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in this State. Each federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in this State may receive only one Internet gaming license under this section. An Internet gaming license may not be transferred or assigned, except that a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in this State may transfer its Internet gaming license to a business entity with a principal place of business in the State that is wholly owned by that federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band.

3. Authority to conduct Internet gaming; management services permitted. An Internet gaming license granted by the director pursuant to this section grants a licensee lawful authority to conduct Internet gaming in which wagers are placed by persons who are physically located in the State through any applications or digital platforms approved by the director within the terms and conditions of the license and any rules adopted under this chapter. An Internet gaming licensee may contract with no more than one management services licensee under section 1408.

4. Fees. The fee for an initial or renewed Internet gaming license is \$50,000 and must be retained by the director for the costs of administering this chapter. In addition to the license fee, the director may charge a processing fee for an initial or renewed license in an amount equal to the projected cost of processing the application and performing any background investigations. If the actual cost exceeds the projected cost, an additional fee may be charged to meet the actual cost. If the projected cost exceeds the actual cost, the difference may be refunded to the applicant or licensee.

5. Term of license. Except as provided in subsection 6, a license granted or renewed under this section is valid for one year unless sooner revoked by the director or the commissioner under section 1405.

6. Temporary license. An applicant for an Internet gaming license may submit with the application a request for a temporary license. A request for a temporary license must include the initial license fee under subsection 4. If the director determines that the applicant meets the requirements established by rule for a temporary license and has paid the initial license fee and the director is not aware of any reason the applicant is ineligible for a license under this section, the director may issue a temporary Internet gaming license. A temporary license issued under this subsection is valid for the length of the term of the license under subsection 5 or until a final determination on the Internet gaming license application is made, whichever is sooner. If after investigation the director determines that the applicant is eligible for an Internet gaming license under this chapter, the director shall issue the initial Internet gaming license, at which time the temporary license terminates. The initial Internet gaming license is valid for one year from the date that the temporary license was issued by the director. Internet gaming conducted under authority of a temporary license must comply with the operator's house rules adopted under section 1410.

7. Occupational license required. An Internet gaming licensee, including a temporary licensee under subsection 6, may conduct Internet gaming only through persons holding a valid occupational license under section 1409.

§1407. Supplier license

1. Issuance of license; eligibility. The director shall issue a supplier license upon finding that the applicant meets all requirements of this section, sections 1404 and 1405 and rules adopted under this chapter. The director shall by rule establish a process for issuance of a supplier license under this chapter that is, to the extent practicable, identical to the process for a supplier license under section 1208.

2. Equipment. An applicant for a supplier license shall demonstrate that the equipment, systems or services that the applicant plans to offer to an operator conform to standards established by rule by the director. The director may accept approval by another jurisdiction that is specifically determined by the director to have similar equipment standards as evidence the applicant meets the standards established by the director by rule.

3. Authority to supply operators. A supplier license granted by the director pursuant to this section grants a licensee lawful authority to sell or to lease Internet gaming equipment, systems or services to operators in the State within the terms and conditions of the license and any rules adopted under this chapter.

4. Fees. The fee for an initial or renewed supplier license is \$10,000 and must be retained by the director for the costs of administering this chapter. In addition to the license fee, the director may charge a processing fee for an initial or renewed license in an amount equal to the projected cost of processing the application and performing any background investigations. If the actual cost exceeds the projected cost, an additional fee may be charged to meet the actual cost. If the projected cost exceeds the actual cost, the difference may be refunded to the applicant or licensee.

5. Term of license. Except as provided in subsection 6, a license granted or renewed under this section is valid for one year unless sooner revoked by the director or the commissioner under section 1405.

6. Temporary license. An applicant for a supplier license may submit with the application a request for a temporary license. A request for a temporary license must include the initial license fee under subsection 4. If the director determines that the applicant is qualified under subsection 1, meets the requirements established by rule for a temporary license and has paid the initial license fee and the director is not aware of any reason the applicant is ineligible for a license under this section, the director may issue a temporary supplier license. A temporary license issued under this subsection is valid for the length of the term of the license under subsection 5 or until a final determination on the supplier license application is made, whichever is sooner. If after investigation the director determines that the applicant is eligible for a supplier license under this chapter, the director shall issue the initial supplier license, at which time the temporary license terminates. The initial supplier license is valid for one year from the date that the temporary license was issued by the director.

7. Inventory. A supplier licensee shall submit to the director a list of all Internet gaming equipment, systems and services sold or leased to, delivered to or offered to an operator in this State as required by the director, all of which must be tested and approved by an independent testing laboratory approved by the director. An operator may continue to use supplies acquired from a licensed supplier if the supplier's license subsequently expires or is otherwise revoked, unless the director finds a defect in the supplies.

§1408. Management services license

1. Issuance of license; eligibility. The director shall issue a management services license upon finding that the applicant meets all requirements of this section, sections 1404 and 1405 and rules adopted under this chapter and that the applicant has sufficient knowledge and experience in the business of operating Internet gaming to effectively conduct Internet gaming in accordance with this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter. The director shall by rule establish a process for issuance of a management services license un-

der this chapter that is, to the extent practicable, identical to the process for a management services license under section 1209.

2. Authority to enter contract with operator. A management services licensee may contract with an operator to manage Internet gaming operations on behalf of the operator in accordance with rules adopted under this chapter.

3. Contract approval; material change in written contract. A person may not contract with an operator to conduct Internet gaming on behalf of the operator unless the person is licensed under this section and the director approves the written contract. A management services licensee shall submit to the director any proposed material change to the written contract that has been approved by the director under this subsection. A management services licensee may not transfer, assign, delegate or subcontract any portion of the management services licensee's responsibilities under the contract or any portion of the management services licensee's right to compensation under the contract to any other person who does not hold a management services license.

4. Fees. The fee for an initial or renewed management services license is \$10,000 and must be retained by the director for the costs of administering this chapter. In addition to the license fee, the director may charge a processing fee for an initial or renewed license in an amount equal to the projected cost of processing the application and performing any background investigations. If the actual cost exceeds the projected cost, an additional fee may be charged to meet the actual cost. If the projected cost exceeds the actual cost, the difference may be refunded to the applicant or licensee.

5. Term of license. Except as provided in subsection 6, a license granted or renewed under this section is valid for one year unless sooner revoked by the director or the commissioner under section 1405.

6. Temporary license. An applicant for a management services license may submit with the application a request for a temporary license. A request for a temporary license must include the initial license fee under subsection 4. If the director determines that the applicant is qualified under subsection 1, meets the requirements established by rule for a temporary license and has paid the initial license fee and the director is not aware of any reason the applicant is ineligible for a license under this section, the director may issue a temporary management services license. A temporary license issued under this subsection is valid for the length of the term of the license under subsection 5 or until a final determination on the management services license application is made, whichever is sooner. If after investigation the director determines that the applicant is eligible for a management services license under this chapter, the director shall issue the initial management services license, at which time the temporary license

terminates. The initial management services license is valid for one year from the date that the temporary license was issued by the director.

§1409. Occupational license

1. License required. A person may not be employed by an operator to be engaged directly in Internet gaming-related activities or otherwise to conduct or operate Internet gaming without a valid occupational license issued by the director under this section. The director shall issue an occupational license to a person who meets the requirements of this section, section 1404 and section 1405. The director shall by rule establish a process for issuance of occupational licenses that is, to the extent practicable, identical to the process for occupational licenses issued under section 1210 and for licensing employees of a casino under section 1015.

2. Authority to be employed in Internet gaming. An occupational license authorizes the licensee to be employed by an operator in the capacity designated by the director while the license is active. The director may establish, by rule, job classifications with different requirements to recognize the extent to which a particular job has the ability to affect the proper operation of Internet gaming.

3. Application and fee. Except as provided in subsection 5, an applicant shall submit any required application forms established by the director and pay a nonrefundable application fee of \$250. The fee may be paid on behalf of an applicant by the operator. Fees paid under this subsection must be retained by the director for the costs of administering this chapter.

4. Renewal fee and form. An occupational licensee must pay a fee of \$25 to renew the license for a one-year term or a fee of \$50 to renew the license for a 3-year term. The fee may be paid on behalf of the occupational licensee by the operator. In addition to a renewal fee, an occupational licensee must annually submit a renewal application on a form or in a format approved by the director. Fees paid under this subsection must be retained by the director for the costs of administering this chapter.

5. Exception. An individual who is actively licensed under section 1015 as an employee of a casino that has a facility sports wagering license or who is actively licensed under section 1210 as an employee of a facility sports wagering licensee or mobile sports wagering licensee may obtain or renew a license under this section without paying an initial license fee or a renewal license fee under this section.

§1410. Internet gaming house rules

1. Adoption of house rules. An operator shall adopt comprehensive house rules for game play governing Internet gaming transactions with its patrons. House rules must be approved by the director prior to

implementation and meet the minimum standards established by the director by rule, including but not limited to requiring that the house rules specify the amounts to be paid on winning wagers, the circumstances under which the operator will void a wager and treatment of errors, late wagers and related contingencies.

2. Advertisement of house rules. The house rules, together with any other information the director determines to be appropriate, must be advertised as required by the director by rule and must be made readily available to patrons.

§1411. Access to premises and equipment

A licensee under this chapter shall permit the director, the department or a designee of the director unrestricted access, during regular business hours, including access to locked or secured areas, to inspect any facility and any equipment, prizes, records or other items to be used in the operation of Internet gaming.

§1412. Persons prohibited from making wagers

An operator and a management services licensee conducting Internet gaming on behalf of an operator may not accept a wager from the following persons:

1. Persons under 21 years of age. A person who has not attained 21 years of age;

2. Operators and employees. An operator or management services licensee; directors, officers and employees of an operator or management services licensee; or a relative living in the same household as any of these persons. This subsection does not prohibit a relative living in the same household as a director, officer or employee of an operator or management services licensee from making a wager with an unaffiliated operator or management services licensee;

3. Interested parties. A person with an interest in the outcome of the Internet gaming event identified by the director by rule;

4. Unauthorized persons. A person on a list established by rule by the director under section 1403, subsection 2, paragraph G of persons who are not authorized to make wagers;

5. Third parties. A person making a wager on behalf of or as the agent or custodian of another person; and

6. Regulatory staff. An employee of the Gambling Control Unit within the department.

§1413. Abnormal wagering activity

1. Duty to report. An operator shall, as soon as practicable, report to the director any information relating to abnormal wagering activity or patterns that may indicate a concern with the integrity of the Internet gaming event.

2. Cooperation efforts. An operator shall use commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with investigations conducted by law enforcement agencies, including but not limited to using commercially reasonable efforts to provide or facilitate the provision of wagering information.

3. Information confidentiality. The director and operators shall maintain the confidentiality of information provided by entities involved in the Internet gaming event for purposes of investigating or preventing the conduct described in this section, unless disclosure is otherwise required by the director or by law or unless the entity consents to disclosure.

4. Information use and disclosure. With respect to any information provided by an operator to an entity involved in the Internet gaming event relating to conduct described in this section, the entity:

A. May use such information only for integrity-monitoring purposes and may not use the information for any commercial or other purpose; and

B. Shall maintain the confidentiality of the information, unless disclosure is otherwise required by the director or by law or unless the operator consents to disclosure, except that the entity may make disclosures necessary to conduct and resolve integrity-related investigations and may publicly disclose such information if necessary to maintain the actual or perceived integrity of the Internet gaming event. Prior to any public disclosure that would identify the operator by name, the entity shall provide that operator with notice of the disclosure and an opportunity to object to the disclosure.

§1414. Security, maintenance and sharing of wagering records

1. Records maintenance. An operator shall maintain for 3 years after an Internet gaming event occurs at least the following records of all wagers placed with respect to that Internet gaming event:

A. Personally identifiable information of each person placing a wager;

B. The amount and type of each wager;

C. The time each wager was placed;

D. The location of each wager, including the Internet protocol address if applicable;

E. The outcome of each wager; and

F. Instances of abnormal wagering activity.

An operator shall make the records required to be maintained under this subsection available for inspection upon request of the director or as required by court order.

2. Anonymized information. An operator shall use commercially reasonable efforts to maintain, in real time and at the account level, anonymized information regarding a person who places a wager; the amount and type of the wager; the time the wager was placed; the location of the wager, including the Internet protocol address if applicable; the outcome of the wager; and records of abnormal wagering activity. The director may request that information in the form and manner required by rule. Nothing in this subsection requires an operator to provide any information that is prohibited by federal or state law, including without limitation laws and rules relating to privacy and personally identifiable information.

3. Records monitoring. If an entity involved in the Internet gaming event has notified the director that access to the information described in subsection 2 for wagers placed on Internet gaming events of that entity is necessary to monitor the integrity of that Internet gaming event, and the entity represents to the director that it specifically uses that data for the purpose of monitoring the integrity of the Internet gaming event, an operator shall share, in a commercially reasonable frequency, form and manner, with the entity or its designee the same information the operator is required to maintain under subsection 2 with respect to the Internet gaming event. An entity and its designee may use information received under this subsection only for integrity-monitoring purposes and may not use information received under this subsection for any commercial or other purpose. Nothing in this subsection requires an operator to provide any information if prohibited by federal or state law, including without limitation laws and rules relating to privacy and personally identifiable information.

4. Security. An operator shall use commercially reasonable methods to maintain the security of wagering data, customer data and other confidential information from unauthorized access and dissemination. Nothing in this chapter precludes the use of Internet-based or so-called cloud-based hosting of that data and information or disclosure as required by law.

§1415. Interception of Internet gaming winnings to pay child support debt

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Child support debt" means child support debt that has been liquidated by judicial or administrative action.

B. "Department" means the Department of Health and Human Services.

C. "Licensee" means an operator or a management services licensee under section 1408.

D. "Registry operator" means the department or an entity with which the department enters into a contract to maintain the registry pursuant to subsection 3.

E. "Winner" means an Internet gaming patron to whom cash is returned as winnings for placement of a wager.

2. Interception. A licensee shall intercept Internet gaming winnings to pay child support debt in accordance with this section.

3. Registry. The department shall create and maintain, or shall contract with a private entity to create and maintain, a secure, electronically accessible registry containing information regarding individuals with outstanding child support debt. The department shall regularly enter into the registry information including:

A. The name and social security number of each individual with outstanding child support debt;

B. The account number or identifier assigned by the department to the outstanding child support debt;

C. The amount of the outstanding child support debt; and

D. Any other information necessary to effectuate the purposes of this section.

4. Electronic access to information; procedures. A licensee shall electronically access the registry in accordance with this subsection.

A. Before making a payout of winnings of an amount equal to or greater than the amount for which the licensee is required to file a Form W-2G or substantially equivalent form with the United States Internal Revenue Service, the licensee shall obtain the name, address, date of birth and social security number of the winner and shall electronically submit this information to the registry operator.

B. Upon receipt of information pursuant to paragraph A, the registry operator shall electronically inform the licensee whether the winner is listed in the registry. If the winner is listed in the registry, the registry operator shall inform the licensee of the amount of the winner's outstanding child support debt and the account number or identifier assigned to the outstanding child support debt and shall provide the licensee with a notice of withholding that informs the winner of the right to an administrative hearing.

C. If the registry operator informs the licensee that the winner is not listed in the registry or if the licensee is unable to obtain information from the registry operator on a real-time basis after attempting in good faith to do so, the licensee may make payment to the winner.

D. If the registry operator informs the licensee that the winner is listed in the registry, the licensee may not make payment to the winner unless the amount of the payout exceeds the amount of outstanding child support debt, in which case the licensee may make payment to the winner of the amount of winnings that is in excess of the amount of the winner's outstanding child support debt.

5. Lien against winnings. If the registry operator informs a licensee pursuant to this section that a winner is listed in the registry, the department has a valid lien upon and claim of lien against the winnings in the amount of the winner's outstanding child support debt.

6. Withholding of winnings. The licensee shall withhold from any winnings an amount equal to the amount of the lien created under subsection 5 and shall provide a notice of withholding to the winner. Within 7 days after withholding an amount pursuant to this subsection, the licensee shall transmit the amount withheld to the department together with a report of the name, address and social security number of the winner, the account number or identifier assigned to the debt, the amount withheld, the date of withholding and the name and location of the licensee.

7. Licensee costs. Notwithstanding subsection 6, the licensee may retain \$10 from an amount withheld pursuant to this section to cover the cost of the licensee's compliance with this section.

8. Administrative hearing. A winner from whom an amount was withheld pursuant to this section has the right, within 15 days of receipt of the notice of withholding, to request from the department an administrative hearing. The hearing is limited to questions of whether the debt is liquidated and whether any post-liquidation events have affected the winner's liability. The administrative hearing decision constitutes final agency action.

9. Authorization to provide information. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the licensee may provide to the department or registry operator any information necessary to effectuate the intent of this section. The department or registry operator may provide to the licensee any information necessary to effectuate the intent of this section.

10. Confidentiality of information. The information obtained by the department or registry operator from a licensee pursuant to this section and the information obtained by the licensee from the department or registry operator pursuant to this section are confidential and may be used only for the purposes set forth in this section. An employee or prior employee of the department, the registry operator or a licensee who knowingly or intentionally discloses any such information commits a civil violation for which a fine not to exceed \$1,000 may be adjudged.

11. Effect of compliance; noncompliance. A licensee, the department and the registry operator are not liable for any action taken in good faith to comply with this section. A licensee who fails to make a good faith effort to obtain information from the registry operator or who fails to withhold and transmit the amount of the lien created under subsection 5 is liable to the department for the greater of \$500 and the amount the person was required to withhold and transmit to the department under this section, together with costs, interest and reasonable attorney's fees.

12. Biennial review. The department shall include in its report to the Legislature under section 1066 the following information:

A. The number of names of winners submitted by licensees to the registry operator pursuant to this section in each of the preceding 2 calendar years;

B. The number of winners who were found to be listed in the registry in each of the preceding 2 calendar years;

C. The amount of winnings withheld by licensees pursuant to this section in each of the preceding 2 calendar years; and

D. The amount of withheld winnings refunded to winners as the result of administrative hearings requested pursuant to this section in each of the preceding 2 calendar years.

§1416. Allocation of funds

1. Tax imposed; allocation of funds. An operator shall collect and distribute 18% of the adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts to the director to be forwarded by the director to the Treasurer of State for distribution as follows:

A. Two percent of the adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts must be deposited in the Gambling Control Unit administrative expenses Other Special Revenue Funds account, which is a nonlapsing dedicated account;

B. Two percent of the adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts must be deposited in the Gambling Addiction Prevention and Treatment Fund established under Title 5, section 20006-B;

C. Two and one-half percent of the adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts must be deposited in the dairy stabilization tier program under Title 7, chapter 611;

D. One and one-half percent of the adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts must be deposited in the Opioid Use Disorder Prevention and Treatment Fund established under Title 5, section 20010;

E. Two percent of the adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts must be deposited in the Emergency

Housing Relief Fund established under Title 30-A, section 4765;

F. Five percent of the adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts must be deposited in the Maine Veterans' Homes Stabilization Fund established under Title 37-B, section 613;

G. One percent of the adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts must be deposited in the Fund for a Healthy Maine established under Title 22, section 1511; and

H. Two percent of the adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts must be deposited in the School Revolving Renovation Fund established under Title 30-A, section 6006-F.

2. Due dates; late payments. The director may adopt rules establishing the dates on which payments required by this section are due. All payments not required when due must be paid together with interest on the unpaid balance at a rate of 1.5% per month.

§1417. Applicability of other laws

1. Authorized conduct. The provisions of Title 17, chapter 62 and Title 17-A, chapter 39 do not apply to Internet gaming conducted in accordance with this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter.

2. Unlicensed conduct. A person who engages in an activity for which a license is required under this chapter and who does not possess the required license to engage in that activity is subject to any criminal or civil penalties that may be imposed pursuant to Title 17-A, chapter 39.

3. Unauthorized conduct by licensees. In addition to any penalties that may be imposed pursuant to section 1405, a licensee who conducts Internet gaming in violation of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter is subject to any criminal or civil penalties that may be imposed pursuant to Title 17-A, chapter 39.

Sec. 5. 17 MRSA §1831, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. KKKKK, §8, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

For the purposes of this subsection, "an event the result of which is determined by chance" includes but is not limited to a shuffle of a deck of cards, a roll of a die or dice or a random drawing or generation of an object that may include, but is not limited to, a card, a die, a number or simulations of any of these. A shuffle of a deck of cards, a roll of a die, a random drawing or generation of an object or some other event the result of which is determined by chance that is employed to determine impartially the initial order of play in a game, contest, scheme or device does not alone make a game, contest, scheme or device a game of chance. For purposes of this chapter, beano, bingo and table games as defined in Title 8, section 1001, subsection 43-A and Internet

gaming as defined in Title 8, section 1402, subsection 5 are not games of chance.

Sec. 6. 17-A MRSA §951, as amended by PL 2021, c. 681, Pt. J, §7, is further amended to read:

§951. Inapplicability of chapter

Any person licensed or registered by the Gambling Control Unit as provided in Title 17, chapter 13-A or chapter 62; or authorized to operate or conduct a raffle pursuant to Title 17, section 1837-A or licensed to operate sports wagering pursuant to Title 8, chapter 35 or Internet gaming pursuant to Title 8, chapter 39 is exempt from the application of the provisions of this chapter insofar as that person's conduct is within the scope of the license or registration.

Sec. 7. 25 MRSA §1542-A, sub-§1, ¶CC is enacted to read:

CC. Who is required to have a criminal history record check under Title 8, section 1404.

Sec. 8. 25 MRSA §1542-A, sub-§3, ¶BB is enacted to read:

BB. The State Police shall take or cause to be taken the fingerprints of the person named in subsection 1, paragraph CC at the request of that person or the director of the Gambling Control Unit within the Department of Public Safety and upon payment of the fee established by the director of the Gambling Control Unit pursuant to Title 8, section 1404, subsection 3.

Sec. 9. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Fund for a Healthy Maine 0921

Initiative: Provides allocation for expenditures authorized in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 1511.

FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$100,000	\$200,000
FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE TOTAL	\$100,000	\$200,000
ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE	\$100,000	\$200,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$100,000	\$200,000

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

Milk Commission 0188

Initiative: Provides allocation for expenditures authorized in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 3153-B.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$250,000	\$500,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$250,000	\$500,000

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
	\$250,000	\$500,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$250,000	\$500,000

DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Maine Veterans' Homes Stabilization Fund Z358

Initiative: Allocates funds to support the operations of the Maine Veterans' Homes.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500,000	\$1,000,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500,000	\$1,000,000

DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
	\$500,000	\$1,000,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$500,000	\$1,000,000

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention 0143

Initiative: Provides allocation for expenditures authorized in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 20006-B.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$200,000	\$400,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$200,000	\$400,000
FUNDS TOTAL		

Opioid Use Disorder Prevention and Treatment Fund Z289

Initiative: Allocates funds to support opioid use disorder prevention and treatment in the State.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$150,000	\$300,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$150,000	\$300,000

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$350,000	\$700,000

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$350,000	\$700,000

HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE

Emergency Housing Relief Fund Program Z340

Initiative: Allocates funds to support housing emergencies in the State.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$200,000	\$400,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$200,000	\$400,000

HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE DEPARTMENT TOTALS

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$200,000	\$400,000

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$200,000	\$400,000

MUNICIPAL BOND BANK, MAINE

Maine Municipal Bond Bank 0671

Initiative: Allocates funds for the School Revolving Renovation Fund established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 6006-F.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$200,000	\$400,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$200,000	\$400,000

MUNICIPAL BOND BANK, MAINE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$200,000	\$400,000

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$200,000	\$400,000

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF

Gambling Control Board Z002

Initiative: Provides funding for 2 Auditor II positions, 2 Criminal Intelligence Analyst positions, one Public Service Coordinator II position and one Public Safety Inspector I position.

GENERAL FUND POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	6.000	6.000
	\$645,354	\$668,001

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$645,354	\$668,001

Gambling Control Board Z002

Initiative: Provides funding for position costs associated with 2 Auditor II positions, 2 Criminal Intelligence Analyst positions, one Public Service Coordinator II position and one Public Safety Inspector I position.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$70,000	\$70,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$70,000	\$70,000

Gambling Control Board Z002

Initiative: Provides allocations for expenditures related to administrative expenses.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$200,000	\$400,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$200,000	\$400,000

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

GENERAL FUND	\$645,354	\$668,001
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$270,000	\$470,000

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$915,354	\$1,138,001

SECTION TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27

GENERAL FUND	\$645,354	\$668,001
FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE	\$100,000	\$200,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$1,770,000	\$3,470,000
SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$2,515,354	\$4,338,001

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 539

H.P. 840 - L.D. 1265

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Public Employee Market Pay Studies and Comprehensive Reviews of the Classification Plan for State Service Positions

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §7061, sub-§4, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. UUU, §1, is amended to read:

B. The procedure must provide for a market pay study every 4 years that compares the salaries of state employees with employees performing comparable work for a sampling of private and public employees in this State, other New England states and other states as appropriate. The bureau shall issue a request for proposals and contract with an experienced contractor to complete a market pay study conducted pursuant to this paragraph. The bureau shall submit the market pay study and a report on the market pay study to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters and the bargaining agents that represent a bargaining unit of state employees no later than September 30, 2024 and every 4 years thereafter.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §7061, sub-§4, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. UUU, §1, is amended to read:

C. Beginning in 2024, the procedure must provide for a comprehensive review of the classification plan every 10 years to make modifications and improvements as determined necessary. The bureau shall issue a request for proposals and contract with an experienced contractor to complete these reviews.

Sec. 3. Funds transfer. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer \$2,000,000 on or before June 30, 2027 from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Salary Plan program, General Fund account to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to provide funding to contract with contractors to complete

market pay studies and reviews pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 7061, subsection 4, paragraphs B and C.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Administration - Human Resources 0038

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to contract with a consultant to complete market pay studies and reviews prior to the report deadline of September 30, 2028.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,000,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 540

H.P. 620 - L.D. 961

An Act to Address Maine's Health Care Workforce Shortage and Improve Access to Care

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, certified nurse practitioners are highly qualified to meet the physical and mental health care needs of patients and are uniquely positioned to assist patients; and

Whereas, Maine recognizes 4 categories of nurses that may qualify to provide advanced practice registered nursing, but only certified nurse practitioners are subject to a 2-year supervision requirement; and

Whereas, that supervision requirement restricts the ability of highly qualified certified nurse practitioners to practice at the highest level of their license as advanced practice registered nurses; and

Whereas, this legislation authorizes the State Board of Nursing to modernize the current licensing requirements by establishing practice standards including the length of time a certified nurse practitioner must practice as an advanced practice registered nurse and any requirements for employment by a clinic or hospital that has a supervising nurse practitioner within the clinic or hospital serving in a mentorship role to a certified nurse practitioner; and

Whereas, these practice standards must be adopted as soon as possible to recognize the ability of

certified nurse practitioners to serve the immediate health care needs of patients; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §2102, sub-§2-A, as amended by PL 2007, c. 316, §1, is further amended by amending the 2nd blocked paragraph to read:

A. Until the board has adopted rules to establish practice standards pursuant to section 2205-B, subsection 4-A, a certified nurse practitioner who qualifies as an advanced practice registered nurse must practice, for at least 24 months, under the supervision of a licensed physician or a supervising nurse practitioner or must be employed by a clinic or hospital that has a medical director who is a licensed physician. The certified nurse practitioner shall submit written evidence to the board upon completion of the required clinical experience.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §2102, sub-§10, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 316, §2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

A. Met the requirements of section 2205-B, subsection 4-A specified by the board in rule;

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §2102, sub-§10, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 316, §2, is amended to read:

B. Practiced as an advanced practice registered nurse for a minimum of 5 years in the same ~~specialty~~ specialty;

Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §2205-B, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Approval of certified nurse practitioner. A certified nurse practitioner who qualifies as an advanced practice registered nurse must meet practice standards specified in rule by the board related to:

A. The length of time a certified nurse practitioner must practice as an advanced practice registered nurse;

B. Based on experience and licensing status, the minimum amount of time a certified nurse practitioner must practice with a supervising nurse practitioner serving in a mentorship role to the certified nurse practitioner;

C. The practice setting of a certified nurse practitioner, including consideration of any requirements for employment by a clinic or hospital that has a supervising nurse practitioner within the clinic or hospital serving in a mentorship role to a certified nurse practitioner; and

D. Any other factors determined necessary by the board.

A certified nurse practitioner shall demonstrate compliance with the practice standards required under this subsection in the form and manner required by the board. The board may adopt rules as necessary to implement the requirements of this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 5. State Board of Nursing rulemaking; submission of proposed practice standards. No later than March 15, 2026, the State Board of Nursing shall submit proposed practice standards for certified nurse practitioners, as required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, section 2205-B, subsection 4-A, to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services for review. The joint standing committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature relating to the practice standards for certified nurse practitioners. Notwithstanding Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2, the State Board of Nursing may not adopt any rules before May 1, 2026 relating to the practice standards for certified nurse practitioners as required by Title 32, section 2205-B, subsection 4-A.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective February 17, 2026.

CHAPTER 541

H.P. 1351 - L.D. 2021

An Act to Add an Online Option for Reporting of Suspected Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Adults

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3477, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2003, c. 653, §10, is further amended to read:

2. Reports. Reports regarding abuse, neglect or exploitation must be made immediately ~~by telephone~~ to the department ~~either by telephone or by an online portal designated by the department~~ and must be followed by a written report within 48 hours if requested by the department. The reports must contain the name and address of the involved adult; information regarding the nature and extent of the abuse, neglect or exploitation; the source of the report; ~~and the name of the person making the report;~~ that person's occupation; and where that person can be contacted. The report may contain

any other information that the reporter believes may be helpful.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 542

S.P. 811 - L.D. 1998

An Act to Authorize Registration of Certain Cash-dispensing Machines Through the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry and to Limit the Use of Certain Cash-dispensing Machines as Virtual Currency Kiosks

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §6152, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 229, §2, is amended to read:

2. Limitations. A cash-dispensing machine:

A. May not accept deposits or loan payments or effectuate account transfers other than those transfers between the customer's accounts in the same financial institution; ~~and~~

B. Must be operated in such a way as to comply with the Electronic Funds Transfer Act, 15 United States Code, Section 1693 et seq. or regulations adopted under that Act; ~~and~~

C. May not operate as a virtual currency kiosk as defined in section 6164, subsection 3 unless the virtual currency kiosk operator is licensed as a money transmitter pursuant to section 6165.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §6153, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 229, §2, is amended to read:

B. A registration fee of \$50 for the ~~first cash-dispensing machine location operator~~ and \$25 for each additional location, payable to the Treasurer of State ~~cash-dispensing machine~~.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §6153, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry. The administrator may require registration under this section through the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry as defined in Title 9-A, section 13-102, subsection 8. The administrator is authorized to participate in the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry.

Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §6153, sub-§1-B is enacted to read:

1-B. Registration requirements. In all cases, whether registration is through the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry or otherwise, the administrator may establish, by rule, requirements for registration, including but not limited to:

A. Background checks for:

(1) Criminal history through fingerprint or other databases;

(2) Civil or administrative records;

(3) Credit history; or

(4) Any other information determined necessary by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry;

B. The payment of fees to apply for or renew registration. If registration is through the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry, an applicant must also pay a nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry processing fee in an amount to be determined by the administrators of the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry. Renewal applications received after the due date are subject to an additional fee of \$100;

C. The setting or resetting as necessary of renewal or reporting dates; and

D. Other requirements for application for, amendment of or revocation of a registration or any other such activities as the administrator considers necessary.

The aggregate of registration fees and other fees and assessments provided for by this section is appropriated for the use of the administrator. Any balance of these funds does not lapse but must be carried forward to be expended for the same purpose in the following fiscal year.

Sec. 5. 32 MRSA §6153, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 229, §2, is amended to read:

6. Fine. The administrator may impose a fine of ~~\$5~~ \$25 per day on any person failing to comply with the requirements of this section.

Sec. 6. 32 MRSA §6154, sub-§1, ¶A-1 is enacted to read:

A-1. If registration is through the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry, the operator's unique identifier as defined in Title 9-A, section 13-102, subsection 15;

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 543
S.P. 820 - L.D. 2004

**An Act to Enhance Support of
Local Nutrition Incentive
Programs by Modifying the
Eligibility Requirements of the
Fund to Address Food
Insecurity and Provide
Nutrition Incentives**

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §219-B, as corrected by RR 2021, c. 1, Pt. A, §7, is amended to read:

§219-B. Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives

1. Fund established. The Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established in the department to provide incentives to ~~federal~~ food and nutrition assistance program participants for the purchase of locally grown fruits and vegetables and to support outreach for and administration of programs that offer nutrition incentives to participants of ~~federal~~ food and nutrition assistance programs. The fund is established to match contributions from private and public sources of up to \$50,000 annually to further the purposes of this section. The fund, to be accounted within the department, must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Eligible investment earnings credited to the assets of the fund become part of the assets of the fund. Any unexpended balances remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year do not lapse and must be carried forward to the next fiscal year. For purposes of this section, "local" means within the State.

2. Fund recipients. An organization based in the State that supports local food producers, local food production or low-income individuals in receiving food and nutrition assistance may receive proceeds from the fund upon application with the department. The department shall prioritize an applicant that has a demonstrated history of incentivizing the use of ~~federal~~ food and nutrition assistance programs to purchase locally grown fruits and vegetables or that demonstrates the ability to leverage the proceeds to match or receive additional funds from local, state, federal or private sources. The department shall periodically post a request for applications for eligible organizations to apply for fund proceeds.

3. Report; audit. The department shall require a periodic report from a recipient under subsection 2 detailing the use of fund proceeds and the ~~federal~~ food and nutrition assistance programs involved and to ensure that the funds are expended appropriately pursuant to

this section. The department may audit a recipient to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

4. Rules. The department may adopt routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to carry out the purposes of the fund, including application criteria and procedures for recipients, disbursement of funds to recipients and for outreach and administration purposes and reporting and audit procedures for recipients.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 544
H.P. 1349 - L.D. 2019

**An Act to Amend the Laws
Governing Licensure of
Wholesalers and
Manufacturers Under the
Maine Pharmacy Act**

Emergency preamble. **Whereas**, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, wholesalers and manufacturers doing business in this State are currently required to submit registration information from the United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration and registration information from the United States Food and Drug Administration to the Maine Board of Pharmacy as a qualification for initial licensure; and

Whereas, this legislation is necessary to make statutory corrections authorizing the Maine Board of Pharmacy to grant licenses to wholesalers and manufacturers who have not yet obtained the appropriate federal registration number at the time of application for initial licensure; and

Whereas, this legislation must take effect before the end of the 90-day period to address, as soon as possible, the health and welfare of the citizens of this State; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §13742-A, sub-§1, ¶F, as amended by PL 2021, c. 303, §3, is further amended to read:

F. A violation of section 13800-B; ~~or~~

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §13742-A, sub-§1, ¶G, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 303, §4, is amended to read:

G. A violation of section 13725-; or

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §13742-A, sub-§1, ¶H is enacted to read:

H. Failing to file with the board an applicable registration number described in section 13758, subsection 4, paragraph B once that applicable registration number is obtained.

Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §13758, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. DD, §28, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

4. Form. License forms must state:

A. The applicant's name, address, day phone, 24-hour phone, ownership status and manufacturer or wholesaler designation;

B. The applicant's United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration registration number and the applicant's United States Food and Drug Administration registration number, as applicable, if the applicant has obtained the registration number at the time the form is executed; and

C. The date the form is executed.

License forms must be executed by an owner or officer of the manufacturer or wholesaler, providing printed name and title.

If, at the time the form is executed, the applicant has not obtained a registration number described in paragraph B that is applicable to the applicant, the applicant shall file that registration number with the board once the registration number is obtained.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 545

H.P. 1362 - L.D. 2032

An Act to Amend the Extreme Risk Protection Order Procedure

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the number of petitions filed under the laws governing extreme risk protection orders has significantly increased in recent years; and

Whereas, this legislation expedites justice for individuals who have a statutory right to a hearing; and

Whereas, this legislation improves court efficiency in adhering to those statutory hearing deadlines; and

Whereas, this legislation must take effect before the end of the 90-day period to ensure that extreme risk protection orders are processed in an efficient manner; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA §3862-A, sub-§4, ¶B, as amended by PL 2023, c. 675, §17, is further amended by amending subparagraph (4) to read:

(4) Provide a copy to the court of the judicial endorsement and all attachments and the notification to the restricted person, including the date of notification.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 546

H.P. 1377 - L.D. 2053

An Act to Improve Safety by Allowing the Use of Variable-message Signs on Certain Vehicles

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, vehicles that assist with traffic incidents and improve roadway safety that are equipped with variable-message signs mounted on the vehicle are prepared to begin using variable-message signs immediately; and

Whereas, a delay in allowing vehicles that assist with traffic incidents and improve roadway safety to use variable-message signs could allow for a greater number of traffic-related injuries to occur; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of

the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§1, ¶K is enacted to read:

K. "Safety service patrol vehicle" means a vehicle, equipped with a variable-message sign, used or contracted by the department or the Maine Turnpike Authority to assist with traffic incidents and improve roadway safety.

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§1, ¶L is enacted to read:

L. "Variable-message sign" means a traffic control device on which a message can be displayed and changed manually, electronically, mechanically, electromechanically or by other means to provide information about traffic congestion, traffic accidents, maintenance operations, adverse weather conditions, roadway conditions or organized events or other necessary roadway safety information.

Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §2054, sub-§12 is enacted to read:

12. Variable-message signs. A variable-message sign may be used on a wrecker, police vehicle, fire department vehicle, safety service patrol vehicle or highway maintenance vehicle in the manner prescribed in this subsection. The variable-message sign may not exceed the width of the vehicle on which it is mounted and may be displayed only facing traffic behind the vehicle. The operator of a vehicle under this subsection may use a variable-message sign as follows.

A. The operator of a wrecker may use a variable-message sign on that vehicle while it is stationary and engaged in repair, loading or unloading a vehicle or performing a vehicle recovery. A variable-message sign mounted on a wrecker must display amber lights that create right or left arrows or the words "slow down" or "move over."

B. The operator of a police vehicle, fire department vehicle, safety service patrol vehicle or highway maintenance vehicle may use a variable-message sign on that vehicle to provide information about traffic congestion, traffic accidents, maintenance operations, adverse weather conditions, roadway conditions or organized events or other necessary roadway safety information. The variable-message sign must display right or left arrows or the words "slow down," "move over," "accident ahead," "crash ahead" or other similar language. Other messages not described in this paragraph may be displayed on a variable-message sign if the additional messages are established by rule and in line with standards in accordance with the latest edition

of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices published by the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

The Commissioner of Public Safety or the commissioner's designee may adopt rules as necessary for the purpose of implementing this paragraph. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 547

H.P. 1381 - L.D. 2068

An Act to Bring the Law Governing Emergency Equipment for Trucks and Truck Tractors into Alignment with the Federal Motor Carrier Laws

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

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §1952, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §25 and affected by Pt. X, §2, is further amended to read:

1. ~~Carry flares~~ Flares or bidirectional emergency reflective triangles. Except as provided in subsection 1-A, a truck or truck tractor with a registration for operation with gross vehicle weight in excess of 10,000 pounds must be equipped with ~~2 red flags~~, 3 flares ~~and or 3 red lanterns or red emergency reflectors~~ bidirectional emergency reflective triangles.

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §1952, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

2. Disabled vehicle. When a truck or truck tractor with a registration for operation with gross vehicle weight in excess of 10,000 pounds is disabled on a public way, the operator shall, ~~during the time that lights are required to be illuminated~~, place emergency signals as follows:

A. One flare or ~~lantern or red emergency reflector~~ bidirectional emergency reflective triangle in the center of the lane of traffic occupied by the disabled motor vehicle not less than 100 feet from the vehicle in the direction of traffic approaching in that lane;

B. One flare or ~~lantern or red emergency reflector~~ bidirectional emergency reflective triangle not less

than 100 feet from the vehicle in the center of the same lane in the opposite direction; and

C. One flare or ~~lantern or red emergency reflector~~ bidirectional emergency reflective triangle at the traffic side of the vehicle not closer than 10 feet from the front or rear.

~~When lights are not required to be illuminated, red flags must be used, except that no flag is required to be placed at the side of the vehicle.~~

Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §1952, as amended by PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. Q, §§25 and 26 and affected by Pt. X, §2, is further amended by enacting at the end a new paragraph to read:

As used in this section, "bidirectional emergency reflective triangle" means an emergency warning device that meets the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 571.125.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 548

S.P. 805 - L.D. 1992

An Act to Create a Process for the Residents of a Municipality to Withdraw from a School Union

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1905 is enacted to read:

§1905. Withdrawal

The residents of a participating municipality of a municipal school unit within a school union may petition and vote to withdraw from the school union in the same manner as a single municipality within a school administrative unit may petition to withdraw from a regional school unit in accordance with section 1466.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 549

H.P. 1346 - L.D. 2016

An Act to Eliminate the Thermal Imaging Camera Program

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2403, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 439, Pt. BBBB, §1, is repealed.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 550

H.P. 1367 - L.D. 2037

An Act to Update the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Allowances

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §580-B, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2017, c. 323, §1, is further amended to read:

3. Base annual budget. Until January 1, 2014, the base annual carbon dioxide emissions budget is established at 5,948,902 tons of carbon dioxide. For the year 2014, the base annual carbon dioxide emissions budget is established at 3,277,250 tons of carbon dioxide. Beginning with the year 2015, the annual carbon dioxide emissions budget must decline by 2.5% each year through the year 2020. For the year 2021, the department shall establish the base annual carbon dioxide emissions budget in accordance with the model rule and with rules adopted pursuant to subsection 4. Beginning with the year 2022, the annual carbon dioxide emissions budget must decline by 2.5% of the 2014 base annual carbon dioxide emissions budget each year through the year ~~2030~~ 2026. Beginning with the year 2027, the base annual carbon dioxide emissions budgets are as follows.

A. For the year 2027, the base annual carbon dioxide emissions budget is 2,065,595 tons.

B. For the year 2028, the base annual carbon dioxide emissions budget is 1,807,395 tons.

C. For the year 2029, the base annual carbon dioxide emissions budget is 1,549,196 tons.

D. For the year 2030, the base annual carbon dioxide emissions budget is 1,290,997 tons.

E. For the year 2031, the base annual carbon dioxide emissions budget is 1,032,797 tons.

F. For the year 2032, the base annual carbon dioxide emissions budget is 774,598 tons.

G. For the year 2033, the base annual carbon dioxide emissions budget is 516,399 tons.

H. For the year 2034, the base annual carbon dioxide emissions budget is 442,627 tons.

I. For the year 2035, the base annual carbon dioxide emissions budget is 368,856 tons.

J. For the year 2036, the base annual carbon dioxide emissions budget is 295,085 tons.

K. For the year 2037 and each subsequent year, the base annual carbon dioxide emissions budget is 221,314 tons.

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §580-B, sub-§4, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 317, §17, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §580-B, sub-§10, ¶D, as repealed and replaced by PL 2009, c. 652, Pt. A, §61, is repealed.

Sec. 4. 38 MRSA §580-C, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 317, §17, is amended to read:

1. Withdrawal by State. The ability of this State to withdraw from the regional greenhouse gas initiative; ~~or~~.

Sec. 5. 38 MRSA §580-C, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 317, §17, is repealed.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 551

S.P. 804 - L.D. 2126

An Act to Eliminate the Juvenile Crime of Willful Refusal to Pay a Fine or Comply with the Terms of a Court Order

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

Sec. 1. 15 MRSA §3103, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 2003, c. 305, §2, is further amended to read:

C. Offenses involving intoxicating liquor, as provided in Title 28-A, sections 2051 and 2052 and offenses involving refusal to provide proper identification as provided in Title 28-A, section 2087; and

Sec. 2. 15 MRSA §3103, sub-§1, ¶G, as repealed and replaced by PL 2003, c. 688, Pt. A, §12, is amended to read:

G. A violation of section 393, subsection 1, paragraph C or section 393, subsection 1-A; and

Sec. 3. 15 MRSA §3103, sub-§1, ¶H, as amended by PL 2025, c. 431, §7, is repealed.

Sec. 4. 15 MRSA §3201, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2025, c. 431, §9, is further amended to read:

1. Warrantless arrests. Arrests without warrants of juveniles for juvenile crimes defined by section 3103, subsection 1, paragraphs A, and G ~~and H~~ by law enforcement officers or private persons must be made pursuant to the provisions of Title 17-A, sections 15 and 16. ~~For purposes of this section, a juvenile crime defined under section 3103, subsection 1, paragraph H is deemed a Class D or Class E crime.~~ A law enforcement officer or private person may not arrest a juvenile for a juvenile crime defined by section 3103, subsection 1, paragraph B or C.

Sec. 5. 15 MRSA §3310, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2025, c. 431, §15, is further amended to read:

4. Standard of proof. If the court finds that the elements of the juvenile crime as defined in section 3103, subsection 1, paragraph A; or G ~~or H~~ are not supported by evidence beyond a reasonable doubt or that the elements of a juvenile crime as defined in section 3103, subsection 1, paragraph B or C are not supported by a preponderance of the evidence, the court shall order the petition dismissed and the juvenile discharged from any detention or restriction previously ordered. The juvenile's parents, guardian or other legal custodian must also be discharged from any restriction or other temporary order.

Sec. 6. 15 MRSA §3310, sub-§5, ¶A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 431, §16, is further amended to read:

A. If the court finds that the allegations of the petition alleging a juvenile crime as defined in section 3103, subsection 1, paragraph A; or G ~~or H~~ are supported by evidence beyond a reasonable doubt or that the allegations of a petition alleging a juvenile crime as defined in section 3103, subsection 1, paragraph B or C are supported by a preponderance of the evidence, the court shall adjudge that the juvenile committed a juvenile crime and shall, in all such adjudications, issue an order of adjudication.

Sec. 7. 15 MRSA §3314, sub-§1, ¶G, as amended by PL 2025, c. 431, §17, is further amended to read:

G. ~~Except for a violation of the juvenile crimes defined in section 3103, subsection 1, paragraph H,~~ The court may impose a fine, subject to Title 17-A, sections 1701 to 1711, except that there is no mandatory minimum fine amount. For the purpose of this section, juvenile crimes defined in section 3103, subsection 1, paragraphs B and C and juvenile crimes under Title 12 or Title 29-A are subject to a fine of up to \$1,000.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 552

S.P. 898 - L.D. 2205

An Act to Update the Laws Governing the Geographic Boundaries Between Certain Judicial Divisions in Aroostook County

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

Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §153, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2025, c. 436, §2, is further amended to read:

3. Western Aroostook. Western Aroostook consists of the municipalities and unorganized territory known as ~~Hamlin Plantation, Cyr Plantation, T17 R3, Grand Isle, T17 R4, T16 R5, T15 R6, Winterville Plantation, T15 R8, T15 R9, T14 R10, T14 R11, T14 R12, T14 R13, T14 R14, T14 R15, T14 R16~~ and all municipalities and unorganized territory in Aroostook County lying to the west and north of these. The District Court for Western Aroostook must be held at Fort Kent.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 553
H.P. 1399 - L.D. 2084

**An Act to Amend the Laws
Regulating Transient Sales of
Home Repair Services**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, current law authorizes an unspecified board to deny the license of, refuse to renew the license of or impose disciplinary sanctions on a transient seller of home repair services; and

Whereas, this legislation authorizes the Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to exercise those powers; and

Whereas, this legislation must take effect as soon as possible in order to ensure proper regulation of these transient sellers; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §14501, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Director. "Director" means the Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §14513, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. KK, §10, is amended to read:

§14513. Denial or refusal to renew license; disciplinary action

The ~~board~~ director may deny a license, refuse to renew a license or impose the disciplinary sanctions authorized by Title 10, section 8003, subsection 5-A for

any of the reasons enumerated in Title 10, section 8003, subsection 5-A, paragraph A.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 9, 2026.

CHAPTER 554
S.P. 57 - L.D. 128

**An Act to Support Permitting
of Certain Multifamily Housing
Developments Under the Site
Location of Development Laws**

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §482, sub-§5, as amended by PL 1997, c. 603, §2, is further amended to read:

5. Subdivision. A "~~subdivision~~" is "Subdivision" means the division of a parcel of land into 5 or more lots to be offered for sale or lease to the general public during any 5-year period, if the aggregate land area includes more than 20 acres; except that when all lots are for single family, single detached, residential housing, structures containing up to 4 dwelling units, with or without one accessory dwelling unit as defined in Title 30-A, section 4301, subsection 1-C, common areas or open space ~~a, "subdivision" is~~ means the division of a parcel of land into 15 or more lots to be offered for sale or lease to the general public within any 5-year period, if the aggregate land area includes more than 30 acres. The aggregate land area includes lots to be offered together with the roads, common areas, easement areas and all portions of the parcel of land in which rights or interests, whether express or implied, are to be offered. This definition of "subdivision" is subject to the following exceptions:

C. Lots of 40 or more acres but not more than 500 acres may not be counted as lots except where:

(1) The proposed subdivision is located wholly or partly within the shoreland zone;

C-1. Lots of more than 500 acres in size may not be counted as lots;

D. Five years after a subdivider establishes a single-family residence for that subdivider's own use on a parcel and actually uses all or part of the parcel for that purpose during that period, a lot containing that residence may not be counted as a lot;

E. Unless intended to circumvent this article, the following transactions may not be considered lots offered for sale or lease to the general public:

(1) Sale or lease of lots to an abutting owner or to a spouse, child, parent, grandparent or sibling of the developer if those lots are not further divided or transferred to a person not so related to the developer within a 5-year period, except as provided in this subsection;

(2) Personal, nonprofit transactions, such as the transfer of lots by gift, if those lots are not further divided or transferred within a 5-year period, or the transfer of lots by devise or inheritance; or

(3) Grant of a bona fide security interest in the whole lot or subsequent transfer of the whole lot by the original holder of the bona fide security interest or that person's successor in interest;

F. In those subdivisions that would otherwise not require site location approval, unless intended to circumvent this article, the following transactions may not, except as provided, be considered lots offered for sale or lease to the general public:

(1) Sale or lease of common lots created with a conservation easement as defined in Title 33, section 476, ~~provided that~~ as long as the department is made a party; and

H. The transfer of contiguous land by a permit holder to the owner of a lot within a permitted subdivision is exempt from review under this article, ~~provided that~~ as long as the land was not owned by the permit holder at the time the department approved the subdivision. Further division of the transferred land must be reviewed under this article.

The exception described in paragraph F does not apply, and the subdivision requires site location approval, whenever the use of a lot described in paragraph F changes or the lot is offered for sale or lease to the general public without the limitations set forth in paragraph F. For the purposes of this subsection only, ~~a parcel of land is defined as~~ "parcel of land" means all contiguous land in the same ownership ~~provided except~~ that lands located on opposite sides of a public or private road are considered each a separate parcel of land unless that road was established by the owner of land on both sides of the road subsequent to January 1, 1970. A lot to be offered for sale or lease to the general public is counted, for purposes of determining jurisdiction, from the time a municipal subdivision plan showing that lot is recorded or the lot is sold or leased, whichever occurs first, until 5 years after that recording, sale or lease.

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §488, sub-§17, as amended by PL 1997, c. 393, Pt. A, §45, is further amended to read:

17. Structure area within residential lots. Buildings, roads, paved areas or areas to be stripped or graded

and not revegetated that are located within lots used solely for ~~single family~~ single detached residential housing structures containing up to 4 dwelling units, with or without one accessory dwelling unit as defined in Title 30-A, section 4301, subsection 1-C, are not counted toward the 3-acre threshold described in section 482, subsection 6, paragraph B for purposes of determining jurisdiction. A road associated only with such lots is also not counted toward the 3-acre threshold. ~~For purposes of this subsection, "single family residential housing" does not include multi-unit housing such as condominiums and apartment buildings.~~

Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §488, sub-§17-A is enacted to read:

17-A. Land or water area within residential lots. Land or water areas that are located within lots used solely for single detached residential housing structures containing up to 4 dwelling units, with or without one accessory dwelling unit as defined in Title 30-A, section 4301, subsection 1-C, are not counted toward the 20-acre threshold described in section 482, subsection 2, paragraph A for purposes of determining jurisdiction. A road associated only with such lots is also not counted toward the 20-acre threshold.

Sec. 4. 38 MRSA §488, sub-§19, as amended by PL 2021, c. 51, §1, is further amended to read:

19. Municipal capacity. A structure, as defined in section 482, subsection 6, that is from 3 acres up to and including 10 acres or a subdivision, as defined in section 482, subsection 5, that is made up of 15 or more lots for ~~single family, single detached~~ residential housing structures containing up to 4 dwelling units, with or without one accessory dwelling unit as defined in Title 30-A, section 4301, subsection 1-C, common areas or open space with an aggregate area of from 30 acres up to and including 100 acres is exempt from review under this article if it is located wholly within a municipality or municipalities meeting the criteria in paragraphs A to D as determined by the department and it is located wholly within a designated growth area as identified in a comprehensive plan adopted pursuant to Title 30-A, chapter 187, subchapter 2. The planning board of the municipality in which the development is located or an adjacent municipality may petition the commissioner to review such a structure or subdivision if it has regional environmental impacts. This petition must be filed within 20 days of the receipt of the application by the municipality. State jurisdiction must be exerted, if at all, within 30 days of receipt of the completed project application by the commissioner from the municipality or within 30 days of receipt of any modification to that application from the municipality. Review by the department is limited to the identified regional environmental impacts. The criteria are as follows:

A. A municipal planning board or reviewing authority is established and the municipality has ade-

quate resources to administer and enforce the provisions of its ordinances. In determining whether this criterion is met, the commissioner may consider any specific and adequate technical assistance that is provided by a regional council;

B. The municipality has adopted a site plan review ordinance. In determining the adequacy of the ordinance, the commissioner may consider model site plan review ordinances commonly used by municipalities in this State that address the issues reviewed under applicable provisions of this article prior to July 1, 1997;

C. The municipality has adopted subdivision regulations. In determining the adequacy of these regulations, the commissioner may consider model subdivision regulations commonly used by municipalities in this State; and

D. The former State Planning Office or the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has determined that the municipality has a comprehensive land use plan and land use ordinances or zoning ordinances that are consistent with Title 30-A, chapter 187 in providing for the protection of wildlife habitat, fisheries, unusual natural areas and archaeological and historic sites.

The department, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, shall publish a list of those municipalities determined to have capacity pursuant to this subsection. This list need not be established by rule and must be published by January 1st of each year. The list must specify whether a municipality has capacity to review structures or subdivisions of lots for single family, single detached, residential housing structures containing up to 4 dwelling units, with or without one accessory dwelling unit as defined in Title 30-A, section 4301, subsection 1-C, common areas or open space or both types of development. The department may recognize joint arrangements among municipalities and regional organizations in determining whether the requirements of this subsection are met. The department may review municipalities that are determined to have capacity pursuant to this subsection for compliance with the criteria in paragraphs A to D, and if the department determines that a municipality does not meet the criteria, the department may modify or remove the determination of capacity.

A modification to a development that was reviewed by a municipality and exempted pursuant to this subsection or was reviewed by the department prior to a determination that a municipality has capacity pursuant to this subsection is exempt as long as the modification will not cause the total area of the development to exceed the maximum acreage specified in this subsection for that type of development or, based upon information submitted by the municipality concerning the development and modification, the department determines that

the modification may be adequately reviewed by the municipality.

Sec. 5. 38 MRSA §489-E, first ¶, as repealed and replaced by PL 2011, c. 359, §4, is amended to read:

Rules adopted by the department pursuant to this article are routine technical rules, as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, including rules to establish a permit by rule option in accordance with section 344, subsection 7, except that rules adopted by the department after January 1, 2010 pursuant to section 484, subsections 1, 3, 4, 4-A, 5, 6 and 7 are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 555

S.P. 754 - L.D. 1936

An Act Regarding the Allocation of Net Energy Billing Costs and Long-term Contract Costs and Benefits

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3209, sub-§5, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 391, §2, is amended to read:

~~B. Notwithstanding section 3209-C, subsection 2, paragraph B and section 3210-F, subsection 3, allocates~~ Allocates the combined post-restructuring stranded costs, as determined by the commission, for investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities in the State to each customer class group described in paragraph A, based on each group's pro rata share of statewide post-restructuring stranded costs based on total retail kilowatt-hour energy sales to those customers;

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3209, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 391, §3, is amended to read:

6. Post-restructuring stranded cost allocation; rate design. For post-restructuring stranded cost allocations and rate designs applicable on or after July 1, 2028, the commission shall by order establish such cost allocations and rate designs applicable for the following 3-year period in accordance with section 3209-C, subsection 2, paragraph C and section 3209-F, subsection 3, subject to annual and other necessary reconciliations, and ensure the promotion of beneficial electrification in every customer class consistent with section 3804.

Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §3209-C, sub-§2, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 411, §5, is amended to read:

~~B. The commission shall allocate to each investor-owned transmission and distribution utility its pro rata share of net energy billing costs. If the com-~~

mission finds that a benefit of distributed generation under net energy billing provides a monetized net financial benefit to an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility that the commission does not otherwise account for when setting rates for the utility, the net financial benefit must be applied to offset the net energy billing costs allocated under this ~~paragraph~~ subsection. ~~The allocation must be based on each utility's total retail kilowatt-hour energy sales to ratepayers that pay net energy billing costs. The commission may determine the means to be used for the allocation required under this subsection, and those means may include the direct transfer of funds between transmission and distribution utilities.~~

Sec. 4. 35-A MRSA §3209-C, sub-§2, ¶C is enacted to read:

C. For post-restructuring stranded cost allocations and rate designs applicable on or after July 1, 2028, the commission shall allocate net energy billing costs by aggregating similar classes of customers as determined by the commission across investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities and ensure that costs and benefits are equitably distributed.

Sec. 5. 35-A MRSA §3210-F, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 454, §2, is amended to read:

§3210-F. Allocation of costs and benefits of long-term energy contracts

The commission shall ensure that all eligible costs and benefits associated with a long-term ~~energy~~ contract are allocated to ratepayers in accordance with this section.

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Eligible costs and benefits" means the net amount of all costs and direct financial benefits associated with long-term ~~energy~~ contracts entered into by investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities, including but not limited to any effects on a utility's cost of capital as a result of these contracts.

B. "Long-term ~~energy~~ contract" means a contract with an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility entered into under section 3210-C ~~or~~ section 3604 or section 10313, subsection 7.

2. Eligible costs and benefits. The commission shall determine the eligible costs and benefits of a long-term ~~energy~~ contract annually.

3. Allocation of eligible costs and benefits. ~~The commission shall annually allocate to each investor-owned transmission and distribution utility its pro rata share of eligible costs and benefits as determined under~~

~~subsection 2. The allocation must be based on each utility's total retail kilowatt-hour energy sales to ratepayers that receive the benefits and pay the costs of long-term energy contracts. The commission may determine the means to be used for the allocation required under this section, which may include the direct transfer of funds between investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities. For post-restructuring stranded cost allocations and rate designs applicable on or after July 1, 2028, the commission shall allocate eligible costs and benefits by aggregating similar classes of customers as determined by the commission across investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities and ensure that costs and benefits are distributed equitably.~~

4. Rules. The commission may adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 6. 35-A MRSA §3483, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 478, Pt. B, §1, is amended to read:

3. Standard buyer cost allocation. The commission and each standard buyer designated pursuant to subsection 1 shall implement a transparent mechanism to track and recover or distribute the eligible costs and benefits under this subsection incurred by procuring distributed generation resources pursuant to this chapter. These eligible costs and benefits must be reviewed by the commission annually and allocated to and recovered from customers of the investor-owned transmission and distribution utility in whose territory the distributed generation resource is located through a process established by rule of the commission. The process established by the commission must be similar to the allocation of costs and benefits of long-term ~~energy~~ contracts in section 3210-F. Eligible costs and benefits include:

- A. Incremental costs of serving as the standard buyer;
- B. All payments or bill credits to customers, subscribers and project sponsors under each procurement pursuant to sections 3485 and 3486; and
- C. All revenue from sale of the output of distributed generation resources procured pursuant to this chapter.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 556
S.P. 808 - L.D. 1995

**An Act to Require the Maine
Office of Community Affairs to
Establish a Technical
Assistance Materials Hub**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §3209 is enacted to read:

§3209. Technical assistance materials hub

1. Definition. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "technical assistance materials hub" or "hub" means a centralized source of information that provides available resources and data to guide decision makers planning for and implementing projects.

2. Hub established. The office shall coordinate with appropriate tribal, state, regional and local entities to establish and maintain a technical assistance materials hub on the publicly accessible website maintained by the office. The office shall make available through the hub materials addressing a wide variety of topics relevant to communities in this State, including, but not limited to, planning, climate resilience, housing and development. The office may also make available through the hub any of the following materials:

A. A collection of the best available resources regarding projections and models, assessments and data pertaining to the topics addressed by materials made available pursuant to this subsection;

B. Tools that allow for the visualization of regions and communities across the State and that integrate best available data pertaining to the topics addressed by materials made available pursuant to this subsection;

C. A library of white papers, case studies, research articles and best practices that are searchable by relevance to region, locality and sector pertaining to the topics addressed by materials made available pursuant to this subsection;

D. Information about funding opportunities for communities; and

E. Regionally prioritized best practice projects that support regional collaboration.

3. Updates. The office shall regularly update the hub.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 557
S.P. 812 - L.D. 1999

**An Act to Exclude Agricultural
Leases from the Definition of
"Subdivision" Under the
Planning and Land Use
Regulation Laws**

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4401, sub-§4, ¶K is enacted to read:

K. "Subdivision" does not include the lease of a tract or parcel of land or a portion of a tract or parcel of land that is used primarily for farming or ranching as defined in Title 7, section 251, subsection 4 and that does not convey fee simple ownership or allow for the construction of permanent residential dwellings.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 558
H.P. 243 - L.D. 343

**An Act to Incorporate the
Assessment of Emerging
Energy Technologies into the
Comprehensive State Energy
Plan**

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §10305, sub-§1, ¶H, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 476, Pt. A, §16, is amended to read:

H. Include energy supply and demand forecasts that must be considered in other planning efforts including updates to the state climate action plan under Title 38, section 577 and the Efficiency Maine Trust's triennial plan under section 10104, subsection 4; and

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §10305, sub-§1, ¶I, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 476, Pt. A, §16, is amended to read:

I. Identify approximate total project award targets for the next 3 competitive solicitations to be conducted by the department pursuant to section 10313; and

Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §10305, sub-§1, ¶J is enacted to read:

J. Identify and assess emerging energy technologies, including assessing the commercial readiness,

costs and potential appropriateness of those technologies for application in the State consistent with the department's policy and program goals described in section 10303 prioritizing carbon-free and lowest-emission technologies.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 559

H.P. 1314 - L.D. 1970

An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Consent for HIV Testing and Disclosure of Related Medical Information for Insurance Purposes

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §19203, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1999, c. 512, Pt. B, §1 and affected by §§5 and 6, is further amended to read:

2. Designated health care provider. To a health care provider designated by the subject of the test ~~in writing~~. When a patient has authorized disclosure of HIV test results to a person or organization providing health care, the patient's health care provider may make these results available only to other health care providers working directly with the patient and only for the purpose of providing direct medical or dental patient care. Any health care provider who discloses HIV test results in good faith pursuant to this subsection is immune from any criminal or civil liability for the act of disclosing HIV test results to other health care providers;

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §19203-A, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2007, c. 93, §1, is further amended to read:

1. Individual Patient tested; informed consent. Except as provided in this section and section 19203, subsections 4 and 5, an HIV test must be voluntary and undertaken only with a patient's ~~knowledge and understanding that an HIV test is planned~~ informed consent. ~~A patient must be informed orally or in writing that an HIV test will be performed unless the patient declines. Oral or written information required to be given to a patient under this subsection must include an explanation of what an HIV infection involves and the meaning of positive and negative test results. A patient must be provided the opportunity to ask questions, either orally or in writing. Informed consent is not required for repeated HIV testing by health care providers to monitor the course of established infection.~~

A. Information on the meaning of a positive and negative HIV test result must be made available to

the patient. A patient must be provided the opportunity to ask questions, either orally or in writing.

B. The consent of a minor's parent or legal guardian is not required to perform an HIV test on the minor under this subsection.

C. A patient has the right to decline an HIV test and, if the patient declines an HIV test, the health care provider shall document that decision in the patient's medical record.

Results of an HIV test performed pursuant to this subsection must be provided to the health care provider that ordered the test.

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §19203-D, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

7. Insurance reimbursement. This section does not preclude disclosure of information in a medical record for the purpose of seeking insurance reimbursement for HIV testing.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 560

S.P. 807 - L.D. 1994

An Act to Provide Immunity from Civil Liability for Justices of the Peace

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

Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §161, as amended by PL 1995, c. 388, §1 and affected by §8, is further amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§161. Justice of the peace; appointment; duties; salary; immunity

Sec. 2. 4 MRSA §161, as amended by PL 1995, c. 388, §1 and affected by §8, is further amended by enacting after the 3rd paragraph a new paragraph to read:

A person authorized to serve as a justice of the peace is immune from any civil liability, to the same extent as employees of governmental entities under the Maine Tort Claims Act, for acts performed within the scope of the person's justice of the peace duties.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 561
H.P. 1341 - L.D. 2011

**An Act to Remove the
MaineCare Program from the
Prescription Drug Benefit
Provisions in the Maine
Insurance Code**

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

Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §4347, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 469, §8 and affected by §9, is amended to read:

3. Carrier. "Carrier" has the same meaning as in section 4301-A, subsection 3, except that "carrier" does not include a multiple-employer welfare arrangement, as defined in section 6601, subsection 5, if the multiple-employer welfare arrangement contracts with a 3rd-party administrator to manage and administer health benefits, including benefits for prescription drugs. "Carrier" also includes the MaineCare program pursuant to Title 22, chapter 855 and the group health plan provided to state employees and other eligible persons pursuant to Title 5, section 285.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 562
H.P. 1352 - L.D. 2022

**An Act to Clarify the Setting of
Group Life Insurance
Coverage Levels Under the
Maine Public Employees
Retirement System**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §17001, sub-§3-A, as amended by PL 1993, c. 386, §1, is further amended to read:

3-A. Annual base compensation. "Annual base compensation" means a member's ~~gross compensation, based upon amounts reported by the member's employer on the member's~~ earnable compensation in the previous year's federal wage and tax statement, year that is used the first day of each April for setting the amount of coverage prior to retirement for participants in the group life insurance program administered by the board, ~~except that, in a member's first year of hire or for a participant who is not a member, "annual base compensation" means the expected annual earnable compensation of a participant as reported by the~~

participant's employer in a manner specified by the chief executive officer.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 563
H.P. 1379 - L.D. 2055

**An Act to Amend or Correct
Certain Inland Fisheries and
Wildlife Laws**

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11154, sub-§16, as amended by PL 2025, c. 289, §2 and affected by §3, is further amended to read:

16. Moose permit transfer; disabled veterans. A person who holds a valid moose permit may transfer, in accordance with this subsection, that permit to a disabled veteran who meets the eligibility and permit requirements under this section and section 10853, subsection 4 and who is not otherwise prohibited from holding a moose permit. The commissioner may authorize a permit holder to transfer the moose permit to a disabled veteran identified by the permit holder or the permit holder may return the permit to the department, which, in accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner, shall provide for the transfer of the permit to a disabled veteran. A transferor and a transferee of the permit are subject to the elimination of any accumulated points under subsection 8 and the transferee is subject to the eligibility period under subsection 5 that prohibits a transferee that transfers a moose permit pursuant to this subsection from obtaining another moose permit until the 4th calendar year after the issuance of the last permit. Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §12509, as amended by PL 2025, c. 343, §§5 to 7, is further amended to read:

§12509. Permit to import live freshwater fish or eggs gametes

1. Permit required. Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person may not introduce, import or transport any live fish or ~~fish-eggs gametes~~ into the State or receive or have in that person's possession fish or ~~fish-eggs gametes~~ so introduced, imported or transported without a valid permit issued under this section.

A person who violates this subsection commits a Class E crime, except that, notwithstanding Title 17-A, section 1704, the fine may not be less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000.

2. Issuance. The commissioner may grant permits to introduce, import or transport any live fish or ~~fish eggs gametes~~ into the State or to receive or have in possession fish or ~~fish eggs gametes~~ so introduced, imported or transported if the commissioner determines that the species does not pose an unreasonable risk to any species of fish or other organism after evaluating fish health, habitat and population management issues. The commissioner may not adopt rules or issue permits governing any aspect of either the commercial aquaculture of Atlantic salmon when intended for use in commercial aquaculture in coastal waters, or in land-based aquaculture facilities, or the Atlantic salmon restoration program.

3. Application. Importers shall, when requesting a permit issued pursuant to subsection 2, provide the commissioner with the following information:

- A. The number and species to be imported;
- B. The name and address of the source;
- C. A statement from a fish health inspector certified by the American Fisheries Society, a fish pathologist certified by the American Fisheries Society or a licensed accredited veterinarian, certifying that the fish or ~~fish eggs gametes~~ are from sources that show no evidence of viral hemorrhagic septicemia, infectious pancreatic necrosis, infectious hematopoietic necrosis, Myxosoma cerebralis or other diseases that may threaten fish stocks within the State; and
- D. Other professionally recognized tests or analyses, including evaluation of fish health, habitat or population management issues that the commissioner may require by rule to ensure that the species will not pose an unreasonable risk to any species of fish or other organism.

4. Rules. The commissioner may adopt rules allowing the possession and importation of certain species of tropical fish and goldfish without a permit, for aquarium purposes only, if the commissioner determines that the species does not pose an unreasonable risk to any species of fish or other organism after evaluating fish health, habitat and population management issues. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §12510, as amended by PL 2025, c. 343, §8, is further amended to read:

§12510. Permit to stock inland waters

1. Permit required. Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person may not introduce fish or ~~fish eggs gametes~~ of any kind into any inland waters without a valid permit issued under this section.

1-A. Penalty. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a Class E crime, except that, notwithstanding

Title 17-A, section 1704, the fine may not be less than \$1,000 or more than \$10,000.

1-B. Restitution. In the case of a person who violates subsection 1, the court shall:

- A. Order that person to pay the department an amount equal to the cost of labor, equipment, chemicals and all other related expenses directly associated with mitigating or reclaiming waters affected as a result of the violation; and
- B. Direct that person to provide the commissioner, upon making full payment as ordered by the court under paragraph A, proof of that payment.

2. Issuance. The commissioner may issue a written permit allowing a person to introduce fish or ~~fish eggs gametes~~ of any kind into any inland waters by means of live fish or otherwise.

3. Limited permit. The commissioner may issue a written limited permit to a local government under this subsection. A limited permit:

- A. Allows the local government to introduce fish or ~~fish eggs gametes~~ only into a great pond that:
 - (1) Is within the jurisdiction of the local government; and
 - (2) Was previously stocked by the department and in which stocking was suspended prior to January 1, 2019 and has not been resumed by the department due to inadequate public access;
- B. Allows the introduction of only:
 - (1) The same species of fish that was stocked at the time the department suspended stocking; and
 - (2) Fish or ~~fish eggs gametes~~ obtained by the local government at its own expense from an in-state commercial facility that meets testing and health guidelines approved by the department; and
- C. May be issued only if the local government identifies public access to the great pond that:
 - (1) Is at least suitable for the hand carrying of boats to the water;
 - (2) Includes a parking area; and
 - (3) Has been marked with signage adequate to ensure public awareness of the public access.

For purposes of this subsection, "local government" means a municipality or, in the unorganized territory, a county.

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §12511, as amended by PL 2025, c. 343, §9, is further amended to read:

§12511. Permit to introduce fish or ~~fish-eggs gametes~~ into private pond

1. Permit required. Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person may not introduce fish or ~~fish-eggs gametes~~ into a private pond without a valid permit issued under this section.

1-A. Penalty. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a Class E crime, except that, notwithstanding Title 17-A, section 1704, the fine may not be less than \$1,000 or more than \$10,000.

1-B. Restitution. In the case of a person who violates subsection 1, the court shall:

A. Order that person to pay the department an amount equal to the cost of labor, equipment, chemicals and all other related expenses directly associated with mitigating or reclaiming waters affected as a result of the violation; and

B. Direct that person to provide the commissioner, upon making full payment as ordered by the court under paragraph A, proof of that payment.

2. Issuance. The commissioner may issue a written permit to introduce fish or ~~fish-eggs gametes~~ into a private pond.

Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §12607, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. D, §7 and c. 614, §9, is amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§12607. Unlawfully introducing department-raised fish or ~~fish-spawn gametes~~

Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §12607, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

1. Prohibition. A person may not introduce fish or ~~fish-spawn gametes~~ raised by the department into a private pond, unless the department permits the introduction for fishing events held in conjunction with educational or special programs sanctioned by the department.

Sec. 7. 12 MRSA §12663-B, sub-§4, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 132, §6, is amended to read:

A. A person may not sell or offer for sale a lead sinker or ~~unpainted~~ lead jig that: weighs one ounce or less or measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.

~~(1) Weighs one ounce or less; or~~

~~(2) Measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.~~

Sec. 8. 12 MRSA §12664, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2025, c. 132, §7, is further amended to read:

2. Unlawful use. This subsection governs the use of lead sinkers and lead jigs.

~~A. A person may not:~~

~~(3) Beginning September 1, 2026, use a painted lead jig.~~

A-1. A Prior to September 1, 2026, a person may not use a lead sinker or unpainted lead jig that:

(1) Weighs one ounce or less; or

(2) Measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.

A-2. Beginning September 1, 2026, a person may not use a lead sinker or lead jig that:

(1) Weighs one ounce or less; or

(2) Measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.

B. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

C. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 564**H.P. 1382 - L.D. 2069**

**An Act Designating July 21st as
Maine Commercial Fishing
Remembrance Day**

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

Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §150-Z is enacted to read:

§150-Z. Maine Commercial Fishing Remembrance Day

July 21st of each year is designated as Maine Commercial Fishing Remembrance Day, and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation honoring and recognizing those individuals who have lost their lives fishing for lobsters or scallops, digging clams or actively participating in any other commercial fishery in the State.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 565
H.P. 1385 - L.D. 2072

**An Act to Make Changes to the
Laws Governing Financial
Institutions and to Eliminate
Certain Administrative Fees
Paid by Banks and Credit
Unions Under the Maine
Consumer Credit Code**

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

Sec. 1. 9-A MRSA §6-201, as amended by PL 2005, c. 206, §2, is further amended to read:

§6-201. Applicability

This Part applies to a person engaged in this State in entering into consumer credit transactions and to a person having an office or place of business in this State who takes assignments of or undertakes direct collection of payments from or enforcement of rights against debtors arising from these transactions. In addition, this Part applies to a person, wherever located, who takes assignments of or undertakes direct collection of payments from or enforcement of rights against debtors arising from a consumer credit transaction subject to this Title. This Part also applies to a person, ~~other than a supervised financial organization~~, wherever located, who takes assignments of or undertakes direct collection of payments from or enforcement of rights against debtors arising from a consumer credit transaction subject to Article 9. This Part does not apply to supervised financial organizations.

Sec. 2. 9-A MRSA §6-203, sub-§3-A, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 268, §2, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 9-A MRSA §6-203, sub-§3-D, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 245, Pt. A, §5, is amended to read:

3-D. Notwithstanding subsection 3-C, the administrator may by rule adjust the fees paid with respect to creditors ~~that are not supervised financial organizations~~ making residential mortgage loans to support the costs of compliance and staff attorney positions. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 4. 9-A MRSA §6-203, sub-§6, as amended by PL 1997, c. 393, Pt. B, §5 and PL 2001, c. 44, §11 and affected by §14 and amended by PL 2007, c. 273, Pt. B, §§5 and 6 and affected by c. 695, Pt. A, §47, is repealed.

Sec. 5. 9-B MRSA §161, sub-§1-A, ¶F, as amended by PL 2001, c. 44, §11 and affected by §14 and enacted by c. 262, Pt. B, §2 and amended by PL 2007, c. 273, Pt. B, §5 and affected by c. 695, Pt. A, §47, is further amended by amending subparagraph (10) to read:

(10) The Office of Securities within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation; ~~and~~

Sec. 6. 9-B MRSA §161, sub-§1-A, ¶F, as amended by PL 2001, c. 44, §11 and affected by §14 and enacted by c. 262, Pt. B, §2 and amended by PL 2007, c. 273, Pt. B, §5 and affected by c. 695, Pt. A, §47, is further amended by amending subparagraph (11) to read:

(11) The United States Securities and Exchange Commission; ~~and~~

Sec. 7. 9-B MRSA §161, sub-§1-A, ¶F, as amended by PL 2001, c. 44, §11 and affected by §14 and enacted by c. 262, Pt. B, §2 and amended by PL 2007, c. 273, Pt. B, §5 and affected by c. 695, Pt. A, §47, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (12) to read:

(12) The federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Sec. 8. 9-B MRSA §161, sub-§1-A, ¶F, as amended by PL 2001, c. 44, §11 and affected by §14 and enacted by c. 262, Pt. B, §2 and amended by PL 2007, c. 273, Pt. B, §5 and affected by c. 695, Pt. A, §47, is further amended by enacting at the end a new first blocked paragraph to read:

"Supervisory agency" includes any successor agency to those listed in this paragraph.

Sec. 9. 9-B MRSA §162, sub-§5-A, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 215, §2, is amended to read:

5-A. Disclosure upon suspicion of financial exploitation. The financial records are disclosed to the Office of the Attorney General or a law enforcement agency pursuant to section 245 because a financial institution authorized to do business in this State or its affiliate or a credit union authorized to do business in this State or its affiliate has reasonable cause to believe that a disbursement requested by an individual ~~62~~ 65 years of age or older or an individual protected under the Adult Protective Services Act may result in financial exploitation of that person;

Sec. 10. 9-B MRSA §252, sub-§6, as amended by PL 1997, c. 398, Pt. K, §5, is further amended to read:

6. Decision. After consideration of all relevant matters presented in the application, in any written comments, in an investigation conducted by the bureau to examine and evaluate facts related to the application to the extent necessary to make an informed decision and at the hearing, if any, the superintendent shall promulgate, in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, the final order. Within ~~5~~ 14 days of promulgation, notice of the final order setting forth the name of the applicant, the nature of the application and the

superintendent's action ~~thereon~~ on the application, together with a statement that copies of the order are available to the public at cost, must be published by the superintendent in those newspapers in which the notice required by subsection 2 was published. Unless the superintendent specifies a later date in the final notice relating ~~thereto to the application~~, the effective date of the final order is 30 days after its promulgation. The superintendent may waive all or part of the 30-day waiting period following promulgation of the final order, if the superintendent determines that extraordinary or unusual conditions exist that warrant that action. The superintendent shall set forth in writing the circumstances and reasons for waiving all or part of the 30-day waiting period, ~~provided, however, except that~~ the superintendent shall, within 60 days of the close of the comment period or within 60 days of the conclusion of the hearing if ~~such a hearing~~ was held, whichever period is greater, promulgate the final order either approving or disapproving the application.

Sec. 11. 9-B MRSA §326, sub-§1, ¶E, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is amended to read:

E. The compensation of directors, which may include provision for payment of medical, surgical and hospital expenses due to accident or illness in the same manner as provided for officers and employees, may be fixed by the incorporators or members at any legal meeting ~~thereof, or, subject to the written approval of the superintendent, such may be fixed by the board of directors of the incorporators or members.~~

Sec. 12. 9-B MRSA §851, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2003, c. 322, §36, is further amended to read:

1. Authorization. A credit union may make, sell, purchase, arrange, participate in, invest in and otherwise deal in loans to its members for any purpose in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. Subject to the provisions of this chapter, a credit union may participate in loans to nonmembers as long as the borrower is a member of at least one other participating credit union. Participation loans may be secured by real estate located outside this State.

Sec. 13. 9-B MRSA §855, sub-§1, as repealed and replaced by PL 1985, c. 94, is amended to read:

1. Limitations. A credit union may make loans to its members secured by a mortgage on real estate ~~located within this State~~, subject to the following conditions and limitations.

A. The total liability of any member upon loans within this section ~~shall be~~ is as established in section 854, subsection 1.

B. ~~No~~ A loan made pursuant to this section may not exceed 90% of the appraised value of the property mortgage, as determined by the credit committee. Loans pursuant to this section may be made in

an amount not exceeding 100% of the appraised value of the mortgage property if at least the top 20% of the loan is insured by a mortgage guarantee insurer licensed to do business in this State or if the loan is insured or guaranteed by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Federal Housing Administration or any other state or federal agency.

C. The note or other obligation evidencing a first mortgage loan ~~shall~~ must require monthly payment of the interest and principal thereon sufficient to repay the entire loan within a period not exceeding 30 years, except that this provision does not apply to real estate loans insured by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Federal Housing Administration.

D. The note or other obligation evidencing a loan other than a first mortgage loan ~~shall~~ must require monthly payment of the interest and principal thereon sufficient to repay the entire loan within a period not exceeding 15 years.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 566

H.P. 1494 - L.D. 2215

An Act Relating to Nonwater-dependent Floating Structures

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §13056, sub-§3-A, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 378, §10, is amended to read:

B. Meets all applicable operating visibility ~~requirements under 46 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 144.905. The watercraft must include a position from which its operator is afforded unobstructed forward visibility to each side of the centerline for at least 70 degrees from the operator's position and is afforded unobstructed lateral visibility to each side of the centerline at least 90 degrees from the operator's position standards related to the field of vision from the helm position as recommended by the American Boat and Yacht Council or its successor organization;~~

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §3301, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 378, §12, is amended to read:

1. Abandoned nonwater-dependent floating structure. "Abandoned nonwater-dependent floating structure" means a nonwater-dependent floating structure that has been left in, on or over ~~internal~~ the waters of this State for more than 24 hours without intention of removal by the owner, as determined by the primary enforcement authority.

Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §3301, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 378, §12, is repealed.

Sec. 4. 38 MRSA §3301, sub-§8, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 378, §12, is repealed.

Sec. 5. 38 MRSA §3301, sub-§11, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 378, §12, is amended to read:

11. Nonwater-dependent uses. "Nonwater-dependent uses" means those uses that can function in a location other than on the surface waters of ~~the~~ this State and that do not require, for their primary purpose, location on submerged lands or direct access to inland waters or ~~coastal~~ territorial waters.

Sec. 6. 38 MRSA §3301, sub-§11-A is enacted to read:

11-A. Territorial waters. "Territorial waters" has the same meaning as in Title 12, section 6001, subsection 48-B.

Sec. 7. 38 MRSA §3301, sub-§13 is enacted to read:

13. Waters of this State. "Waters of this State" has the same meaning as in Title 12, section 13001, subsection 30.

Sec. 8. 38 MRSA §3302, first ¶, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 378, §12, is amended to read:

Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a person may not place or use a nonwater-dependent floating structure in, on or over ~~internal~~ the waters of this State.

Sec. 9. 38 MRSA §3303, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 378, §12, is amended to read:

2. Swimming structures. Any dock, wharf or swimming and diving float that is used as a floating structure for swimming or diving or for the temporary tie-off of watercraft, is placed on ~~internal~~ the waters of ~~the~~ this State and is temporarily or permanently anchored to the bottom of those waters;

Sec. 10. 38 MRSA §3304, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 378, §12, is amended to read:

1. Eligibility. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the owner of a nonwater-dependent floating structure that was in existence as of January 1, 2025 may make application to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands, referred to in this section as "the bureau," through the submerged lands leasing program established pursuant to Title 12, section 1862 for a nonwater-dependent floating structure lease on the ~~internal~~ waters of ~~the~~ this State that authorizes the owner to continue to operate the nonwater-dependent floating structure in accordance with the requirements of this section when the following applies:

A. The applicant holds right, title or interest to the shorefront to which the nonwater-dependent floating structure is attached; or

B. If the nonwater-dependent floating structure is not attached to the shore, the applicant has right, title or interest to the adjacent upland shorefront and holds an approved mooring from the United States Army Corps of Engineers or the municipality in which the structure is located.

Sec. 11. 38 MRSA §3304, sub-§6, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 378, §12, is amended to read:

B. If the structure is located on ~~coastal~~ territorial waters, it must comply with 33 United States Code, Section 1322.

Sec. 12. 38 MRSA §3304, sub-§7, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 378, §12, is amended to read:

B. Once sited in accordance with a lease issued under this section, a nonwater-dependent floating structure may not be sited in any other location on the ~~internal~~ waters of this State.

Sec. 13. 38 MRSA §3305, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 378, §12, is amended to read:

3. Removal of structures. A person who violates section 3302 shall remove the violating nonwater-dependent floating structure from the ~~internal~~ waters of this State that the structure was placed or used in, on or over and is responsible for all costs associated with the removal and the costs of any damage to persons or property caused by the structure's placement or use.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 567

H.P. 1041 - L.D. 1583

An Act Regarding Home Health Care Services Ordered by a Physician Licensed Outside of Maine

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §2145-A is enacted to read:

§2145-A. Home health care services ordered by physician licensed in another state

1. Requirements; home health care provider. A home health care provider that is licensed pursuant to this chapter and certified by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as a home health agency may provide home health care services for up to 90 days to a patient who resides in this State based on an order from a physician who is licensed in another state as long as the following requirements are met:

A. The physician holds a license in good standing conferred by the appropriate medical board in the physician's jurisdiction of practice. The home health care provider must verify that the physician's license is in good standing, and the verification must be maintained on file for review by the department;

B. The physician issued the order pursuant to an in-person physical examination of the patient performed in the state where the physician is licensed. Home health care services ordered by the physician are limited to the medical purpose and clinical scope from the results of the in-person physical examination; and

C. The physician and home health care provider comply with standards established in rules adopted by the department pursuant to subsection 5 and comply with regulations adopted by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under conditions of participation for home health agencies pursuant to 42 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 484.

2. Exemption from medical license in this State.

A physician who is licensed in another state and who issues an order for home health care services in accordance with this section is exempt from the requirement of licensure by the Board of Licensure in Medicine in Title 32, chapter 48 or the Board of Osteopathic Licensure in Title 32, chapter 36 solely for the purpose of ordering home health care services for a patient, as long as the following requirements are met:

A. The order for the provision of home health care services is for up to 90 days;

B. The physician provides telehealth services only to the patient for which the order has been issued;

C. The physician orders home health care services from a home health care provider that is certified by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as a home health agency; and

D. The physician only orders home health care services while the patient is receiving home health care services.

3. Violation. If, during the department's home health care services licensing process or during the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services survey and certification process, a physician is found to be acting in violation of this section, the department shall, in consultation with the Board of Licensure in Medicine under Title 32, chapter 48 or the Board of Osteopathic Licensure under Title 32, chapter 36, determine if the physician may no longer be exempt from licensure in this State under subsection 2.

4. Limitation on physician providing telehealth services or in-person medical care. A physician acting under subsection 2 is not authorized to provide telehealth services or in-person medical care to any patient in this State except as expressly outlined in this section.

5. Rulemaking. The department may adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 568

H.P. 1045 - L.D. 1587

An Act to Clarify the Bureau of Labor Standards' Investigatory and Enforcement Procedures

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §54 is enacted to read:

§54. Investigation; penalties

1. Investigation. Whenever the director believes a person or employer has violated any provision of chapter 7 or 15, the director may conduct an investigation. During the investigation of a person or employer, the director may:

A. Examine or cause to be examined for that purpose any books, records, papers and memoranda of any person or employer of whatever nature relevant to the alleged violation;

B. Issue a subpoena pursuant to subsection 2 or otherwise require the attendance of the person or employer, or of any other person having knowledge of the subject of the investigation, take testimony, administer oaths or take acknowledgement in respect of any book, record, paper or memorandum and may require proof material for that person's or employer's information. Such testimony, administration of oaths or acknowledgement of any book, record, paper or memorandum must be taken in the county where the person or employer resides or has a place of business, or in Kennebec County if the person or employer is a nonresident or has no place of business within the State; and

C. Require production of any record required by law to be kept by the person or employer pursuant to any provision of chapter 7 or 15.

2. Issuance of subpoenas. Subpoenas issued for the purposes of conducting an investigation pursuant to subsection 1 must be issued pursuant to Title 5, section 9060. Service of any notice or subpoena may be made by:

A. Delivering a duly executed copy of the subpoena to the person or employer to be served or to a partner or to any officer or agent authorized by appointment or by law to receive service of process on behalf of that person or employer;

B. Delivering a duly executed copy of the subpoena to the principal place of business in this State of the person or employer to be served; or

C. Mailing by registered or certified mail a duly executed copy of the subpoena addressed to the person or employer to be served at the principal place of business in this State of the person or employer to be served or, if that person or employer does not have a place of business in this State, to the person's or employer's principal office or place of business or publicly identified service address.

3. Penalties for violations. If the director determines a person or employer has violated any provision of chapter 7 or 15, the director may issue a notice of violation and:

A. Order the payment of penalties and other remedies consistent with section 53 and any other penalty or enforcement provision in chapter 7 or 15. Once a penalty or other ordered remedy is final and all administrative and legal appeal rights have been exhausted, the person or employer subject to the penalty or ordered remedy pursuant to this subsection shall make payment within 30 calendar days. Failure to make a timely payment is subject to an additional civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 for each day that the person or employer fails to make payment; or

B. Order the correction of ongoing violations. Any person or employer who fails to correct a violation for which a notice of violation has been issued within the permitted period for its correction is subject to an additional civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 for each day during which the violation is not corrected. The permitted period for correction may not begin to run until the date on which all administrative and legal appeal rights have been exhausted in the case of any appeal proceeding initiated by the person or employer in good faith and not solely for delay or avoidance of penalties.

A person or employer who is ordered to pay wages, liquidated damages or interest to an employee pursuant to this subsection or the provisions of chapter 7 or 15 shall certify that payment was made within 7 calendar days from the date on which all administrative and legal appeal rights have been exhausted in the case of any appeal proceeding initiated by the person or employer in good faith and not solely for delay or avoidance of penalties. Such certification must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the director that payment was made to any employee's last known address or attest to the same under penalty of perjury.

4. Failure to pay; notice of levy. If a person or employer fails to pay any part of the wages, liquidated damages, interest or penalties due to an employee under this section or chapter 7 or 15, the director may notify by mail a 3rd party who has possession or control of property in which the delinquent person or employer may have an interest or who may owe a debt to the delinquent person or employer, other than earnings.

A. A notice of levy under this subsection may be given any time after the amount due under this section becomes delinquent. The notice of levy must state the aggregate amount of contributions, penalties, interest or other amounts due and any additional amount that will accrue by operation of law in a period not to exceed the computation ending date of the month in which the notice of levy is given and, in the case of a credit, bank or savings account or deposit, the notice of levy is effective only up to that amount.

B. The delinquent person's or employer's property subject to levy includes:

(1) A credit, bank or savings account or deposit that is subject to execution pursuant to Title 14, section 4751; or

(2) Any other interest or personal property that is not exempt from attachment or execution pursuant to Title 14, chapter 507, subchapter 2, article 7.

C. A notice of levy is effective:

(1) At the time of delivery against all property, rights to property, credits and debts involving the delinquent person or employer that are not, as of the date of the notice, subject to a preexisting lien, attachment, garnishment or execution issued through a judicial process; and

(2) Against all property, rights to property, credits and debts involving the delinquent person or employer that come into the possession or control of the person or employer served with the notice.

D. A notice of levy sent under this subsection that attempts to prohibit the transfer or disposition of any property possessed or controlled by a bank is effective if it is mailed to the principal or any branch office of the bank, including any office of the bank at which the deposit is carried or the credit or property is held.

E. A person who has received a notice of levy under this subsection and who acts in accordance with the terms of the notice of levy issued by the director is discharged from any obligation or liability to the delinquent person or employer with respect to the affected property, rights to property, credits and debts of the person affected by compliance with the notice of levy.

F. A person who has received a notice of levy under this subsection and who transfers or disposes of any property or debt in a manner that violates this section is liable to the director for the amount of the indebtedness of the delinquent person or employer with respect to whose obligation or liability the notice was given to the extent of the value of that property or debt.

5. Workplace posting. A copy or copies of any notice of violation issued under this section or chapter 7 or 15 must be prominently posted in a conspicuous location in the workplace that is accessible to employees. If no such location exists, a copy or copies of the notice of violation must be delivered to each employee in a reasonable manner.

6. Employee notification. If a notice of violation issued under this section or chapter 7 or 15 covers a defined time period, notice of violation must be provided to all employees employed during that time period. Mail, e-mail and text messages constitute reasonable manners in which to notify employees, as long as the mail, e-mail or text message is in the same language in which the employer typically communicates to the employees receiving the notice of violation.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 569

S.P. 803 - L.D. 1991

An Act to Authorize an Educational Requirement for Seaweed Permit Holders

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6803, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Educational course. The commissioner, as the commissioner determines appropriate, may require an individual to complete an educational course prior to the issuance or renewal of a seaweed permit under this section. An educational course required under this subsection may be provided by the department or by any public or private sector association or organization authorized by the commissioner. If an educational course requirement under this subsection applies only to certain species of seaweed, the commissioner may require an endorsement on the seaweed permit for those species, which must be made available at no charge.

Sec. 2. Report. The Department of Marine Resources shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters no later than February 1, 2028 with findings and recommendations related to the im-

plementation of the educational course developed pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 6803, subsection 6. The committee may report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 570

H.P. 1354 - L.D. 2024

An Act to Make Changes to Certain Licensing Laws Governing For-hire Charter Boat Operators, Lobster and Crab Fishing and Elver Dealers

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6313, sub-§4, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 155, §5 and affected by §6, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6313, sub-§4, ¶A-1 is enacted to read:

A-1. Possesses a valid United States Merchant Mariner Credential issued by the United States Coast Guard indicating an endorsement authorizing the individual to carry passengers for hire; or

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §6431-A, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2007, c. 201, §12, is further amended to read:

1. Limit. ~~Before March 1, 2000, the holder of a Class I, Class II or Class III license issued under section 6421 may not submerge more than 1,000 traps. After February 29, 2000, the~~ The holder of a Class I, Class II or Class III license or a nonresident lobster and crab landing permit issued under section 6421 may not submerge more than 800 traps. If a lower trap limit is adopted by rule for a zone pursuant to section 6446, a license holder who fishes in that zone may not submerge a number of traps that exceeds the lower limit.

The number of traps fished from a vessel may not exceed the applicable trap limit established in this subsection, regardless of the number of license holders fishing from that vessel.

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §6431-A, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 421, Pt. B, §22 and affected by Pt. C, §1, is repealed.

Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §6864, sub-§1-B, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 370, §3, is repealed.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 571
S.P. 860 - L.D. 2142

**An Act to Establish Guidance
for Awarding General Spousal
Support**

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

Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §951-A, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Length of the marriage" means the length of time from the date that the parties were married to the date of the filing of the action for divorce.

B. "Spousal support income" means, with respect to each party and regardless of whether there are any children of the marriage, the party's gross income, as defined in section 2001, subsection 5, less, for a party who is a child support obligee, any amount the party is determined to spend directly in support of the minor child or children of the marriage as reflected on the child support worksheet and less, for a party who is a child support obligor, any amount the party is obligated to pay directly in support of the minor child or children of the marriage as reflected on the child support worksheet.

Sec. 2. 19-A MRSA §951-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2023, c. 646, Pt. C, §1, is further amended to read:

2. Types of spousal support. The court may, after consideration of the facts of the case and of all factors set forth in subsection 5, award or modify spousal support ~~for~~ on one or more of the following ~~reasons~~ grounds.

A. General support may be awarded to ~~provide financial assistance to a spouse with substantially less income potential than the other spouse so that both spouses can maintain a reasonable standard of living after the divorce~~ allocate equitably between spouses financial losses that either or both may incur due to dissolution of a marriage of a significant length when the family is divided into separate economic units. A spouse married to someone with significantly greater income or earning capacity is entitled at the dissolution of the marriage to compensation for a portion of the decrease in the standard of living the spouse would otherwise experience, if the length of the marriage is of sufficient duration that equity requires that some portion of the loss be treated as the spouses' joint responsibility.

(1) There is a rebuttable presumption that general support may not be awarded if the parties were married for less than 10 years as of the date of the filing of the action for divorce. There is also a rebuttable presumption that general support may not be awarded for a term exceeding 1/2 the length of the marriage if the parties were married for at least 10 years but not more than 20 years as of the date of the filing of the action for divorce. There is a rebuttable presumption that general support must be awarded for an indefinite period if the parties were married for more than 20 years as of the date of the filing of the action for divorce.

(1-A) There is a rebuttable presumption that a spouse is entitled to an award of general support if the parties have been married for at least 10 years as of the date of the filing of the action for divorce and if that spouse's spousal support income as of the date of the filing of the action for divorce is equal to or less than 65% of the other spouse's spousal support income as of the date of the filing of the action for divorce.

(1-B) There is a rebuttable presumption that the annual amount of any general support awarded under this paragraph must equal the difference in the parties' spousal support incomes multiplied by a durational factor that is calculated by multiplying the number of years of the marriage by 0.015, except that the durational factor may not exceed 0.3. The amount of general support must be calculated on an annual basis, but the court may order the obligor to pay general support on a monthly, weekly or other scheduled basis.

(2) If the court finds that a spousal support award based upon a presumption established by this paragraph would be inequitable or unjust, that finding is sufficient to rebut the applicable presumption. The court shall use the factors set forth in subsection 5 and may use any other fact the court considers relevant to determine whether a presumption under this paragraph would be inequitable or unjust and shall make written findings supporting the court's conclusion. A court may award general support in cases for which there is a presumption that no general support may be awarded if the court finds that a substantial injustice will result if there is no award and the court makes written findings supporting the court's conclusion.

B. Transitional support may be awarded to provide for a spouse's transitional needs, including, but not limited to:

(1) Short-term needs resulting from financial dislocations associated with the dissolution of the marriage; or

(2) Reentry or advancement in the work force, including, but not limited to, physical or emotional rehabilitation services, vocational training and education.

C. Reimbursement support may be awarded to achieve an equitable result in the overall dissolution of the parties' financial relationship in response to exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Economic misconduct by a spouse;
- (2) Substantial contributions a spouse made towards the educational or occupational advancement of the other spouse during the marriage; and
- (3) Economic abuse by a spouse. For the purposes of this subparagraph, "economic abuse" has the same meaning as in section 4102, subsection 5.

Reimbursement support may be awarded only if the court determines that the parties' financial circumstances do not permit the court to fully address equitable considerations through its distributive order pursuant to section 953.

D. Nominal support may be awarded to preserve the court's authority to grant spousal support in the future.

E. Interim support may be awarded to provide for a spouse's separate support during the pendency of an action for divorce or judicial separation.

Sec. 3. 19-A MRSA §951-A, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Award at expiration of child support obligation. If a child support obligation for the minor child or children of the marriage will terminate within 3 years of the anticipated date of a final judgment awarding general support, the court may establish a separate general support award that will take effect upon the termination of the child support obligation.

Sec. 4. 19-A MRSA §951-A, sub-§5, ¶H, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 634, §3, is amended to read:

H. The ~~tax~~ consequences of the division of marital property, including the tax consequences ~~of the sale of the marital home~~ resulting from division of the marital property, if applicable;

Sec. 5. 19-A MRSA §951-A, sub-§5, ¶P, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 634, §3, is amended to read:

P. The effect of the following on a party's need for spousal support or a party's ability to pay spousal support:

(1) Actual or potential income from marital or nonmarital property awarded or set apart to each party as part of the court's distributive order pursuant to section 953; ~~and~~

~~(2) Child support for the support of a minor child or children of the marriage pursuant to chapter 63; and~~

Sec. 6. 19-A MRSA §951-A, sub-§5, ¶P-1 is enacted to read:

P-1. Whether the spousal support award combined with a child support obligation for the support of a minor child or children of the marriage would be inequitable or unjust;

Sec. 7. 19-A MRSA §951-A, sub-§5, ¶P-2 is enacted to read:

P-2. Whether the spousal support incomes of the parties are sufficiently low or sufficiently high that application of the presumptive calculation in subsection 2, paragraph A, subparagraph (1-B) would be inequitable or unjust; and

Sec. 8. Application. This Act applies to all actions pending on or after January 1, 2027. If a party files a motion to modify a general spousal support award that was issued before January 1, 2027, the following provisions apply.

1. The court may not use the rebuttable presumption in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 19-A, section 951-A, subsection 2, paragraph A, subparagraph (1-B) as the basis for finding a substantial change in financial circumstances under Title 19-A, section 951-A, subsection 4.

2. If a party establishes a substantial change in financial circumstances through means other than application of the presumption under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 19-A, section 951-A, subsection 2, paragraph A, subparagraph (1-B) and it appears to the court that justice requires the award to be modified, the court may consider the presumption in determining the amount of the modified general support award.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 572

H.P. 1159 - L.D. 1741

An Act Regarding Vacancies in the Office of Sheriff

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §371-B, sub-§2, as repealed and replaced by PL 1997, c. 562, Pt. D, §6 and affected by §11, is amended to read:

2. Filling vacancies. Vacancies in the office of sheriff caused by death, resignation, removal from the county, permanent incapacity or any other reason must be filled as provided in the Constitution of Maine. In the case of a vacancy in the term of a sheriff who was nominated by primary election before the general election, the sheriff appointed by the Governor to fill the vacancy until a successor is chosen at election must be enrolled in the same political party as the sheriff whose term is vacant. In making the appointment, the Governor shall choose from any recommendations submitted to the Governor by the county committee of the political party from which the appointment is made. If the county committee submits one or more recommendations to the Governor, the chief deputy exercising the same rights and powers of the sheriff in the case of a vacancy in the office of sheriff pursuant to section 385, subsection 1 must be included for consideration for appointment as sheriff if the chief deputy is enrolled in the same political party as the sheriff whose term is vacant.

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §381, sub-§3, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

A. The ~~failure decision~~ of a sheriff to ~~not~~ reappoint a deputy, except for appointment at the end of the probationary period, is subject to the procedures and standards for dismissal of an applicable collective bargaining agreement.

Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §385, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

1. Chief deputy's powers. If the office of sheriff becomes vacant because of death, resignation or otherwise, the chief deputy ~~shall have~~ has and may exercise the same rights and powers and ~~be is~~ subject to the same duties and liabilities as a sheriff until the vacancy in the office of sheriff is filled as provided in the Constitution of Maine ~~and the new sheriff has qualified under law.~~

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 573

H.P. 1365 - L.D. 2035

An Act to Increase the Fee Cap for the Board of Licensing of Auctioneers

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §287-A, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 323, §15 and amended by PL 2011, c. 286, Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

§287-A. Fees

The Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation may establish by rule fees for purposes authorized under this chapter in amounts that are reasonable and necessary for their respective purposes, except that the fee for any one purpose may not exceed ~~\$200~~ \$300 annually. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter ~~H-A~~ 2-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 574

H.P. 1398 - L.D. 2083

An Act to Expand Access to Certified Residential Medication Aide Training

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §42, sub-§1-A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 237, §1, is further amended to read:

1-A. Administration of medication. The administration of medication in assisted housing programs, residential care facilities, ~~drug treatment centers~~, day care facilities, children's homes and nursery schools and nonnursing level intermediate care facilities for persons with intellectual disabilities must be in accordance with rules established by the department. In other facilities licensed or approved by the department, excluding those facilities licensed under section 1811, other than nonnursing level intermediate care facilities for persons with intellectual disabilities, the department may establish rules for the administration of medication as it considers necessary. In establishing rules for each type of facility, the department shall consider, among other factors, the general health of the persons likely to receive medication, the number of persons served by the facility and the number of persons employed at the facility who might be involved in the administration of medication. Any rules for the administration of medication must be established in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §42, sub-§1-B is enacted to read:

1-B. Certified residential medication aide certificate. The department shall issue a certificate to an individual who has successfully completed a department-approved certified residential medication aide course that meets the medication administration training requirements for unlicensed assistive personnel under Title 32, section 2102, subsection 11 in accordance with rules established by the department for facilities under subsection 1-A. The course must be designed to ensure competency in the safe administration of medications by individuals who are not licensed health care

professionals. The department shall review the course curriculum at least once every 5 years, or more frequently as determined necessary by the commissioner, to ensure alignment with current clinical standards, safety practices and the needs of residents and clients in facilities under subsection 1-A. The department shall develop rules for the certification of certified residential medication aides and certified residential medication aide instructors and may establish and collect reasonable certification fees and sanction fees from individuals as well as from instructors. Fees must be set by rule and may range from \$25 to \$100 per individual or instructor, per course. A certificate issued pursuant to this subsection is valid for a 2-year certification period. Fees collected pursuant to this section must be deposited in a dedicated special revenue account to support certified residential medication aide certification activities and the ongoing oversight and maintenance of the curriculum. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
DEPARTMENT OF**

Division of Licensing and Certification Z036

Initiative: Establishes one Program Services II position to oversee the Department's Certified Residential Medication Aide (CRMA) certificate program and includes all other funding for a contract position to address clinical issues in the training and testing process and work with the Board of Nurses to improve training quality and CRMA competency.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$180,366
All Other	\$0	\$91,950
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	\$272,316
FUNDS TOTAL		

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 575
S.P. 771 - L.D. 1964**

**An Act to Establish Additional
Requirements Related to the
Sale or Lease of Net Energy
Billing Interests and Solar
Energy Equipment**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until

90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Office of the Public Advocate receives inquiries nearly every day from Maine consumers who are struggling to understand who their solar provider is or how to contact their provider with questions about their account; and

Whereas, the sale or lease of solar energy equipment involves significant consumer investment and long-term contracts, which may be complex; and

Whereas, recent federal tax changes may increase the likelihood of door-to-door solicitations for the lease of solar energy equipment, and this legislation must take effect as soon as possible to clarify and improve upon existing consumer protection laws; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1250-M is enacted to read:

§1250-M. False representation in sale of electricity product

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Competitive electricity provider" has the same meaning as in Title 35-A, section 3201, subsection 5.

B. "Distributed generation resource" has the same meaning as in Title 35-A, section 3481, subsection 5.

C. "Electricity product" means a distributed generation resource, energy supply by a competitive electricity provider or a similar resource. "Electricity product" does not include an electrical appliance, machinery or equipment or building efficiency services or products.

D. "Electric utility" means a transmission and distribution utility as defined in Title 35-A, section 102, subsection 20-B.

2. False representation in sale of electricity product. A person may not falsely represent the person as a representative of, as an affiliate of or as being in any way affiliated with an electric utility or as a representative of, as an official of or acting in an official capacity on behalf of a governmental agency or program, unless expressly permitted by the electric utility or governmental agency or program, when selling, offering to sell, leasing, installing or entering into any other financial arrangement regarding an electricity product.

3. Unfair trade practice. A violation of this section constitutes a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §4661, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1969, c. 395, is amended to read:

2. Merchandise. "Merchandise" includes any objects, wares, goods, commodities, intangibles or services. "Merchandise" also includes a contract for a shared financial interest in a distributed generation resource that has a net energy billing arrangement in accordance with Title 35-A, section 3209-A or 3209-B and solar energy equipment as defined in Title 35-A, section 3218, subsection 1.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §14701, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2005, c. 347, Pt. E, §1, is further amended to read:

4. Merchandise. "Merchandise" includes any objects, wares, goods, promises, commodities, intangibles, services or other things of value but does not include food or technical or vocational schools located outside of the State that are registered pursuant to Title 20-A, section 9501. "Merchandise" also includes a contract for a shared financial interest in a distributed generation resource that has a net energy billing arrangement in accordance with Title 35-A, section 3209-A or 3209-B and solar energy equipment as defined in Title 35-A, section 3218, subsection 1. "Merchandise" does not include securities that are registered or exempt from registration pursuant to chapter 135, the Maine Uniform Securities Act and rules adopted pursuant to that Act or insurance products that are regulated under Title 24-A.

Sec. 4. 35-A MRSA §3209-A, sub-§5, ¶G-1 is enacted to read:

G-1. As applicable, must comply with the requirements of Title 32, chapter 69, subchapter 5 and Title 32, chapter 128, subchapter 2;

Sec. 5. 35-A MRSA §3218 is enacted to read:

§3218. Standard written disclosure for sale or lease of solar energy equipment

1. Definition. For the purposes of this section, "solar energy equipment" means all controls, tanks, pumps, heat exchangers, collectors and other equipment necessary for the collection, transfer and storage of solar energy. "Solar energy equipment" includes photovoltaic modules, inverters and racking and electronic control systems. "Solar energy equipment" does not include passive solar energy systems or those systems using natural means to collect, store and transfer solar energy or equipment owned by a transmission and distribution utility.

2. Standard written disclosure. Beginning June 1, 2026, a person that sells or leases solar energy equipment that is installed on the customer side of the meter shall, prior to a sale or lease, provide to the customer a completed standard written disclosure. The completed

standard written disclosure must be provided to the customer in a form that the customer may keep. The completed disclosures may be provided to the customer in electronic form, subject to compliance with the consumer consent and other applicable provisions of federal law, including, but not limited to, the federal Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, 15 United States Code, Chapter 96, as amended. The standard written disclosure must include the following:

A. The name of the seller or lessor and contact information of the seller or lessor or a representative of the seller or lessor;

B. The name of the primary installer and contact information of the primary installer;

C. A plain language summary of design, cost and warranty information, including the average cost of system interconnection by project size based on the previous calendar year's range of interconnection costs as published annually by the interconnection ombudsman appointed pursuant to section 107, subsection 1 on the commission's publicly accessible website pursuant to subsection 4;

D. A checklist of the responsibilities of the seller or lessor, primary installer, customer and transmission and distribution utility related to the transaction;

E. A description of any dispute resolution mechanisms, including information relating to the interconnection ombudsman under section 3474, subsection 4, available to the seller or lessor, primary installer, customer and transmission and distribution utility;

F. Clearly described terms and conditions of any financial agreement or contract associated with the sale or lease of solar energy equipment, including information about contract termination and a description of the parties' obligations under the contract if the customer moves or if the replacement or repair of the customer's roof is required; and

G. Signature lines for the seller or lessor and customer to attest that the seller or lessor provided, and the customer received, the standard written disclosure prior to the sale or lease of the solar energy equipment.

3. Violation. A violation of subsection 2 is a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act.

4. Interconnection costs; reporting. By March 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, each large, investor-owned transmission and distribution utility shall provide the interconnection ombudsman appointed pursuant to section 107, subsection 1 with the average interconnection costs for the previous calendar year by project size. By May 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the

interconnection ombudsman shall publish on the commission's publicly accessible website the average interconnection costs by project size along with disclaimer language regarding the range and factors associated with the cost of interconnection pursuant to subsection 2, paragraph C.

Sec. 6. Department of Energy Resources; model forms. By June 1, 2026, the Department of Energy Resources shall develop 2 model standard written disclosure forms for the sale and for the lease of solar energy equipment described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3218, informed by stakeholder input. The department shall make the disclosure forms available on its publicly accessible website.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 19, 2026.

CHAPTER 576

S.P. 801 - L.D. 1989

An Act to Increase Access to the Progressive Treatment Program Fund

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, progressive treatment programs are vital tools in helping individuals with serious mental illness remain in a community setting; and

Whereas, legal fees for initiating and extending progressive treatment programs are a barrier for many individuals; and

Whereas, the Progressive Treatment Program Fund is a dedicated fund to assist individuals who are filing an application for a progressive treatment program with paying for associated legal expenses; and

Whereas, the current individual cap in funding continues to result in underuse of the fund; and

Whereas, this legislation must take effect as soon as possible in order to address these issues; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA §3873-B, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 745, §1, is amended to read:

2. Application of fund. The department shall use the money in the fund to reimburse the legal costs incurred by ~~private entities~~ the following individuals to initiate or extend existing progressive treatment programs in accordance with section 3873-A: ~~the superintendent or chief administrative officer of a private psychiatric hospital, the director of an ACT team, a private medical practitioner, a law enforcement officer or the legal guardian of the patient who is the subject of an application under section 3873-A. A private entity~~ The department may use money in the fund to reimburse a private attorney representing an individual eligible to receive funds under this subsection. An individual seeking reimbursement must submit to the department an itemized bill of legal costs incurred to initiate or extend the progressive treatment program. The maximum annual amount the department may reimburse a private entity an individual for the legal costs to initiate a or extend an existing progressive treatment program is \$800 \$3,500. Reimbursement is subject to available funds.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 19, 2026.

CHAPTER 577

S.P. 802 - L.D. 1990

An Act to Update the Requirements for Psychology Licensure

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, current law governing qualification for licensure as a psychologist disqualifies candidates who failed an examination within the preceding 6 months, preventing the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists from granting licensure to candidates who subsequently passed the examination within the 6-month period; and

Whereas, one of the primary responsibilities of the board is to review the credentials of qualified candidates for licensure as psychologists and to grant licensure without delay in response to behavioral health workforce shortages, increasing access to behavioral health care services; and

Whereas, this legislation must take effect as soon as possible to better allow the board to quickly respond to the behavioral health workforce shortage; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of

the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §3831, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. Q, §9, is further amended to read:

1. Psychological examiner. A candidate for this license shall furnish the board with satisfactory evidence that the candidate is trustworthy and competent to practice as a psychological examiner in such manner as to safeguard the interests of the public; has had a master's degree reflecting comprehensive training in psychology from an accredited educational institution recognized by the board as maintaining satisfactory standards; has had at least one year of full-time supervised experience in psychology of a type considered by the board to be qualifying in nature; is competent as a psychological examiner as shown by passing such examinations, written or oral, or both, as the board determines necessary; ~~and is not considered by the board to be engaged in unethical practice; and has not within the preceding 6 months failed an examination.~~

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §3831, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2013, c. 262, §1, is further amended to read:

2. Psychologist. A candidate for this license shall furnish the board with satisfactory evidence that the candidate is trustworthy and competent to practice as a psychologist in such manner as to safeguard the interest of the public; has received a doctorate degree reflecting comprehensive training in psychology from an accredited institution recognized by the board as maintaining satisfactory standards, at the time the degree was granted; has had at least 2 years of experience in psychology of a type considered by the board to be qualifying in nature; is competent in psychology, as shown by passing such examinations as the board determines necessary; ~~and is not considered by the board to be engaged in unethical practice; and has not within the preceding 6 months failed an examination.~~ The board shall recognize that valid comprehensive training in psychology must be received in or accepted by a single program, but may be obtained through a degree given by administrative units other than a department of psychology, including programs approved by the National Association of School Psychologists or the American Psychological Association designation program or their successors or other organizations approved by the board. The board shall adopt a list of these programs. Individuals with degrees from programs not on that list must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Beginning January 1, 2020, a candidate for initial licensure shall furnish the board with satisfactory evidence that the candidate has successfully completed a minimum of 3 hours of course work in family or intimate

partner violence screening and referral and intervention strategies, including knowledge of community resources, cultural factors, evidence-based risk assessment and same-gender abuse dynamics. A candidate may fulfill this requirement through course work taken in fulfillment of other educational requirements for licensure or through separate course work provided through any combination of contact hours, Internet hours and distance learning programs, as evidenced by certification from an accredited educational institution. The board shall accept certification from the accredited educational institution from which the applicant is a graduate that verifies the applicant's satisfaction of this requirement within the applicant's completed course curriculum. A candidate for initial licensure that is unable to demonstrate completion of the requirement of 3 hours of course work at the time the initial application is submitted shall demonstrate to the board that this requirement has been fulfilled upon the candidate's first application for license renewal.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 19, 2026.

CHAPTER 578

H.P. 205 - L.D. 305

An Act Regarding the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Exemption for Leased Automobiles for Certain Veterans

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, Public Law 2025, chapter 152 was enacted to prevent the misuse of the motor vehicle excise tax exemption for certain disabled veterans; and

Whereas, through the process of implementing Public Law 2025, chapter 152, it was uncovered that a significant group of disabled veterans lease, rather than own, their vehicles and was excluded from the excise tax exemption, creating an inequity that was not contemplated during legislative debate and runs counter to the spirit of the law; and

Whereas, leasing may be the most practical and affordable option for veterans living on fixed incomes or disability compensation; and

Whereas, this legislation must go into effect as soon as possible to address this matter; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of

the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §1483, sub-§12, as amended by PL 2025, c. 152, §2, is further amended to read:

12. Certain Automobiles owned by certain veterans. Automobiles owned by veterans who are granted free registration of those vehicles by the Secretary of State under Title 29-A, section 523, subsection 1 or 2 or who are disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service in the line of duty and are receiving any form of pension or compensation from the United States Government for total, service-connected disability. A maximum of 3 automobiles owned by a veteran are exempt from the excise tax. In order for an automobile to qualify for an exemption from the excise tax under this subsection, the name of the qualifying veteran must appear on the automobile's certificate of title. If there are multiple owners of an automobile, at least one of the owners whose name appears on the certificate of title must meet the requirements of this subsection in order for the automobile to qualify for the exemption;

Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §1483, sub-§12-A is enacted to read:

12-A. Automobiles leased by certain veterans. Automobiles leased by veterans who are disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service in the line of duty and are receiving any form of pension or compensation from the United States Government for total, service-connected disability. A maximum of 3 automobiles leased by a veteran are exempt from the excise tax. In order for an automobile to qualify for an exemption from the excise tax under this subsection, the name of the qualifying veteran must appear on the automobile's lease agreement. If there are multiple lessees of an automobile, at least one of the lessees whose name appears on the automobile's lease agreement must meet the requirements of this subsection in order for the automobile to qualify for the exemption.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect July 1, 2026.

Effective July 1, 2026.

CHAPTER 579

S.P. 847 - L.D. 2061

An Act to Clarify the Prohibition on Paper Billing Statement Fees

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the current law regarding electronic records of transactions, as amended by Public Law 2025, chapter 35, prohibits a customer from being penalized or charged a fee for opting out of receiving a billing statement by electronic record rather than in paper form; and

Whereas, this legislation clarifies that law and allows a customer to be charged a reasonable fee for providing a replacement statement, a statement covering a custom date range or a statement requested for financial or legal purposes or for fulfilling any other labor-intensive or nonroutine request to provide copies of statements, as long as the fee is fully disclosed to and authorized by the customer prior to the copies of statements being provided; and

Whereas, this legislation must take effect immediately for the protection of customers; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §9420, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 226, §1, is amended by enacting a new first blocked paragraph to read:

For purposes of this subsection, "billing statement" means a monthly or periodic account statement that a person is required to provide to a customer under federal or state law, regulation or rule. This subsection does not prohibit a person from charging a reasonable fee for providing a replacement statement, a statement covering a custom date range or a statement requested for financial or legal purposes or for fulfilling any other labor-intensive or nonroutine request to provide copies of statements, as long as the fee is fully disclosed to and authorized by the customer prior to the copies being provided.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 19, 2026.

CHAPTER 580
S.P. 832 - L.D. 2134

**An Act to Create an Exception
to the Prohibition of Tobacco
Sales in Retail Establishments
Containing Pharmacies for
Certain Small Grocery Stores**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, Public Law 2025, chapter 493 takes effect April 1, 2026, which is earlier than 90 days after the statutory adjournment date of the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature; and

Whereas, the pharmacies and grocery stores that are affected by this legislation are already in business, and their licenses are renewed on April 1st of each year; and

Whereas, this legislation must be in effect by the effective date of Public Law 2025, chapter 493; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1551-A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 367, §4 and affected by §20 and amended by c. 493, §2 and affected by §4, is further amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§1551-A. Retail tobacco sales license required

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §1551-A, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 493, §2 and affected by §4, is amended to read:

6. Pharmacies and retail establishments with a pharmacy ineligible for retail tobacco license; civil penalty; transfer of funds. This subsection governs pharmacies and retail establishments containing a pharmacy.

A. A pharmacy is ineligible for a retail tobacco license. A pharmacy that engages in retail sales, ~~including retail sales through vending machines or in free distribution of tobacco products, and sells, to anyone or keeps for sale or gives away in the course of trade~~ any tobacco products ~~to anyone~~ commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$2,000 may be adjudged. Each day a pharmacy is in violation of this paragraph constitutes a separate offense.

B. ~~A~~ Except as provided in subsection 7, a retail establishment containing a pharmacy is ineligible for a retail tobacco license. A retail establishment containing a pharmacy that engages in retail sales, ~~including retail sales through vending machines or in free distribution of tobacco products, and sells, to anyone or keeps for sale or gives away in the course of trade~~ any tobacco products ~~to anyone~~ commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$2,000 may be adjudged. Each day a retail establishment containing a pharmacy is in violation of this paragraph constitutes a separate offense.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §1551-A, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

7. Exception to prohibition on license for retail establishments with pharmacy. Subsection 6, paragraph B does not apply to a retail establishment containing a pharmacy if the following conditions are satisfied:

A. The retail establishment has no more than 26,000 square feet of indoor customer-accessible sales area at the location for which the retail establishment is seeking a retail tobacco license;

B. The retail establishment is operated primarily as a grocery store;

C. The pharmacy located on the premises of the retail establishment operates in a separately demised, leased space under a written lease and holds a separate pharmacy license;

D. The pharmacy was established by lease agreement within the retail establishment at the same geographic location prior to July 7, 2025;

E. All tobacco sales made by the retail establishment occur outside the pharmacy's leased premises, through the retail establishment's separate point-of-sale system and from the retail establishment's separate inventory; and

F. The retail establishment complies with all other provisions of this chapter.

For the purposes of this subsection, "customer-accessible sales area" means the total floor area open to customers for display and sale of merchandise. "Customer-accessible sales area" does not include stockrooms, offices, restrooms, mechanical rooms or the pharmacy's demised premises.

For the purposes of this subsection, "grocery store" means a retail food store that offers for sale a variety of foods for home preparation and consumption, including perishable items, and derives a substantial portion of sales from food.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency

cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect April 1, 2026.

Effective April 1, 2026.

CHAPTER 581

S.P. 852 - L.D. 2059

An Act to Provide Required Funding for the Reimbursement of Assigned Counsel

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the State's constitutional and statutory obligations include ensuring that each person facing a potential loss of liberty in a criminal or juvenile proceeding and each parent facing a potential loss of parental rights in a child protection proceeding is provided with effective representation; and

Whereas, on January 3, 2025, in *Robbins v. Billings, et al.* No. CV-22-054 (Me. Super. Ct., Ken. Cty., Jan. 3, 2025) (Combined Order on Partially Dispositive Motions), the Maine Superior Court concluded that the State has violated its constitutional obligations under the United States Constitution, Amendment VI to provide continuous representation to certain criminal defendants in the State; and

Whereas, the State's primary method for fulfilling its constitutional and statutory obligations is through the appointment of qualified attorneys to provide indigent legal services to eligible persons and reimbursement of these attorneys by the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services in accordance with the hourly rate established by law and the restrictions on eligible expenses established by the commission by rule; and

Whereas, due to a shortfall in funding, the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services is anticipated to exhaust available appropriations to reimburse assigned counsel in April 2026; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES, MAINE
COMMISSION ON**

Maine Commission on Public Defense Services Z112

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to address the shortfall in funding available to compensate constitutionally and statutorily required assigned counsel in fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$13,000,000	\$9,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$13,000,000	\$9,000,000

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 19, 2026.

CHAPTER 582

H.P. 1411 - L.D. 2096

An Act Regarding Scheduling of Agricultural Fairs and Pulling Events

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, agricultural fairs and the harness racing season will begin soon and this legislation needs to take effect before the expiration of the 90-day period to allow the change in the conditions of an agricultural fair license to occur as soon as possible; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §84, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Prohibition. Except as provided under subsection 5, a licensee may not:

A. Operate an agricultural fair outside of the fair dates assigned by the commissioner under this section; or

B. Advertise or market an agricultural fair as taking place outside of the fair dates assigned by the commissioner under this section.

For purposes of this subsection, a licensee holding an event within one week of a fair's assigned fair dates is considered to be operating a fair outside of the fair dates assigned by the commissioner.

Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §84, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Exception. A licensee may host an exhibition up to 48 hours prior to the assigned fair dates for the purposes of displaying and awarding premiums as provided under section 86, subsection 5.

Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §84, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. License suspension. The commissioner may suspend the license of a licensee that violates this section.

Sec. 4. 7 MRSA §86, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2025, c. 161, §3, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

In determining distribution under this subsection, an allowance may ~~not~~ be made on premiums offered and paid by a licensee at any competition or event held ~~other than~~ during the period in which its annual fair is held and at any competition or event judged up to 48 hours prior to the licensed fair dates, except that an allowance may not be made on premiums offered and paid by a licensee at any competition or event under paragraphs A, F-1, I, J and K judged up to 48 hours prior to the licensed fair dates. Allowance may not be made or consideration given for lump sums, payments or premiums previously arranged and agreed upon for the presentation and display of any animals or products without regard to competition or event. The department may provide an allowance to licensees for payments made for educational agricultural talks, workshops and demonstrations pursuant to paragraph K without regard to premiums paid for competitions or events in this category.

Sec. 5. 7 MRSA §86, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2025, c. 161, §3, is further amended by amending the 2nd blocked paragraph to read:

Premiums and payments used to determine apportionment under this subsection are limited to those paid for:

Sec. 6. Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and State Harness Racing Commission to review rules. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in consultation with the State Harness Racing Commission, shall review rules adopted pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 82, subsection 5 to determine if changes are necessary regarding standards for setting harness racing dates and shall initiate rulemaking as necessary to ensure consistency with Title 7, chapter 4. Upon completion of the review, the commissioner shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters with the commissioner's findings no later than January 15, 2027.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 23, 2026.

CHAPTER 583

H.P. 1417 - L.D. 2102

An Act to Clarify and Strengthen the Government Shutdown Loan Guarantee Program

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this legislation needs to take effect before the expiration of the 90-day period in order to provide protection as soon as possible to employees who are not being paid during a government shutdown; and

Whereas, this protection for these employees is necessary to prevent missed rent and mortgage payments, food insecurity and the loss of health care coverage; and

Whereas, agencies responsible for administering the Government Shutdown Loan Guarantee Program need immediate authority to adjust staffing and communicate with participating credit unions and financial institutions in order to prevent confusion and inefficiency; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1100-JJ, sub-§1, ¶C is enacted to read:

C. The eligibility of an affected employee is not dependent on:

(1) The affected employee applying for unemployment compensation benefits;

(2) A credit check;

(3) The membership of the affected employee at a credit union or the status of the affected employee as a customer of a financial institution to which the affected employee is applying for a loan; or

(4) The ability of the affected employee to appear in person, as long as the affected employee can prove that the affected employee is a resident of this State and a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or National Guard who is stationed outside of this State.

Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §1100-JJ, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 494, §2, is amended to read:

2. Determination of loan amount. ~~The Unless an origination fee is included by an eligible financial institution and added to the loan amount in accordance with subsection 4, paragraph D, the maximum amount of a loan is the lesser of \$6,000 and the affected employee's most recent monthly after-tax pay, offset by any unemployment benefits, as determined pursuant to this subsection.~~

A. Offsetting unemployment benefits are determined by multiplying by 4 the greater of the amount per week of unemployment benefits pursuant to Title 26, chapter 13, as reported pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph B, subparagraph (4):

- (1) Actually received by the affected employee during the shutdown; and
- (2) The affected employee is eligible to receive during the shutdown.

B. The amount of offsetting unemployment benefits, if any, as determined pursuant to paragraph A is subtracted from the lesser of \$6,000 and the affected employee's most recent monthly after-tax pay.

C. The amount of the loan is the lesser of \$6,000 and the amount determined following the calculation in paragraph B.

Sec. 3. 10 MRSA §1100-JJ, sub-§4, ¶D is enacted to read:

D. A loan agreement may contain an origination fee not to exceed the lesser of \$60 and 1% of the loan amount and, if an origination fee is included, the eligible financial institution shall add the origination fee to the loan amount.

Sec. 4. 10 MRSA §1100-LL, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 494, §2, is amended to read:

3. Termination of loan recovery guarantee based on excess claims. If the amount expended for loan guarantee payments under section 1100-KK equals or exceeds ~~10%~~ 50% of the total of all loans issued, the authority shall immediately cease to approve claims and shall notify the Treasurer of State and each eligible financial institution of the total amount of loan guarantee payments made and that the authority has ceased honoring loan claims.

Sec. 5. 10 MRSA §1100-LL, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Notification of funding needs. If the total amount of funds expended for loan guarantee payments under section 1100-KK equals or exceeds \$200,000, the authority shall immediately notify the Treasurer of State, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over financial services matters.

Sec. 6. 10 MRSA §1100-NN, first ¶, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 494, §2, is amended to read:

The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs, in consultation with the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over financial services matters, ~~may~~ shall report out legislation to address any funding needs of the program after receipt of notification from the authority pursuant to section 1100-LL, subsection 5.

Sec. 7. Transfer. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer \$250,000 from the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Financial Institutions, Other Special Revenue Funds account to the Government Shutdown Loan Guarantee Program Fund, established within the Office of the Treasurer of State pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 160, no later than 14 days following the effective date of this Act to be used to guarantee the repayment of loans made by an eligible financial institution to an eligible affected employee pursuant to Title 10, chapter 110, subchapter 15.

Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**TREASURER OF STATE, OFFICE OF
Government Shutdown Loan Guarantee Program
Fund Z433**

Initiative: Provides one-time allocation of \$250,000 to the Government Shutdown Loan Guarantee Program Fund to assist with guaranteeing repayment of a portion of loans made by eligible financial institutions and credit unions to federal or state employees affected by government shutdowns.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$250,000	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$250,000	\$0

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 23, 2026.

**CHAPTER 584
H.P. 1387 - L.D. 2074**

**An Act to Update the
Requirements for Social
Worker Licensure**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until

90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergency; and

Whereas, this legislation updates the licensing requirements for social workers to remove barriers and potential delays in the licensing process; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this legislation is necessary to make it easier for persons to be licensed as social workers or to reenter the social work profession; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §7001-A, sub-§7-A is enacted to read:

7-A. Licensed master social worker - conditional clinical. "Licensed master social worker - conditional clinical" means a person who has met the educational requirements as a licensed clinical social worker and is working to meet the consultation and the social work experience requirements of this chapter.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §7001-A, sub-§8-A is enacted to read:

8-A. Licensed social worker - conditional. "Licensed social worker - conditional" means a person who has met the educational requirements as a licensed social worker and is working to meet the consultation and the social work experience requirements of this chapter.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §7051, as amended by PL 1985, c. 736, §9, is further amended to read:

§7051. License required

In order to safeguard the life, health and welfare of the people of this State, any person practicing or offering to practice as a certified social worker—~~independent practice or licensed clinical, licensed master or licensed social worker shall be~~ social work under this chapter is required to submit evidence to the board that ~~he the person~~ is qualified to ~~so~~ practice and ~~shall~~ must be licensed as provided in this subchapter.

~~The board may grant a conditional license to any person eligible to take the examination for licensure while waiting to sit for the examination or to any person who is waiting to retake the examination according to rules issued by the board.~~

Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §7053, first ¶, as amended by PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. V, §7, is further amended to read:

To be eligible for a license to practice social work at any level, an applicant must be at least 18 years of

~~age and must satisfactorily pass any examination as the board may prescribe by its rules. Each applicant, must demonstrate trustworthiness and competence to engage in the practice of social work in such a manner as to safeguard the interests of the public and must have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the board adherence to the ethics of the social work profession.~~ Applications for licensure must be submitted to the board together with the fee as set under section 7056.

Sec. 5. 32 MRSA §7053, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2013, c. 262, §3, is further amended by repealing the 3rd blocked paragraph.

Sec. 6. 32 MRSA §7053, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2013, c. 262, §3, is further amended by enacting at the end a new last blocked paragraph to read:

For purposes of meeting the requirements of this subsection, an applicant is not required to be licensed as a licensed master social worker - conditional clinical under this chapter in order to qualify as a licensed clinical social worker. The board shall consider consultation and social work experience previously obtained in this State or another jurisdiction as long as that experience is substantially equivalent to the requirements of this chapter.

Sec. 7. 32 MRSA §7053, sub-§2-A, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 211, §2, is amended to read:

2-A. Licensed master social worker. ~~As To be~~ qualified as a licensed master social worker, an applicant must have received either a ~~masters master's~~ or doctoral degree in social work or social welfare from an accredited educational institution, ~~must have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the board adherence to the ethics of the social work profession and must have successfully completed the examination prescribed by the board. After meeting these qualifications, the applicant must receive a "licensed master social worker" license. In addition, any person wishing to practice social work in a clinical setting must receive a "licensed master social worker, conditional" license.~~

~~This subsection takes effect July 1, 2005.~~

Sec. 8. 32 MRSA §7053, sub-§2-B is enacted to read:

2-B. Licensed master social worker - conditional clinical. To be qualified as a licensed master social worker - conditional clinical, an applicant must have received either a master's or doctoral degree in social work or social welfare from an accredited educational institution, must have successfully completed the examination prescribed by the board and must attest to obtaining the consultation and the social work experience requirements of this chapter. The consultation arrangement must be with a licensed clinical social worker, certified social worker - independent practice, licensed clinical professional counselor, licensed mar-

riage and family therapist, licensed psychologist, licensed psychiatrist or other qualified consultant as determined by the board.

Sec. 9. 32 MRSA §7053, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2009, c. 112, Pt. A, §13, is further amended to read:

3. Requirements to be a licensed Licensed social worker. To be qualified ~~to be licensed~~ as a licensed social worker, an applicant must attest to obtaining the consultation and social work experience requirements of this chapter and meet one of the following requirements:

A. The applicant must have received a bachelor's degree or higher in social work or social welfare from an accredited educational institution; ~~demonstrated to the satisfaction of the board adherence to the ethics of the social worker profession;~~ and successfully completed the examination prescribed by the board; or

B. The applicant must have ~~received a conditional license as a licensed social worker in accordance with subsection 3-B;~~ completed the requirements for consultation and social work experience while licensed as a licensed social worker - conditional under this chapter, must have completed contact hours in accordance with ~~subsection 3-C, paragraph B and~~ subsection 3-D; and must have successfully completed the examination prescribed by the board. For purposes of meeting the requirements of this subsection, an applicant is not required to be actively licensed as a licensed social worker - conditional under this chapter in order to qualify as a licensed social worker.

Sec. 10. 32 MRSA §7053, sub-§3-B, as amended by PL 2013, c. 217, Pt. J, §4, is further amended to read:

3-B. Conditional license as a licensed Licensed social worker - conditional. ~~The board may issue a conditional license~~ To be qualified as a licensed social worker to an applicant who provides to the board - conditional, an applicant must provide:

A. Documented proof of a bachelor's degree or higher in a field that is sufficiently related to social work or social welfare, ~~as determined by the board;~~ and attestation to obtaining the consultation and social work experience requirements of this chapter. For purposes of this paragraph, "field that is sufficiently related to social work or social welfare" includes, but is not limited to, behavioral science, social and behavioral sciences, childhood development, counseling, criminal justice, education, human development, mental health and human services, nursing, psychology, educational psychology, rehabilitation services, sociology and other sufficiently related fields as determined by the board.

~~B. Any documentation as required by the board, which may include, but is not limited to:~~

(1) Evidence of employment in a social service delivery field; and

(2) Evidence of an arrangement of consultation to be provided in accordance with ~~subsection 3-C, paragraph B.~~

A licensed social worker - conditional license may be held for no more than 6 years.

Sec. 11. 32 MRSA §7053, sub-§3-C, as amended by PL 2005, c. 173, §1, is further amended to read:

3-C. Consultation requirements for licensed social workers and conditionally licensed social workers - conditional. A licensed social worker or ~~conditionally licensed social worker - conditional~~ must complete the following requirements for consultation.

A. A licensed social worker and a licensed social worker - conditional must complete a minimum of 96 hours of consultation ~~as determined by the board.~~ This consultation must be concurrent with the first 3,200 hours of social work employment occurring in a period of not less than 2 years but not more than ~~4~~ 6 years from initial licensure. The consultation arrangement must be with a consultant who is a licensed social worker licensed under this chapter who has at least 2 years of work experience as a licensed social worker. A licensed social worker - conditional is not eligible to be a consultant under this chapter.

B. ~~A person who receives a conditional license as a licensed social worker on or after January 1, 2004 must complete the following requirements for consultation who practiced social work and obtained social work consultation hours in a long-term care setting and who held a valid license as of September 13, 2003 may count consultation hours that were obtained prior to August 3, 2004, regardless of whether the consultation hours were obtained in individual or group settings, if the consultation was provided by a licensed social worker, regardless of the group size and the eligibility requirements of the consulting licensed social worker.~~

(1) ~~A person who is not an employee of the Department of Health and Human Services must complete a minimum of 96 hours of consultation as determined by the board. This consultation must be concurrent with the first 3,200 hours of social work employment occurring in a period of not less than 2 years but not more than 4 years. For purposes of fulfilling the requirement of 96 hours of consultation during the first 3,200 hours of social work employment, a licensed social worker who practiced social work and obtained social work~~

~~consultation hours in a long term care setting and who held a valid license as of September 13, 2003 may count consultation hours that were obtained prior to August 3, 2004, whether the consultation hours were obtained in individual or group settings, if the consultation was provided by a licensed social worker, regardless of the group size and the eligibility requirements of the consulting licensed social worker.~~

~~(2) A person who is an employee of the Department of Health and Human Services must complete a minimum of 96 hours of consultation with a licensed social worker who has been licensed for at least 4 years or a licensed master social worker. This consultation must be concurrent with the first 3,200 hours of social work employment occurring in a period of not less than 2 years but not more than 4 years.~~

Sec. 12. 32 MRSA §7053-A, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. V, §8, is further amended to read:

4. Licensed social worker; licensed social worker - conditional. A licensed social worker or a licensed social worker - conditional may:

- A. Engage in psychosocial evaluation, excluding the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness, and conduct basic data gathering of records and specific life issues of individuals, groups and families, assess this data and formulate and implement a plan to achieve specific goals related to specific life issues;
- B. Serve as an advocate for clients or groups of clients for the purpose of achieving specific goals relating to specific life issues;
- C. Refer clients to other professional services;
- D. Plan, manage, direct or coordinate social services; and
- E. Participate in training and education of social work students from an accredited institution or an educational institution in candidacy for accreditation with the Council on Social Work Education or a successor or other organization approved by the board and supervise other licensed social workers.

~~A licensed social worker or a licensed social worker - conditional may not engage in the private practice of social work, diagnose mental illness and emotional disorders or provide psychotherapy. A licensed social worker with less than 2 years' experience must receive consultation from either a licensed master social worker, a licensed clinical social worker or a certified social worker independent practice in a manner to be prescribed by the board on a group or individual basis 4 hours a month. Licensed social workers in health care~~

~~facilities licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services must receive consultation on a quarterly basis in a manner prescribed by the department. The department staff giving consultation to intermediate care facilities must be on the master or clinical level by January 1, 1993.~~

State agencies employing social workers are responsible for providing supervision necessary for those social workers to maintain their licenses.

Sec. 13. 32 MRSA §7060, as amended by PL 2013, c. 262, §4, is further amended to read:

§7060. Expiration and renewals

A license renewal fee as set under section 7056 must be paid by the licensee. Licenses expire biennially on December 31st or at such other times as the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation may designate. Each renewal is contingent upon evidence of participation in a continuing professional education course or program as approved by the board. A license may be renewed up to 90 days after the date of expiration upon payment of a late fee in addition to the renewal fee as set under section 7056. Any person who submits an application for renewal more than 90 days after the renewal date is subject to all requirements governing new applicants under this chapter, except that the board may in its discretion, giving due consideration to the protection of the public, waive examination if the renewal application is received, together with the late fee and renewal fee, within 2 years from the date of the expiration.

Beginning January 1, 2020, an applicant for license renewal shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the board a one-time successful completion of a minimum of 12 hours of course work in family or intimate partner violence, including course work in spousal or partner abuse that addresses screening, referral and intervention strategies, including knowledge of community resources, cultural factors, evidence-based risk assessment and same-gender abuse dynamics. An applicant may fulfill this requirement through course work provided through contact hours, Internet hours or distance learning programs, as evidenced by certification from an accredited educational institution or equivalent teaching or practice experience. The board may accept equivalent courses in family or intimate partner violence screening and referral and intervention strategies or equivalent teaching or practice experience completed prior to January 1, 2020 in satisfaction of this requirement. Continuing education courses taken pursuant to this paragraph may be used to satisfy the licensee's required hours of continuing education.

A licensee who is no longer actively practicing social work may apply for an inactive status license pursuant to Title 10, section 8003, subsection 5-A, paragraph D, subparagraph (5). The holder of an inactive status license may not practice social work in the State.

The fee for inactive status licensure is set under section 7056. The holder of an inactive status license is required to renew the license annually and pay the renewal fee as set under section 7056, but is not required to meet the continuing education requirement of this chapter and the rules adopted under it.

~~In addition to the other requirements of this section, a licensed social worker must:~~

~~**1. Not employee of Department of Health and Human Services.** If not employed by the Department of Health and Human Services, provide documentation of 96 hours of consultation as determined by the board during the first 3,200 hours of social work employment in a period of not less than 2 years but not more than 4 years. For purposes of fulfilling the requirement of 96 hours of consultation during the first 3,200 hours of social work employment, a licensed social worker who practiced social work and obtained social work consultation hours in a long-term care setting and who held a valid license as of September 13, 2003 may count consultation hours that were obtained prior to August 3, 2004, whether the consultation hours were obtained in individual or group settings, if the consultation was provided by a licensed social worker, regardless of the group size and the eligibility requirements of the consulting licensed social worker; or~~

~~**2. Employee of Department of Health and Human Services.** If employed by the Department of Health and Human Services, provide documentation of either:~~

~~A. A minimum of 96 hours of consultation with a licensed social worker who has been licensed for at least 4 years or a licensed master social worker. This consultation must be concurrent with the first 3,200 hours of social work employment occurring in a period of not less than 2 years but not more than 4 years; or~~

~~B. A minimum of 96 hours of consultation concurrent with the person's first 3,200 hours of social work employment occurring in a period of not less than 2 years but not more than 4 years with a licensed social worker who has been licensed for at least 2 years, has been designated by the department as a supervisor trainee and is concurrently receiving 48 hours of consultation with a licensed master social worker.~~

A person who submits an application for license renewal more than 2 years from the date of expiration of the license is subject to all requirements governing new applicants under this chapter, except that the board may in its discretion, giving due consideration to the protection of the public, waive examination, consider consultation and work experience obtained under this chapter and require evidence of completing continuing professional education.

Sec. 14. Continued review of licensing for social work profession. The Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, after consultation with the State Board of Social Worker Licensure and stakeholders, shall continue review of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, chapter 83 and any laws associated with the provisions of that chapter that began before the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature to recommend changes to update the licensure provisions for the social work profession, including changes to the educational and examination requirements for initial licensure and to the consultation requirements, and to recommend alternative pathways for licensure. The director shall review and identify best practices from similar efforts in other states. The director shall report any recommendations from the review conducted under this section to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health coverage, insurance and financial services matters on or before February 15, 2027. The joint standing committee may report out a bill to the 133rd Legislature in 2027 based on the review.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 23, 2026.

CHAPTER 585

H.P. 1402 - L.D. 2087

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Licensure of American Sign Language Interpreters

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this legislation implements certain recommendations from the Transforming Interpreting Maine needs assessment report issued by the Department of Health and Human Services following the October 2023 Lewiston shooting; and

Whereas, this legislation would provide more opportunities for persons in need of American Sign Language interpreting to access these services, especially during an emergency; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this legislation is necessary to expand access to American Sign Language interpreting in this State; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of

the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §1524-C, first ¶, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 284, §12, is amended to read:

No more than one conditional license may be issued to a person who has completed the education requirements of this chapter. A conditional license may be held no more than 4 5 years, except that a ~~5th~~ 6th year may be granted by the director upon demonstration of extreme hardship.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §1524-C, sub-§3, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 48, §5, is amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) An associate degree or higher in any field, including an associate degree or higher in American Sign Language, American Sign Language interpreting or deaf studies, from an accredited college or university; or

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §1525-A, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Emergencies. This chapter does not apply to a person providing communication assistance during an emergency. For purposes of this subsection, "emergency" means a determination by the director, after consultation with the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation, that a serious, unexpected and potentially dangerous situation is occurring, or did occur, that requires an immediate need for interpreting services to be provided as part of an emergency response.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 23, 2026.

CHAPTER 586

H.P. 1423 - L.D. 2108

An Act to Establish the Suicide Mortality Review Panel

Emergency preamble. **Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, Maine has one of the highest suicide rates in New England, with a suicide rate consistently above the national average; and

Whereas, suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for Maine residents who are 10 to 24 years of age,

highlighting an urgent need to identify targeted prevention efforts for youth and young adults; and

Whereas, Maine recently completed a comprehensive, cross-sector planning process, jointly funded by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to plan for the implementation of a panel designed to conduct thorough and thoughtful retrospective case reviews of individuals who died by suicide in an effort to identify policy and systems gaps that, if addressed, could reduce the incidence of death by suicide in Maine; and

Whereas, Maine has several retrospective mortality review panels, but none focused specifically on deaths by suicide, and establishing such a panel as soon as possible is essential to strengthening the State's suicide prevention efforts by providing a deeper understanding of the factors leading to these deaths; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §266 is enacted to read:

§266. Suicide Mortality Review Panel

1. Panel established. The Suicide Mortality Review Panel is established to review deaths by suicide.

2. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Director" means the Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

B. "Next of kin" means a living relative of a deceased individual, as determined in accordance with the order of priority established under applicable state law for purposes of inheritance or notification. "Next of kin" includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) A surviving spouse or domestic partner;
- (2) An adult child;
- (3) A parent; and
- (4) An adult sibling.

"Next of kin" may also include a legal guardian or any other individual identified as a primary contact person or personal representative of the deceased individual.

C. "Panel" means the Suicide Mortality Review Panel established in subsection 1.

D. "Panel coordinator" means an employee of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention who is appointed by the director.

E. "Record" means any written, electronic, oral or recorded information, document, report or material that is created, received, maintained or possessed by any person, agency, organization or entity in connection with an individual's health, behavior, social services, education, legal matters or circumstances surrounding the individual's death.

F. "Suicide" means the act of intentionally causing one's own death. "Suicide" includes deaths that are:

(1) Confirmed suicides, as determined by a medical examiner, coroner or other authorized official;

(2) Suspected suicides, for which the circumstances, evidence or history reasonably indicate an intentional self-inflicted death, even if the official manner of death has not been conclusively determined; and

(3) Undetermined deaths, for which intent is unclear but suicide cannot be ruled out based on the available evidence.

3. Composition. The panel consists of health care and social service providers, public health officials, persons with experience working with veterans and military service-connected individuals, persons who provide services to youth, law enforcement officers and first responders and other persons with professional expertise or lived experience related to suicide. The director shall appoint the members of the panel, who serve at the pleasure of the director. Individuals with unique expertise may be invited as guests by the panel coordinator to support case reviews as necessary. Any guests of the panel are subject to the same confidentiality requirements as panel members pursuant to subsection 9.

4. Terms; meetings; chair. The term for each member of the panel is 3 years, except that members serve at the pleasure of the director. A member may serve until a successor has been appointed. Members may be reappointed. A vacancy must be filled as soon as practicable by appointment for the unexpired term. The panel shall meet at least 4 times each year and sufficiently frequently to carry out its duties and to guarantee the timely and comprehensive reviews of all deaths as required in this section. The director or the director's designee shall call the first meeting. The panel shall elect a chair from among its members annually.

5. Contact with next of kin. The first contact pursuant to this section with the next of kin of an individual who died by suicide may not occur prior to 4 months after the death of the individual and must:

A. Be by letter from the director on letterhead of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention;

B. Include an invitation to participate in a voluntary interview about the deceased individual by the panel coordinator or a designated next of kin interviewer; and

C. Include information on services available to the next of kin in the aftermath of a suicide.

6. Panel coordinator; appointment; powers and duties. The director shall appoint an employee of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to serve as the panel coordinator. The panel coordinator must have completed a nationally certified training program for conducting death investigations or must complete the training within 6 months of appointment as panel coordinator. The panel coordinator has the following powers and duties.

A. The panel coordinator shall conduct preliminary reviews of all deaths by suicide.

B. The panel coordinator may access the following records:

(1) Death certificates;

(2) Autopsy, medical examiner and coroner reports;

(3) State-level data collected and reported in the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Violent Death Reporting System;

(4) Emergency medical personnel reports and documentation;

(5) Health care information pursuant to section 1711-C, subsection 6, paragraph X. For the purposes of this subparagraph, "health care information" has the same meaning as in section 1711-C, subsection 1, paragraph E;

(6) Military service information;

(7) Police investigation records and other law enforcement records; and

(8) Social services records.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the panel coordinator has access to information or records from the department determined by the panel coordinator to be necessary to carry out the panel coordinator's duties. The department shall provide the panel coordinator with direct access to the information or records or provide the information or records necessary and relevant as soon as practicable upon oral or written request of the panel coordinator.

C. The panel coordinator may conduct voluntary interviews with parties that may have relevant information for a preliminary review.

(1) The purpose of an interview must be limited to gathering information or data for the panel, provided in summary or abstract form without family names or identification of the deceased individual.

(2) The panel coordinator may delegate the responsibility to conduct interviews pursuant to this paragraph to an individual who has completed a nationally certified training program for conducting critical incident or death investigations.

(3) An individual conducting an interview under this paragraph may make a referral for bereavement counseling if indicated for and desired by the individual being interviewed.

D. The panel coordinator shall try to minimize the burden imposed on health care providers, hospitals and social service providers.

E. The panel coordinator shall prepare a summary and abstract of relevant trends in deaths of the population of individuals who died by suicide for comparison to cases reviewed by the panel pursuant to subsection 7.

F. The panel coordinator shall prepare a review, summary or abstract of information regarding each case, as determined to be useful to the panel and at a time determined to be timely, without the name or identifier of the deceased individual, to be presented to the panel.

G. The panel coordinator shall, in conjunction with the department, establish and maintain in a confidential manner a state mortality database that includes, but is not limited to, the following information regarding death by suicide:

- (1) Name, age, sex and race or ethnicity of the deceased individual;
- (2) Description of the events leading to the death of the individual and the immediate circumstances of the death;
- (3) Location of the death, such as the home, community setting, hospital or hospice;
- (4) Immediate and secondary causes of death;
- (5) Whether an autopsy was conducted and a narrative of any findings from the autopsy;
- (6) Findings of the preliminary reviews of all deaths by the panel coordinator pursuant to paragraph A;
- (7) Findings of the comprehensive reviews by the panel pursuant to subsection 7; and
- (8) Recommendations for corrective actions pursuant to subsection 7, paragraph B issued

by the panel and information related to the implementation of those recommended corrective actions.

H. The panel coordinator shall determine the records that are made available to the panel for the purposes of reviewing cases of death by suicide. The panel coordinator shall maintain custody of all records.

7. Panel; powers and duties. The panel shall conduct comprehensive multidisciplinary reviews of data presented by the panel coordinator.

A. The panel shall review all cases of death by suicide that are referred by the panel coordinator. A review of a case by the panel is a comprehensive evaluation of the circumstances surrounding the death, including the overall care of the individual who died by suicide, quality of life issues, the death event and the medical care that preceded and followed the event.

B. The panel shall submit a report, no later than January 2nd of each year beginning in 2027, to the Governor, the commissioner and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters. The report must contain the following:

- (1) Factors contributing to suicide-related mortality;
- (2) Strengths and weaknesses of the system of care;
- (3) Recommendations for the commissioner to decrease the rate of death by suicide;
- (4) Recommendations about methods to improve the system for prevention of death by suicide, including modifications to law, rules, training, policies and procedures;
- (5) Recommendations for improving the availability of sources of information relating to the investigation of reported deaths by suicide; and
- (6) Any other information the panel considers necessary.

C. The panel shall offer a copy of the annual report under paragraph B to any party who granted permission for an interview conducted by the panel coordinator pursuant to subsection 6, paragraph C.

D. Following the submission of the annual report to the Governor, the commissioner and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters pursuant to paragraph B, the report must be released to the public.

E. In addition to the annual report under paragraph B, the panel may periodically make available, in a

general manner that does not reveal confidential information about individual cases, only the aggregate findings of the panel's reviews and the panel's recommendations for preventive actions to allow for timely consideration and implementation of those actions.

F. The panel shall coordinate with the State's child death and serious injury review panel; maternal, fetal and infant mortality review panel; Accidental Drug Overdose Death Review Panel; and any other statutorily established mortality review panel that reviews cases of individuals who died by suicide to share and receive information relevant to the panel's findings and to ensure efficiency in the work of the review panels.

8. Access to information and records. In any case subject to review by the panel under subsection 7, upon oral or written request of the panel, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a person that possesses information or records that are necessary and relevant to a panel review shall as soon as practicable provide the panel with the information or records. A person disclosing or providing information or records upon request of the panel is not civilly or criminally liable for disclosing or providing information or records in compliance with this subsection.

9. Confidentiality. Records held by the panel coordinator or the panel are confidential to the same extent they are confidential while in the custody of the entity that provided the record to the panel coordinator or the panel. Records relating to interviews conducted pursuant to subsection 6, paragraph C by the panel coordinator and proceedings of the panel are confidential and are not subject to subpoena, discovery or introduction into evidence in a civil or criminal action. The commissioner shall disclose conclusions of the panel upon request, but may not disclose information, records or data that are otherwise classified as confidential.

10. Rulemaking. The department shall adopt rules to implement this section, including rules on collecting information and data, for the use of a standardized review tool, establishing time frames for reviews, identifying criteria for prioritizing cases involving individuals from vulnerable populations for case review, selecting and setting any limits on the number of terms for the members of the panel, managing and avoiding conflicts of interest of members of the panel, collecting and using individually identifiable health information and conducting reviews. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §1711-C, sub-§6, ¶V, as amended by PL 2025, c. 332, §2, is further amended to read:

V. To a panel coordinator of the Aging and Disability Mortality Review Panel pursuant to section

264, subsection 5, paragraph B, subparagraph (4) for the purposes of reviewing health care information of an adult receiving services who is deceased, in accordance with section 264, subsection 5, paragraph A. For purposes of this paragraph, "panel coordinator" has the same meaning as in section 264, subsection 2, paragraph B; ~~and~~

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §1711-C, sub-§6, ¶W, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 332, §3, is amended to read:

W. To the medical director of the Office of Child and Family Services or a child and adolescent psychiatric consultant or nurse consultant employed by the Office of Child and Family Services, or to case aide staff when acting under the direction of the medical director or a child and adolescent psychiatric consultant or nurse consultant employed by the Office of Child and Family Services, for the exclusive purpose of coordinating health care of an individual who has not attained 18 years of age and is in the department's custody pursuant to chapter 1071. The department shall request records directly from the individual's providers. Disclosure under this paragraph may include allowing access to health information from a state-designated statewide health information exchange. Information accessed through a state-designated statewide health information exchange may be used only for understanding and providing continuity of treatment with regard to any current health conditions, medications and immediate medical needs of the individual; and

Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §1711-C, sub-§6, ¶X is enacted to read:

X. To a panel coordinator of the Suicide Mortality Review Panel pursuant to section 266, subsection 6, paragraph B, subparagraph (5) for the purposes of reviewing health care information of an individual who died by suicide, in accordance with section 266, subsection 6, paragraph A. For purposes of this paragraph, "panel coordinator" has the same meaning as in section 266, subsection 2, paragraph D.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 23, 2026.

CHAPTER 587
S.P. 674 - L.D. 1728

**An Act to Improve
Affordability, Stability and
Access in the Maine Child Care
Affordability Program**

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3731-A, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Copayments limited. The department shall limit the amount of copayments required to be paid by families receiving subsidies under the Maine Child Care Affordability Program in accordance with this subsection.

A. A family earning up to 85% of the median family income in the State for a family of the same size may not be required to contribute more than 7% of the family's household income as a copayment.

B. Copayments may be further reduced or waived, as determined by the department, for additional populations, including, but not limited to:

- (1) Families earning up to 30% of the median family income in the State for a family of the same size;
- (2) Children who are in foster care or kinship care;
- (3) Families experiencing homelessness; and
- (4) Families with a child with a disability.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3731-B is enacted to read:
§3731-B. Copayment schedule

The department shall post on its publicly accessible website information about copayments, as determined by the department pursuant to section 3731-A, subsection 3, that must be paid by families receiving subsidies under the Maine Child Care Affordability Program established in section 3731-A. The information posted must include, but is not limited to, the sliding fee scales used to determine family copayments, estimated amounts of copayments for families based on income and family size and policies related to reduced or waived copayments. The website must use plain language and must be updated when copayment schedules and amounts change.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §3737, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

7. Reimbursements for subsidies. The department shall reimburse a provider of child care services provided under this chapter for subsidies provided under the Maine Child Care Affordability Program estab-

lished in section 3731-A administered by the department pursuant to rules adopted by the department. To the extent allowable under federal law, reimbursement under the program to a child care provider must be based on generally accepted payment practices for private-pay families for child care, including enrollment-based rather than attendance-based practices. Reimbursement based on generally accepted payment practices must support child care provider stability and encourage more child care providers to serve children receiving child care services under the program. In developing the program, the department shall identify the practices common for child care providers serving private-pay families and determine which practices are most important to meet the goals of ensuring that high-quality child care providers participate in the program. The department shall make a plan to align requirements for providers accepting children receiving federal Child Care and Development Fund child care assistance to the practices of child care providers serving private-pay families. The department shall examine generally accepted payment practices regarding paying prospectively based on enrollment and practices related to separating provider closure limits for holidays or vacations or to compensate for inclement weather from child absence allowances. The department shall adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

For the purposes of this subsection, "generally accepted payment practices" are practices that align with the private-pay child care market in order to encourage providers to accept children receiving federal Child Care and Development Fund child care assistance and enable families to retain child care services.

Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §3737, sub-§8 is enacted to read:

8. Subsidy above equivalent private rate. To the extent allowable by federal law, the department may reimburse a provider of child care services for subsidies provided under the Maine Child Care Affordability Program established in section 3731-A at the market rate established pursuant to subsection 4 to better reflect the cost of providing care even if that rate is higher than the rate charged by a provider of child care for a child in a family that is not receiving a subsidy under this chapter.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 588
S.P. 756 - L.D. 1949

**An Act Regarding Energy
Fairness**

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §103-B is enacted to read:

§103-B. Affordability impact considerations

In executing its duties, powers and regulatory functions under this Title, the commission, while ensuring system reliability, shall consider the impact on affordability for residential customers.

Sec. 2. Credit and collection data; publication. The Public Utilities Commission shall publish on its publicly accessible website data regarding credit and collection activities of a transmission and distribution utility with more than 50,000 customers that is submitted to the commission by the utility in accordance with rules adopted by the commission pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 704, subsection 1. The commission shall ensure that the data is provided on the commission's publicly accessible website in a clear and transparent manner.

Sec. 3. Comprehensive review of electric delivery rates. The Public Utilities Commission shall conduct a comprehensive review of each component of electric delivery rates. In conducting the review required pursuant to this section, the commission shall consider whether changes to the current design and composition of electric delivery rates could be implemented to, at a minimum:

1. Contain customer costs;
2. Reduce transmission and distribution utility bill volatility; and
3. Increase transmission and distribution utility bill transparency.

The commission shall engage stakeholders in the review process under this section and solicit stakeholder feedback. By January 31, 2027, the commission shall submit an interim report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters informing the committee of its work to date on the comprehensive review. By December 15, 2027, the commission shall submit a final report regarding its comprehensive review, including any recommendations or proposed legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters. The committee may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

Sec. 4. Affordability metric development. The Public Utilities Commission shall develop an affordability metric to be used to assess the impact of electricity bills on the overall energy burden for residential customers of an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility. By January 15, 2027, the commission shall submit an interim report on the commission's progress under this section to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters. The commission shall submit a final re-

port by December 15, 2027 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters regarding the development of an affordability metric under this section, along with any recommendations or proposed legislation, if necessary. The committee may report out a bill related to the final report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 589

S.P. 806 - L.D. 1993

**An Act to Increase the Annual
Cap on Funds Assessed for the
Safety Education and Training
Fund**

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §61, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2013, c. 467, §2, is further amended to read:

2. Source of funds. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall annually assess a levy based on actual annual workers' compensation paid losses, excluding medical payments, paid in the most recent calendar year for which data is available by employers under former Title 39, the Workers' Compensation Act or Title 39-A, Part 1, the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992. As soon as practicable after July 1st of each year, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall assess upon and collect from each insurance carrier licensed to do workers' compensation business in the State, and each group and individual self-insured employer authorized to make workers' compensation payments directly to their employees, a sum equal to that proportion of the current fiscal year's appropriation, exclusive of any federal funds, for the safety education and training program that the total workers' compensation benefits, exclusive of medical payments, paid by each licensed carrier or each group or individual self-insured employer, bear to the total of the benefits paid by all licensed carriers, and group and individual self-insured employers during the most recent calendar year for which data is available, except that the total amount levied annually may not exceed ~~4%~~ 2% of the total of the compensation benefits paid by all licensed carriers, and group and individual self-insured employers during the most recent calendar year for which data is available. A licensed carrier or group or individual self-insured employer must be assessed based on all benefits paid, exclusive of medical payments, during any year for which the carrier was licensed or the group or individual self-insured employer was authorized to make workers' compensation payments directly to their employees for any portion of the year.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF

Safety Education and Training Programs 0161

Initiative: Allocates funds to the Department of Labor to support safety education and training programs for employers, owners, employees, educators and students.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,230,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$2,230,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 590

S.P. 851 - L.D. 2063

**An Act to Clarify Activities
Allowed Under the Natural
Resources Protection Act**

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §480-Q, sub-§33, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 531, §6, is amended to read:

33. Emergency flood alleviation. An emergency activity conducted or overseen by the State or a local government in, on, over or adjacent to a river, stream or brook when the emergency activity is necessary to alleviate an immediate threat to public health or safety caused by a flood event occurring at the time the emergency activity is conducted, as long as any alteration to the river, stream or brook necessary to conduct the emergency activity is restored following the flood event to the conditions that existed prior to the flood event to the greatest extent practicable, as determined by the department.

The department may adopt routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to govern the restoration of a river, stream or brook under this subsection and define "greatest extent practicable."

A local government conducting or overseeing an emergency activity pursuant to this subsection shall notify the department prior to its conducting or overseeing the emergency activity and shall maintain communication with the department for the duration of the emergency activity as directed by the department; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §480-Q, sub-§34, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 531, §7, is amended by amending the last blocked paragraph to read:

For the purposes of this subsection, "pier, wharf or dock" does not include a seawall, jetty, breakwater or similar structure designed to dissipate wave action;

Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §480-Q, sub-§35 is enacted to read:

35. Hand planting of native vegetation. Hand planting of native vegetation adjacent to a coastal wetland, freshwater wetland, great pond or river, stream or brook, as long as:

A. Only native plants are planted;

B. Machinery is not used;

C. Only potted plants, bare root plants or live stakes are planted;

D. Removal of existing vegetation does not occur, except for removal of ground cover incidental to the planting and the removal by hand of invasive species;

E. No more than one cubic yard of soil is overturned annually;

F. The addition of soil or soil amendments does not result in a change to the original ground topography;

G. Individual planting holes do not exceed 2 feet in diameter;

H. All areas that have been hand-planted are mulched immediately after planting; and

I. The hand planting activity conforms with the requirements of the relevant municipal shoreland zoning ordinance adopted pursuant to article 2-B;

Sec. 4. 38 MRSA §480-Q, sub-§36 is enacted to read:

36. Hand planting of native dune vegetation. Hand planting of native dune vegetation in a coastal sand dune system, as long as:

A. The area planted does not exceed 2,000 square feet;

B. Existing dune vegetation is not disturbed; and

C. The planting occurs between October 1st and March 15th, unless written approval from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has been obtained and provided to the department.

As used in this subsection, "native dune vegetation" has the same meaning as in section 480-E, subsection 15: and

Sec. 5. 38 MRSA §480-Q, sub-§37 is enacted to read:

37. Corrective actions. Corrective actions to resolve a violation under this article, as long as written approval for the corrective action has been provided by the department.

Sec. 6. 38 MRSA §480-X, sub-§6, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 460, §7 and affected by §12, is amended to read:

A. The application must be ~~sent by certified mail or hand-delivered~~ submitted to the department. ~~The application must include~~ and include the following:

- (1) The application fee;
- (2) The project location on a United States Geological Survey map;
- (3) A description of the project, including a drawing showing the area of freshwater wetland to be filled or otherwise altered and areas of any marsh or open water within the freshwater wetland; and
- (4) A signed statement averring that all of the requirements of subsection 3 will be met, that the activity will not occur in a wetland area described in subsection 4 and that a copy of the application has been submitted by the applicant for public display to the municipal office of the municipality in which the project will be located.

Sec. 7. 38 MRSA §480-Z, sub-§7, ¶E, as amended by PL 2019, c. 581, §3, is further amended to read:

E. Shorebird nesting, feeding and staging areas; ~~and~~

Sec. 8. 38 MRSA §480-Z, sub-§7, ¶F, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 581, §4, is amended to read:

F. Rivers, streams and brooks; ~~;~~

Sec. 9. 38 MRSA §480-Z, sub-§7, ¶G is enacted to read:

G. Great ponds; and

Sec. 10. 38 MRSA §480-Z, sub-§7, ¶H is enacted to read:

H. Habitat for state endangered and state threatened species that is significant wildlife habitat as defined in section 480-B, subsection 10, paragraph B, subparagraph (4).

Sec. 11. 38 MRSA §480-Z, sub-§8 is enacted to read:

8. Deed restrictions and conservation easements. The department has 3rd-party enforcement rights to enforce any deed restriction or conservation easement executed to meet a compensation requirement under this section.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 591

H.P. 1394 - L.D. 2079

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Municipal Reporting on Residential Buildings

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §3241, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 495, §2, is amended to read:

5. Municipal housing data reporting. ~~By January~~ March 31st of each year, a municipality with 4,000 or more residents shall provide to the office for use in administering the program ~~an annual~~ a report of that includes the following information from the prior calendar year:

A. ~~Residential~~ The number of residential units approved through residential building permit applications, including the number of applications submitted, approved and denied, categorized into single-family, single-family with the following residential building types: accessory dwelling unit, 2-to-4-family and more than 4-family homes single-family housing unit, 2-unit housing, 3-to-4-unit housing and housing with 5 or more units. The number of units that are income-restricted must also be reported if known;

B. The number of dwelling units ~~permitted and demolished~~ approved for demolition; and

C. The number of residential units approved through certificates of occupancy or other final approvals of housing units issued, ~~the number of those housing units affordable to persons or families whose incomes are 80% or less of the area median income as determined by the Maine State Housing Authority and the number of those housing units affordable to persons or families whose incomes are from 81% to 120% of the area median income as determined by the Maine State Housing Authority~~ categorized into the following residential building types: accessory dwelling unit, single-family housing unit, 2-unit housing, 3-to-4-unit housing and housing with 5 or more units.

As used in this subsection, "accessory dwelling unit" has the same meaning as in Title 30-A, section 4301, subsection 1-C.

The office shall encourage municipalities with fewer than 4,000 residents to report the information required by this subsection.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 592
H.P. 1419 - L.D. 2104

**An Act to Clarify Contractual
Rights of Personal Sports
Mobile Dealers**

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1243, sub-§3, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 473, §3, is amended to read:

A. To refuse to deliver in reasonable quantities and within a reasonable time after receipt of a dealer's order to any personal sports mobile dealer having a franchise or contractual arrangement for the retail sale of new personal sports mobiles sold or distributed by a manufacturer any personal sports mobiles that are covered by that franchise or contract and specifically publicly advertised by that manufacturer to be available for immediate delivery; however, the failure to deliver any personal sports mobile is not a violation of this chapter if that failure is due to an act of God, or work stoppage or delay due to a strike or labor difficulty, shortage of materials, freight embargo or other cause over which the manufacturer or any of its agents has no control;

The allocation of new personal sports mobiles to a new personal sports mobile dealer that is established in accordance with section 1244 must be made on a fair and equitable basis for each model of new personal sports mobiles. The manufacturer has the burden of establishing the fairness of its allocation system. It is prima facie evidence that a determination to cancel, terminate, fail to renew or refuse to continue a franchise relationship with a personal sports mobile dealer based in whole or in part on poor sales performance or poor market penetration is not made with good cause when prior to the determination the manufacturer failed to provide the dealer a fair and adequate supply and mix of new personal sports mobiles, which includes but is not limited to the allocation of new personal sports mobiles under a separate dealer designation, including but not limited to designations such as "premier," "business class or elite" or any other designation.

A separate dealer agreement is not required of a personal sports mobile dealer already a party to a dealer agreement or franchise agreement for the retail sale of any particular new personal sports mobile model made or distributed by a manufacturer, except that a manufacturer may require a dealer to purchase special tools or equipment, stock reasonable quantities of certain parts, purchase reasonable quantities of promotional materials or participate in training programs that are reasonably necessary for the dealer to sell or service any new personal sports

mobile model. Training programs for technicians must be available remotely. Any special tools, parts or signs not used within 2 years of receipt by the dealer may be returned by the dealer to the manufacturer for a full refund of the cost of those special tools, parts or signs;

Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §1243, sub-§3, ¶B, as amended by PL 1997, c. 717, §1, is further amended to read:

B. To coerce or attempt to coerce any personal sports mobile dealer to enter into any agreement with a manufacturer or an officer, agent or other representative of a manufacturer, or to do any other act prejudicial to that dealer by threatening to cancel any franchise or any contractual agreement existing between the manufacturer and that dealer; ~~however, notice in good faith to any personal sports mobile dealer of that dealer's violation of any terms or provisions of the franchise or contractual agreement, or any good faith attempt by the manufacturer to enforce the terms or provisions of the franchise or contractual agreement, does not constitute a violation of this chapter;~~ Conduct prohibited under this paragraph includes, but is not limited to, a manufacturer or an officer, agent or other representative of a manufacturer threatening to or attempting to modify a dealer's franchise or contractual agreement during the term of the franchise or contractual agreement or upon its renewal, when: the modification substantially and adversely affects the personal sports mobile dealer's rights, obligations, investment or return on investment; the manufacturer has not provided 90 days' written notice by certified mail of the proposed modification to the personal sports mobile dealer; and the modification is not required by law.

Within 90 days from the date the manufacturer provides the written notice of a proposed modification or within 90 days from the date the manufacturer threatens or attempts to impose a modification, the personal sports mobile dealer may serve notice upon the manufacturer of a protest requesting a determination of whether there is good cause for permitting a proposed modification. The manufacturer has the burden of proving good cause. Multiple protests pertaining to the same proposed modification must be consolidated. The proposed modification may not take effect while the determination of the matter is pending. In determining whether there is good cause for permitting a proposed modification, any relevant factors must be considered, including but not limited to:

- (1) The reasons for the proposed modification;
- (2) Whether the proposed modification is applied to or affects all personal sports mobile dealers in a nondiscriminatory manner;

(3) Whether the proposed modification will have a substantial and adverse effect upon the dealer's investment or return on investment;

(4) Whether the proposed modification is in the public interest;

(5) Whether the proposed modification is necessary to the orderly and profitable distribution of personal sports mobiles; and

(6) Whether the proposed modification is offset by other modifications beneficial to the dealer.

Notice in good faith to any personal sports mobile dealer of that dealer's violation of any terms or provisions of the franchise or contractual agreement, or any good faith attempt by the manufacturer to enforce the terms or provisions of the franchise or contractual agreement, does not constitute a violation of this chapter;

Sec. 3. 10 MRSA §1243, sub-§3, ¶D, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 473, §3, is amended to read:

D. To offer to sell or to sell any new personal sports mobile at a lower price than the price offered to any other personal sports mobile dealer for the same model vehicle similarly equipped, or to utilize facilities renovation, market area penetration or any device, including, but not limited to, sales promotion plans or programs, that ~~result~~ results in that lower price. This paragraph does not apply to the following:

(1) Sales to a personal sports mobile dealer for resale to any unit of the Federal Government;

(2) Any manufacturer or any of its agents offering to sell or selling new personal sports mobiles to all personal sports mobile dealers at an equal price; and

(3) Sales by a manufacturer or any of its agents to any unit of the Federal Government;

Sec. 4. 10 MRSA §1243, sub-§3, ¶J, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 473, §3, is amended to read:

J. To compete with a personal sports mobile dealer operating under an agreement or franchise from a manufacturer in a relevant market area that has been determined exclusively by equitable principles in this State. A manufacturer is not considered to be competing when operating a dealership either temporarily for a reasonable period not to exceed one year or in a bona fide relationship in which an independent person has made a significant investment subject to loss in the dealership and can reasonably expect to acquire full ownership of the dealership on reasonable terms and conditions;

Sec. 5. 10 MRSA §1243, sub-§3, ¶M, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 473, §3, is amended to read:

M. To require any new personal sports mobile dealer to change the location of the new personal sports mobile dealership or during the course of the agreement or franchise to make any substantial alterations or renovations to the dealership premises when to do so would be unreasonable. A manufacturer may not require any substantial alterations or renovations to the dealership's premises without written assurance of a sufficient supply of new personal sports mobiles so as to justify an expansion in light of the current market and economic conditions or require any new personal sports mobile dealer to use a specific product or service provider in relation to any dealership premises or facilities alterations or renovations unless the manufacturer reimburses the dealer for a substantial portion, which may not be less than 55%, of the cost of the product or service provider. However, a new personal sports mobile dealer may elect to use a vendor selected by the dealer if the product or service is substantially similar in quality and design to that required by the manufacturer, subject to the manufacturer's approval, which may not be unreasonably withheld. A manufacturer may not require any substantial alteration or renovation to dealership premises or facilities without providing, upon a dealer's request, a dealer-specific detailed economic analysis of the impact of the alteration or renovation on sales, service and dealer profitability that substantiates the need for the alteration or renovation or require a new personal sports mobile dealer to make any substantial alterations or renovations more than once every 10 years. A dealer-specific detailed economic analysis provided by the manufacturer may not be interpreted as a guaranty of a return on investment by the dealer. This paragraph does not create an exemption from the requirements of state health and safety laws or local zoning laws or restrict the requirement to comply with alterations or renovations that are necessary to adequately sell or service a personal sports mobile due to the technology of the personal sports mobile. This paragraph does not allow a dealer or vendor to infringe upon or impair a manufacturer's intellectual property or trademark and trade dress rights. A manufacturer is not required to reimburse a dealer for the cost of signs or other materials bearing that manufacturer's own trademark;

Sec. 6. 10 MRSA §1243, sub-§3, ¶Q, as amended by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. C, §5, is further amended to read:

Q. To cancel, terminate, fail to renew or refuse to continue any franchise relationship with a licensed new personal sports mobile dealer, notwithstanding the terms, provisions or conditions of any agreement or franchise or the terms or provisions of any waiver, without first providing notification of the

termination, cancellation, nonrenewal or noncontinuance to the new personal sports mobile dealer ~~as follows: in accordance with this paragraph.~~

(1) Notification under this paragraph must be in writing and must be delivered personally or by certified mail to the new personal sports mobile dealer and must contain:

- (a) A statement of intention to terminate, cancel, not continue or not renew the franchise;
- (b) A statement of the reasons for the termination, cancellation, noncontinuance or nonrenewal; and
- (c) The date on which the termination, cancellation, noncontinuance or nonrenewal takes effect;

(2) The notice required in this paragraph may not be given less than ~~90~~ 180 days prior to the effective date of the termination, cancellation, noncontinuance or nonrenewal, except as provided in subparagraph (3); ~~or.~~

(3) The notice required in this paragraph may not be given less than 15 days prior to the effective date of the termination, cancellation, noncontinuance or nonrenewal with respect to any of the following:

- (a) Insolvency of the new personal sports mobile dealer or filing of any petition by or against the new personal sports mobile dealer under any bankruptcy or receiver-ship law;
- (b) The business operations of the personal sports mobile dealer have been abandoned or closed for 14 consecutive business days unless the closing is due to an act of God, strike or labor difficulty; or
- (c) Conviction of or plea of nolo contendere of a personal sports mobile dealer or one of its principal owners of any Class A, Class B or Class C crime, as defined in Title 17-A, in which a sentence of imprisonment of one year or more is imposed under Title 17-A, sections 1603 and 1604; or

Sec. 7. 10 MRSA §1243, sub-§3, ¶R, as amended by PL 1997, c. 717, §3, is further amended by amending the 2nd blocked paragraph to read:

In lieu of any injunctive relief or any other damages, if the manufacturer fails to prove there was good cause for the termination, cancellation, noncontinuance or nonrenewal, or if the manufacturer fails to prove that it acted in good faith, then the manufacturer may pay the new personal sports mobile dealer fair and reasonable compensation for

the value of the dealership as an ongoing business; ~~and.~~

Sec. 8. 10 MRSA §1243, sub-§3, ¶R, as amended by PL 1997, c. 717, §3, is further amended by enacting a new 3rd blocked paragraph to read:

In any cancellation, termination, nonrenewal or noncontinuance of any franchise relationship by a dealer, the dealer has the same rights as when a manufacturer cancels, terminates, fails to renew or refuses to continue a franchise relationship; and

Sec. 9. 10 MRSA §1248, as amended by PL 1997, c. 717, §4, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§1248. Warranty

1. Parts or labor; satisfaction of warranty or recall. If a franchisor requires or permits a franchisee to perform labor or provide parts to satisfy a warranty created by the franchisor, the franchisor shall properly and promptly fulfill its warranty obligations and:

A. Reimburse the franchisee at the retail rate customarily charged for all parts used by the franchisee to satisfy the warranty or any recall. If the franchisor provides a part to the franchisee for a specific warranty repair, the franchisor shall compensate the franchisee for the difference between the cost of the part to the franchisee and the full retail price of the part, which may not be less than the cost of any such part already in the franchisee's parts inventory; and

B. Reimburse the franchisee for actual labor performed by the franchisee to satisfy the warranty, including time to diagnose the problems. The diagnostic time must be reasonable and supported by the franchisee's records. Reimbursement for labor must be in accordance with the time manual used by the franchisee and may not be less than the retail rate customarily charged by that franchisee for the same labor when not performed to satisfy a warranty. To be entitled to reimbursement under this section, a franchisee must post the rate for labor not performed to satisfy a warranty in a place conspicuous to service customers.

2. Claim. A claim by a franchisee for compensation for parts provided or for reimbursement for labor performed to satisfy a warranty must be approved or disapproved within 30 days of receipt by the franchisor. A claim that is approved must be paid within 30 days of its approval. If a franchisor disapproves a claim, the franchisor shall notify the franchisee that submitted the claim within 30 days of disapproval of the specific reasons for disapproval.

3. Restrictions prohibited. A franchisor may not, by agreement, by restriction upon reimbursement or otherwise, restrict the nature or extent of labor performed or parts provided if such a restriction impairs

the franchisee's ability to satisfy a warranty created by the franchisor or any recall by performing labor competently or by providing parts in accordance with generally accepted standards.

4. Costs; fees. If a franchisee brings a legal action to collect a disapproved claim and is successful in that action, the court shall award the franchisee the cost of the action and reasonable attorney's fees. Reasonable attorney's fees must be determined by the value of the time reasonably expended by the attorney and not by the amount of the recovery on behalf of the franchisee.

Sec. 10. 10 MRSA §1250-F, as amended by PL 2001, c. 246, §2, is further amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§1250-F. Civil remedies; attorney's fees

Sec. 11. 10 MRSA §1250-F, sub-§2 is enacted to read:

2. Attorney's fees. When a franchisee or personal sports mobile dealer is seeking injunctive or other relief pursuant to subsection 1, the franchisee or dealer is deemed to have prevailed for the purposes of the franchisee's or dealer's entitlement to payment of attorney's fees pursuant to subsection 1, if, in the same action, a judgment or other final order providing equitable relief is entered in the franchisee's or dealer's favor.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 593

H.P. 335 - L.D. 517

An Act Regarding Synthetic Media in Campaign Advertising

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1014, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2025, c. 224, §7, is further amended to read:

3. Broadcasting prohibited without disclosure. A Except as provided in subsection 5-C, paragraph C, a person operating a broadcast, cable or satellite system within this State may not broadcast any public communication, as described in subsections 1 to 2-A, without an oral or written visual announcement of the each disclosure required by this section.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1014, sub-§3-B, as amended by PL 2025, c. 224, §7, is further amended to read:

3-B. Newspapers. A Except as provided in subsection 5-C, paragraph C, a newspaper may not publish a public communication described in subsections 1 to 2-A without including the each disclosure required by

this section. For purposes of this subsection, "newspaper" includes any printed material intended for general circulation or to be read by the general public, including a version of the newspaper displayed on a website owned or operated by the newspaper. When necessary, a newspaper may seek the advice of the commission regarding whether or not a communication requires the disclosure.

Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1014, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2025, c. 224, §7, is further amended to read:

4. Enforcement. A violation of this section may result in a civil penalty of no more than 100% of the amount of the expenditure in violation, except that a violation of subsection 5-C may result in a civil penalty of no more than 500% of the amount of the expenditure in violation and except that an expenditure for yard signs lacking the required information may result in a maximum civil penalty of \$200. In assessing a civil penalty, the commission shall consider, among other things, how widely the public communication was disseminated, whether the violation was intentional, whether the violation occurred as the result of an error by a printer or other paid vendor and whether the public communication conceals or misrepresents the identity of the person who financed it. If the person who financed the public communication or who committed the violation corrects the violation within 10 days after receiving notification of the violation from the commission by adding the missing information to the public communication, the commission may, except for a violation of subsection 5-C, decide to assess no civil penalty.

Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1014, sub-§5-C is enacted to read:

5-C. Use of synthetic media. Whenever a public communication that requires a disclosure under subsections 1, 2, 2-A or 2-B contains synthetic media, the public communication must include, in addition to any other required disclosure, the words "THIS COMMUNICATION CONTAINS AUDIO, VIDEO AND/OR IMAGES THAT HAVE BEEN MANIPULATED OR ALTERED." The commission shall adopt rules regarding the manner, size and placement of the disclosure required under this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

A. For purposes of this subsection, "synthetic media" means an image, an audio recording or a video recording depicting a candidate's appearance, speech or conduct that:

(1) In a manner that is likely to deceive a reasonable person, depicts the candidate saying or doing something that the candidate did not say or do; or

(2) Has been manipulated or altered in a manner that is likely to provide a reasonable person with a materially different understanding or impression of the candidate's appearance, action or speech than a reasonable person would have from an unaltered, original version of the image, audio recording or video recording.

B. For purposes of this subsection, "synthetic media" does not include:

(1) An image, an audio recording or a video recording depicting a candidate's appearance, speech or conduct that has been modified to improve audio, video or image clarity, to add captions or to highlight a specific section of the image, audio recording or video recording as long as the modification does not create a materially different understanding or impression of the candidate's appearance, action or speech than a reasonable person would have from an unaltered, original version of the image, audio recording or video recording; or

(2) Satire or parody.

C. A person operating a broadcast, cable or satellite system within the State that broadcasts a public communication does not violate this subsection and a newspaper that publishes a public communication does not violate this subsection unless the broadcaster broadcasts or newspaper publishes a paid public communication with actual knowledge that the public communication contains synthetic media. The broadcaster's or newspaper's receipt of an allegation made by a 3rd party that a public communication contains synthetic media does not, by itself, constitute actual knowledge by the broadcaster or newspaper that the public communication contains synthetic media. For purposes of this paragraph, "newspaper" has the same meaning as in subsection 3-B.

D. The commission shall notify the Office of the Attorney General if a person who is in violation of this subsection does not cease violating this subsection after being notified of the violation by the commission or if the commission is unable for any reason to notify a person that the person is in violation of this subsection. The Attorney General may bring a civil action in the Superior Court of Kennebec County for injunctive or other appropriate equitable relief requiring the person to comply with this subsection. An action under this paragraph may be combined with an action under section 1004-B for the purposes of the enforcement of penalties assessed by the commission. If the Attorney General prevails in an action under this paragraph, the court may award to the Attorney General the costs of the action together with reasonable attorney's fees as determined by the court.

E. This subsection may not be construed to prohibit or limit any other cause of action that a person may have against a person who violates this subsection.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 594

S.P. 815 - L.D. 2001

An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing Facilities for Children and Adults Under the Health and Human Services Laws

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §7504, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is amended to read:

§7504. ~~Residential child~~ Children's residential care facilities

"Residential child ~~Children's residential~~ care facilities" shall ~~must~~ be licensed in accordance with Title 22, section 8104.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4061, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1983, c. 354, §6, is further amended to read:

1. Department. The department shall care for a child ordered into its custody in licensed or approved family foster homes, in other ~~children's residential child~~ care facilities or in other living arrangements as appropriate to meet the child's individual needs.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §7703, sub-§2, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 691, §2, is amended to read:

B. Notwithstanding sections 3474 and 4008, any information gathered and all records created or obtained in the course of an investigation of neglect or abuse, including all post-investigation activities and proceedings, except a statement indicating whether or not a report of abuse or neglect has been received, the nature of the alleged abuse or neglect and the conclusion reached by the department, if any;

Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §7802, sub-§1-A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. A, §78, is further amended to read:

1-A. Consolidation of functions. All staff performing general licensing functions within the Office of Child and Family Services, including the out-of-home abuse and neglect investigating team when investigating pursuant to section ~~8354, subsection 2, paragraph C 4099-L~~, are consolidated as a single organizational unit.

Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §8103, sub-§2-A, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 444, §3, is amended to read:

2-A. Family foster homes and specialized children's homes. Family foster homes and specialized children's homes are exempt from the inspection requirement in subsection 1-A. The department shall inspect a family foster home or specialized children's home prior to placing a foster child in the home. The department shall adopt routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A governing the fire and safety inspection of family foster homes and specialized children's homes.

Sec. 6. 22 MRSA §8104, as amended by PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. RR, §1 and c. 397, Pt. A, §28, is further amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§8104. ~~Interagency licensing~~ Licensing authority and rules

Sec. 7. 22 MRSA §8104, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2005, c. 397, Pt. A, §28, is repealed.

Sec. 8. 22 MRSA §8104, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 260, §5 and amended by PL 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §6, is further amended to read:

2. Licensing authority. For the purposes of this section, the Department of Health and Human Services ~~shall have~~ has licensing authority for children's residential child care facilities. This authority ~~shall~~ does not relieve any agency of responsibility for the proper and efficient management or evaluation of programs funded by that agency.

Sec. 9. 22 MRSA §8402, sub-§3, ¶A, as amended by PL 2019, c. 154, §10 and affected by §12 and amended by PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is further amended to read:

A. The department shall adopt rules regarding the health of staff as required to protect the health and safety of the children. ~~The rules must include a requirement that every 2 years each licensee, administrator or other staff member of the nursery school who provides care for children be declared free from communicable disease by a licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician associate.~~ Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 10. 22-A MRSA §206, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 539, Pt. N, §45, is amended to read:

5. Residential child Children's residential care facilities. The commissioner shall approve all programs for the provision of mental health services to children's residential child care facilities, as defined in Title 22, section 8101, subsection 4, and shall participate in licensure of these programs in accordance with Title 22, section 8104.

Sec. 11. 36 MRSA §1760, sub-§18-A, as amended by PL 2015, c. 300, Pt. A, §15, is further amended to read:

18-A. Certain children's residential child care facilities. Sales to incorporated private nonprofit children's residential child care facilities that are licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services as child care facilities.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 595

H.P. 1400 - L.D. 2085

An Act to Include a Certain Emergency Communications Position at the Department of Public Safety in the 1998 Special Plan

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶Q, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. R, §2, is further amended to read:

Q. Until July 31, 2024, civilian employees whose job responsibilities include the handling, examination or analysis of digital or physical evidence in the employment of the Department of Public Safety, Maine State Police Crime Laboratory or computer crimes unit on October 1, 2021 or hired thereafter; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶R, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. R, §3, is amended to read:

R. Persons in the employment of the Department of Health and Human Services on October 1, 2025 or hired thereafter who have the job classification of Mental Health Worker I, Mental Health Worker II, Mental Health Worker III or Mental Health Worker IV; and

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶S is enacted to read:

S. Persons in the employment of the Department of Public Safety on August 1, 2026 or hired thereafter who have the job classification of emergency communications director.

Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. R, §4, is further amended to read:

2. Qualification for benefits. A member employed in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in

subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; any employee identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph S; and any employee identified in subsection 1, paragraph L, qualifies for a service retirement benefit if that member either:

A. Is at least 55 years of age and has completed at least 10 years of creditable service under the 1998 Special Plan in any one or a combination of the capacities; or

B. Has completed at least 25 years of creditable service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1, whether or not the creditable service included in determining that the 25-year requirement has been met was earned under the 1998 Special Plan or prior to its establishment.

Sec. 5. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§3, ¶A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. R, §5, is further amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) Service credit purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated contributions following termination of service is included only to the extent that time to which the refund relates was served after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; and after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1. Service credit may be purchased for service by an employee identified in subsection 1, paragraphs L, M ~~and~~ R and S regardless of when performed; and

Sec. 6. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§4, ¶A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. R, §6, is further amended to read:

A. If all of the member's creditable service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 was earned after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to

K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; ~~and~~ after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph S; if service credit was purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated contributions for service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; ~~and~~ after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph S; or if service credit was purchased by other than the repayment of an earlier refund and eligibility to make the purchase of the service credit, including, but not limited to, service credit for military service, was achieved after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; ~~and~~ after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph S, the benefit must be computed as provided in section 17852, subsection 1, paragraph A.

(1) If the member had 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the benefit under subsection 2, paragraph B must be reduced as provided in section 17852, subsection 3, paragraphs A and B.

(2) If the member had fewer than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the benefit

under subsection 2, paragraph B must be reduced by 6% for each year that the member's age precedes 55 years of age.

Sec. 7. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§4, ¶B, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. R, §7, is further amended to read:

B. Except as provided in paragraphs D, E, F ~~and G and H~~, if some part of the member's creditable service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 was earned before July 1, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H; before January 1, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; before January 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; before July 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; before July 1, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; before October 1, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; ~~and before October 1, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and before August 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph S~~ and some part of the member's creditable service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 was earned after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; ~~and after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph S~~, then the member's service retirement benefit must be computed in segments and the amount of the member's service retirement benefit is the sum of the segments. The segments must be computed as follows:

(1) The segment or, if the member served in more than one of the capacities specified in subsection 1 and the benefits related to the capacities are not interchangeable under section 17856, segments that reflect creditable service earned before July 1, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H; before January 1, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; before January 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; before July 1, 2002 for

employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; before July 1, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; before October 1, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; ~~and before October 1, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and before August 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph S~~ or purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated contributions for service before July 1, 1998, for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H; before January 1, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; before January 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; before July 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; before July 1, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; before October 1, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; ~~and before October 1, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and before August 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph S~~ in a capacity or capacities specified in subsection 1 or purchased by other than the repayment of a refund and eligibility to make the purchase of the service credit, including, but not limited to, service credit for military service, was achieved before July 1, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H; before January 1, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; before January 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; before July 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; before July 1, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; before October 1, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; ~~and before October 1, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and before August 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph S~~, must be computed under section 17852, subsection 1, paragraph A. If the member is qualified under subsection 2, paragraph B and:

- (a) Had 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the amount of the segment or segments must be reduced as provided in section 17852, subsection 3, paragraphs A and B; or
- (b) Had fewer than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the amount of the segment or segments must be reduced as provided in section 17852, subsection 3-A; and

(2) The segment that reflects creditable service earned after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; ~~and~~ after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph S or purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated contributions for service after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; ~~and~~ after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph S in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1, or purchased by other than the repayment of a refund and eligibility to make the purchase of the service credit, including, but not limited to, service credit for military service, was achieved after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; ~~and~~ after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1,

paragraph S must be computed under section 17852, subsection 1, paragraph A. If the member is qualified under subsection 2, paragraph B and:

(a) Had 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the segment amount must be reduced in the manner provided in section 17852, subsection 3, paragraphs A and B for each year that the member's age precedes 55 years of age; or

(b) Had fewer than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the segment amount must be reduced by 6% for each year that the member's age precedes 55 years of age.

Sec. 8. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§4, ¶H is enacted to read:

H. The service retirement benefit of a member to whom subsection 1, paragraph S applies and who qualifies for service retirement benefits under subsection 2 must be computed under section 17852, subsection 1, paragraph A on the basis of all of the member's creditable service in the capacity specified in subsection 1, paragraph S, regardless of when that creditable service was earned, except that for a member qualifying under subsection 2, paragraph B:

(1) If the member had 10 years of service on July 1, 1993, the benefit must be reduced as provided in section 17852, subsection 3, paragraphs A and B for each year the member's age precedes 55 years of age; or

(2) If the member had fewer than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the benefit must be reduced by 6% for each year that the member's age precedes 55 years of age.

Sec. 9. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. R, §9, is further amended to read:

5. Contributions. Notwithstanding any provision of subchapter 3 to the contrary, after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; ~~and~~ after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and after July 31, 2026 for employees identi-

fied in subsection 1, paragraph S, a member in the capacities specified in subsection 1 must contribute to the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program or have pick-up contributions made at the rate of 8.65% of earnable compensation until the member has completed 25 years of creditable service as provided in this section and at the rate of 7.65% thereafter.

Sec. 10. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF

Consolidated Emergency Communications Z021

Initiative: Provides funding to add the emergency communications director position to the 1998 Special Plan.

CONSOLIDATED EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$2,467
CONSOLIDATED EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,467

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 596 S.P. 817 - L.D. 2128

An Act to Reorganize the Emergency Medical Services' Board to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §88, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 2019, c. 370, §16, is further amended to read:

A. The board has one member representing each region, each of whom is appointed by the representative's regional council, and 42 5 persons in addition. Of the additional persons, one is ~~an emergency physician, one a representative of emergency medical dispatch providers, one a representative of the public, one a representative of for-profit ambulance services, one an emergency professional nurse, one a representative of nontransporting emergency medical services, one a representative of hospitals, one a fire chief, one a representative of a statewide association of fire chiefs, one a municipal emergency medical services provider, one a representative of not for profit ambulance services and one a representative in the field~~

~~of pediatrics. The members that represent for-profit ambulance services, nontransporting emergency medical services and not for profit ambulance services must be licensed emergency medical services persons. One of the nonpublic members must be a volunteer emergency medical services provider a representative of an emergency medical dispatch center or emergency medical dispatch provider, one is a representative of a municipal fire department administration, one is a representative of emergency medical services administrators, one is an emergency medical services paramedic licensed in the State and one is an emergency medical technician or advanced emergency medical technician licensed in the State.~~ Appointments are for 3-year terms. Members, ~~except the regional representatives and ex officio members~~, are appointed by the Governor. The statewide emergency medical services medical director ~~and, the statewide associate emergency medical services medical director and the commissioner or the commissioner's designee~~ are ex officio nonvoting members of the board.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §88, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 1991, c. 588, §16, is further amended to read:

B. The board shall elect its own chair to serve for a 2-year term. The board may adopt internal rules that may include, but are not limited to, termination of board membership as a consequence of irregular attendance. If a board member appointed by the Governor does not serve a full term of appointment, the Governor shall appoint a successor to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term. If a board member appointed by a regional council does not serve a full term of appointment, the regional council that appointed the board member shall appoint a successor to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term. Any board member may be removed by the Governor for cause. The board may have a common seal. The board may establish subcommittees as it determines appropriate.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §88, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 1991, c. 588, §16, is further amended to read:

C. The board shall meet at least quarterly, and at the call of its chair or at the request of 7 5 members. When the board meets, members are entitled to compensation according to the provisions of Title 5, chapter 379.

Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §88, sub-§2, ¶M is enacted to read:

M. The board shall by January 1st annually submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over emergency medical services matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over emergency medical services personnel licensing matters with any recommendations for changes to

this chapter and in related provisions as the board may determine appropriate. Either committee may report out legislation related to the recommendations in the report.

Sec. 5. 32 MRSA §89, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2007, c. 274, §21, is further amended to read:

1. Regions to be established; regional councils.

The board shall delineate regions within the State to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The board shall set out conditions under which an organization in each region may be recognized by the board as the regional council for that region. A regional council shall, at a minimum, provide adequate representation for ambulance services and rescue nontransporting emergency medical services, emergency room physicians and nurses, hospitals emergency medical dispatch centers and emergency medical dispatchers, emergency medical services training centers and the general public. A regional council must be structured to adequately represent each major geographical part of its region. Only one regional council may be recognized in any region.

Sec. 6. 32 MRSA §89, sub-§2, ¶F, as amended by PL 2007, c. 274, §21, is further amended to read:

F. Nominating 2 or more candidates Appointing a candidate from each region for a position on the Emergency Medical Services' Board, from whom the Governor may select a member board; and

Sec. 7. 32 MRSA §89, sub-§2, ¶G, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 730, §§13 and 16, is amended to read:

G. Establishing regional goals to carry out the provisions of this chapter; and

Sec. 8. 32 MRSA §89, sub-§2, ¶H is enacted to read:

H. Regularly advising the representative to the board on issues, concerns and policies affecting the region that the council represents.

Sec. 9. Transition. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, section 88, subsection 1, a member of the Emergency Medical Services' Board serving on the effective date of this Act continues to serve until the expiration of that member's term.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 597

H.P. 1442 - L.D. 2153

An Act to Transfer the Responsibilities of the Governor's Energy Office to the Department of Energy Resources

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

PART A

Sec. A-1. 2 MRSA §6, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2025, c. 390, Pt. A, §1, is further amended to read:

3. Range 89. The salaries of the following state officials and employees are within salary range 89:

Director, Bureau of General Services;
Director, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations;
State Budget Officer;
State Controller;
Director, Bureau of Forestry;
Director, Office of Policy Innovation and the Future;
~~Director, Governor's Energy Office;~~
State Human Resources Officer;
Director, Bureau of Parks and Lands;
Director of the Governor's Office of Communications;
Director, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources;
Director, Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning;
Director, Office of Cannabis Policy;
Executive Director, Office of Affordable Health Care; and
Director, Maine Office of Community Affairs.

Sec. A-2. 2 MRSA §9, sub-§3, ¶C, as amended by PL 2025, c. 390, Pt. A, §§2 and 3 and repealed by c. 476, Pt. A, §3, is repealed.

Sec. A-3. 5 MRSA §931, sub-§1, ¶G, as amended by PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. D, §1, is further amended to read:

G. Employees working in the Governor's office; ~~and the Governor's Office of Communications; Governor's Energy Office and at the Blaine Mansion House;~~

Sec. A-4. 5 MRSA §1591, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2019, c. 343, Pt. D, §3, is further amended to read:

5. Executive Department. The Executive Department shall carry forward any General Fund balances remaining in the Administration - Executive - Governor's Office program, the Blaine House program, the Governor's Office of Communications program, and the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future program ~~and the Governor's Energy Office program~~ at the end of any fiscal year for use in the next fiscal year.

Sec. A-5. 5 MRSA §3204, sub-§2, ¶F, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. DD, §2, is amended to read:

F. Consult with and provide ongoing coordination with state agencies on programs and issues related to planning technical assistance and funding to communities in this State, including but not limited to the Department of Transportation; Department of Environmental Protection; Department of Marine Resources; Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; Department of Economic and Community Development; Department of Health and Human Services; Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency; Department of Public Safety; Department of Energy Resources; Maine State Housing Authority; ~~Governor's Energy Office~~; Efficiency Maine Trust; the Maine Historic Preservation Commission; and the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority.

Sec. A-6. 7 MRSA §2, 4th ¶, as amended by PL 2019, c. 310, §1, is further amended to read:

In addition, the commissioner shall be concerned with the quality of life of Maine farmers and rural communities. The commissioner shall promote: farm financing and rural development proposals; conservation and preservation of agricultural lands; increased and improved production of beef, poultry, sheep, dairy beef and other livestock; expanded and improved production of potatoes, fruits and other vegetables and horticultural ventures; coordinated foreign and domestic marketing of Maine agricultural products; in conjunction with the ~~University of Maine~~ University of Maine, crop development and integrated pest management; and conservation of non-renewable energy resources and utilization of renewable energy resources in conjunction with the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources. To accomplish these objectives, the commissioner is authorized for, or on behalf of, Maine's farmers and rural community: to engage in research and educational programs; to participate directly or indirectly in programs to encourage and enable individuals to enter agricultural or other rural enterprises; to institute litigation or upon request to represent farmers or other members of the ru-

ral community in litigation ~~where~~ when the commissioner determines that such litigation may be beneficial to agricultural industry as a whole; and to exercise all other powers of an agency of State Government. The commissioner may study such issues and, consistent with statute, take such actions either individually, for, or on behalf of, the State's farmers or rural residents, or jointly with such other persons, agencies or organizations as the commissioner determines may benefit the State's farmers and rural communities. To further accomplish these objectives, the commissioner is authorized beginning July 1, 1991, on behalf of the State's rural community, to administer food assistance programs including the receipt, distribution and administration of federal and state funds, including block grants, for food assistance.

Sec. A-7. 10 MRSA §1044, sub-§12, ¶B, as amended by PL 2025, c. 390, Pt. A, §17, is further amended to read:

B. Revenue obligation securities of the authority may not be issued until the ~~Director of the Governor's Energy Office~~ Commissioner of Energy Resources has reviewed and commented upon the project proposal. The ~~director~~ commissioner shall make comments within 30 days after receipt of a notification and copy of the project proposal from the authority. The authority shall take the comments into consideration in its processing of the project.

Sec. A-8. 10 MRSA §1492, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. MM, §9 and affected by §26, is further amended to read:

1. Solar energy equipment. "Solar energy equipment" means all controls, tanks, pumps, heat exchangers, collectors and all other equipment necessary for the collection, transfer and storage of solar energy, ~~as determined by the Governor's Energy Office~~. Passive solar energy systems or those systems using natural means to collect, store and transfer solar energy may not be included under this chapter.

Sec. A-9. 10 MRSA §9722, sub-§2, ¶I, as amended by PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. MM, §10 and affected by §26, is further amended to read:

I. An energy efficiency representative, recommended by the ~~Director of the Governor's Energy Office within the Executive Department~~ Commissioner of Energy Resources, who has experience or expertise in the design or implementation of energy codes or in the application of energy efficiency measures in residential or commercial construction;

Sec. A-10. 12 MRSA §407, as amended by PL 2021, c. 675, §1, is further amended to read:

§407. Comprehensive river resource management plans

The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, with assistance from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Department of Marine Resources, the Department of Environmental Protection, the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources and other state agencies as needed, shall develop, subject to the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, ~~Title 5, chapter 375~~, a comprehensive river resource management plan for each watershed with a hydropower project licensed under the Federal Power Act or to be licensed under the Federal Power Act. These plans must provide a basis for state agency comments, recommendations and permitting decisions and at a minimum include, as applicable, minimum flows, impoundment level regimes, upstream and downstream fish passage, maintenance of aquatic habitat and habitat productivity, public access and recreational opportunities. These plans must update, complement and, after public notice, comment and hearings in the watershed, be adopted as components of the State's comprehensive rivers management plan. A comprehensive river resource management plan adopted under this section is a major substantive rule as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. A-11. 22 MRSA §666, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. MM, §12 and affected by §26, is further amended to read:

2. Reports. The State Nuclear Safety Inspector, with the cooperation of the Director of Health Engineering, shall prepare a report of the safety inspector's activities under this chapter to be submitted July 1st of each year to the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources and the Legislature. The State Nuclear Safety Inspector shall prepare monthly reports for the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, with copies to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the facility licensee.

Sec. A-12. 22 MRSA §676, sub-§6, as amended by PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. MM, §13 and affected by §26, is further amended to read:

6. Energy. The ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources shall serve as liaison with the United States Department of Energy.

Sec. A-13. 26 MRSA §3901, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2025, c. 377, §1, is amended to read:

1. Fact sheet and technical resource guide. The Department of Labor, in partnership with the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources, the Public Utilities Commission and the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, or successor governmental departments and offices having jurisdiction over energy matters, shall develop a fact sheet and technical resource guide that clearly outlines the requirements, opportunities, expectations and responsibilities detailed in

state labor laws, rules and priority selection opportunities for entities developing assisted projects, as defined in section 1304, subsection 1-A, with a nameplate capacity of one megawatt or more in the State. The fact sheet and technical resource guide must:

A. Incorporate relevant information included in the Department of Labor's training on wage and hour laws compliance, with a focus on state labor and workforce requirements and benchmarks related to energy projects and programs;

B. Include relevant labor standards, benchmarks and other necessary commitments required by the State, the Public Utilities Commission, the University of Maine System and any other entity responsible for administering energy generation and transmission projects and programming in the State to receive preference or priority selection related to requests for proposals;

C. Clearly outline the statutory labor requirements of contractors and subcontractors performing work on energy projects;

D. Include information on statutory obligations of employers and the Department of Labor's enforcement procedures and penalties for violations; and

E. Be updated as necessary and reviewed by the Department of Labor no less than once per calendar year.

The fact sheet and technical resource guide must be disseminated to entities developing assisted projects in the State no less than once per calendar year.

Sec. A-14. 35-A MRSA §123, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2023, c. 554, §1, is amended to read:

2. Pilot program. The commission, in collaboration with the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources and the Department of Environmental Protection, shall establish a pilot program in accordance with this section. The pilot program must be designed to allow the commission to select a proposal for a qualifying facility that meets the requirements of this section. The commission shall administer the program in accordance with this section and shall ensure that such administration is in the public interest and:

A. Accounts for and is designed to advance the renewable energy and climate policies and goals of the State;

B. Minimizes potential negative environmental and community effects;

C. Maximizes air quality, health and workforce benefits; and

D. Encourages high standards of safety performance.

Sec. A-15. 35-A MRSA §123, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2023, c. 554, §1, is amended to read:

4. Proposal selection. If the commission, after consultation with the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources and the Department of Environmental Protection, finds that a proposal for the development and operation of a qualifying facility meets the requirements of this section, the commission may select that qualifying facility for participation in the program.

If more than one proposal for the development and operation of a qualifying facility meets the requirements of this section, the commission shall give preference to the proposal that provides the greatest benefit to ratepayers and is likely to result in the greatest reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

The commission shall, to the extent practicable, make a determination of whether to select a proposal under this subsection and provide notice of its decision to all facilities that submitted proposals to participate in the program within 120 days of the closing of the request for proposal process.

The commission may not select more than one proposal for participation in the pilot program.

Sec. A-16. 35-A MRSA §1714, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 623, §2, is amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read:

(2) The ~~Director of the Governor's Energy Office~~ Commissioner of Energy Resources or the ~~director's commissioner's~~ designee;

Sec. A-17. 35-A MRSA §1904, first ¶, as amended by PL 2015, c. 445, §5, is further amended to read:

The commission in consultation with the Public Advocate and the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources may execute an energy cost reduction contract or a physical energy storage contract, or both, in accordance with this section. ~~In no event may the~~ The commission may not execute energy cost reduction contracts for the transmission of greater than a cumulative total of 200,000,000 cubic feet of natural gas per day. ~~In no event may the~~ The commission may not execute physical energy storage contracts for a total amount that exceeds \$25,000,000 annually, and ~~in no event may~~ the total amount of all contracts entered into under this section may not exceed \$75,000,000 annually.

Sec. A-18. 35-A MRSA §1904, sub-§1, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 369, Pt. B, §1, is amended to read:

C. In consultation with the Public Advocate and the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources, hire a consultant with expertise in natural gas markets to make recommendations regarding the execution of an energy cost reduction

contract. The commission shall consider those recommendations as part of an adjudicatory proceeding under subsection 2.

Sec. A-19. 35-A MRSA §3145, as amended by PL 2025, c. 105, §1, is further amended to read:

§3145. State energy storage policy goals

The state goal for energy storage system development is at least 300 megawatts of installed capacity located within the State by December 31, 2025 and at least 400 megawatts of installed capacity located within the State by December 31, 2030. Beginning January 15, 2027, and every 2 years thereafter, when updating the state energy plan in accordance with ~~Title 2, section 9, subsection 3, paragraph C~~ section 10305, subsection 1, the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources shall reevaluate and may increase the state goal for energy storage system development and shall, in the state energy plan, report any increase to the goal to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utilities matters. For the purposes of this section, "energy storage system" has the same meaning as in section 3481, subsection 6.

Sec. A-20. 35-A MRSA §3147, sub-§4, ¶D, as amended by PL 2025, c. 293, §4 and affected by §8, is further amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) Forecasts of projected load, including forecasts of end-use electrification, energy efficiency and distributed energy resources and, when appropriate, consideration of the energy forecasting method used to prepare the comprehensive state energy plan required pursuant to ~~Title 2, section 9, subsection 3, paragraph C~~ section 10305, subsection 1;

Sec. A-21. 35-A MRSA §3209-H, sub-§2, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 430, §11, is amended to read:

B. The commission may initiate additional competitive solicitations in its sole discretion after consultation with the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources.

Sec. A-22. 35-A MRSA §3209-I, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 430, §12, is amended to read:

2. Program design; implementation. The ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources shall design a program or programs to encourage the development of front of the meter distributed energy resources in the State and submit the proposed program or programs to the commission. If the commission finds that a program or programs proposed by the ~~office~~ Department of Energy Resources provide benefits to ratepayers in the State in excess of the costs to ratepayers, the commission shall by rule implement the program or programs.

Sec. A-23. 35-A MRSA §3210, sub-§2, ¶A-4, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 386, §3, is amended by amending subparagraph (3) to read:

(3) Generates electric energy in a manner that, as determined by the Department of Environmental Protection, produces no more than a de minimis level of net greenhouse gas emissions and co-pollutant emissions at the point of generation and from the fuel supply chain of the facility and has been certified by the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources in accordance with rules adopted by the Department of Environmental Protection in accordance with this subsection.

Sec. A-24. 35-A MRSA §3210, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2025, c. 386, §§3 to 6, is further amended by amending the 2nd blocked paragraph to read:

The Department of Environmental Protection, in coordination with the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources, shall establish by rule standards and procedures necessary to implement the definition under paragraph A-4 and verification standards necessary for purposes of paragraph A-5. Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. A-25. 35-A MRSA §3210, sub-§3-B, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 477, §1, is amended by amending subparagraph (3) to read:

(3) If the commission suspends any scheduled increases in the portfolio requirements under paragraph A pursuant to subparagraph (1) or (2), the commission shall report its rationale for suspension to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utilities matters, the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources and the Office of the Public Advocate and make recommendations for modifications to the schedule of increases. The commission may resume increases, limited to no more than one percentage point per year over the previous year, in the portfolio requirements after a minimum of one year unless otherwise directed by the Legislature.

Sec. A-26. 35-A MRSA §3210, sub-§3-D, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 386, §8, is amended by amending subparagraph (3) to read:

(3) If the commission suspends any scheduled increases in the portfolio requirements under paragraph A pursuant to subparagraph (1) or (2), the commission shall report its rationale for suspension to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utilities matters, the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources

and the Office of the Public Advocate and make recommendations for modifications to the schedule of increases. The commission may resume increases, limited to no more than one percentage point per year over the previous year, in the portfolio requirements after a minimum of one year unless otherwise directed by the Legislature.

Sec. A-27. 35-A MRSA §3210, sub-§11, as amended by PL 2025, c. 386, §12, is further amended to read:

11. Report; renewable energy credit portfolio requirements. By March 31, 2024 and every 3 years thereafter, the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters based on a review, conducted in consultation with the commission, of the status and impacts of the implementation of the portfolio requirements under subsections 3, 3-A, 3-B, 3-C and 3-D. The review must be completed through a public process and must include consideration of impacts of these renewable portfolio requirements on energy prices and assessment of benefits, including, but not limited to, on greenhouse gas emissions and the economy of the State. After reviewing the report required under this subsection, the committee may report out legislation regarding renewable portfolio requirements.

Sec. A-28. 35-A MRSA §3210-I, sub-§1, ¶F, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 660, §6, is amended to read:

F. In collaboration with the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources, ~~established in Title 2, section 9,~~ seek to partner with other states, governmental entities or utilities within New England in the development of requests for proposals and the evaluation of proposals received in response to a request for proposals for a transmission line or lines under subsection 2 and renewable energy generation projects under subsection 3.

Sec. A-29. 35-A MRSA §3210-I, sub-§2, ¶A-1, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 660, §7, is amended to read:

A-1. The commission may coordinate with other states, governmental entities or utilities within New England in the development of a request for proposals pursuant to this subsection and in the evaluation of proposals received in response to a request for proposals. The commission shall allow the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources and the Office of the Public Advocate to review the proposals submitted pursuant to this subsection. The ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources and the Office of the Public Advocate may provide input to the commission upon review of the proposals, which may include an assessment as to whether any proposals

submitted are consistent with the goals of the program as described in this section. If a proposal includes confidential or proprietary information, trade secrets or similar matters as provided by the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 26(c), the commission may issue appropriate protective orders in accordance with section 1311-A with respect to those portions of the proposal.

Sec. A-30. 35-A MRSA §3210-I, sub-§3, ¶A-1, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 660, §8, is amended to read:

A-1. The commission may coordinate with other states, governmental entities or utilities within New England in the development of a request for proposals pursuant to this subsection and in the evaluation of proposals received in response to a request for proposals. The commission shall allow the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources and the Office of the Public Advocate to review the proposals submitted pursuant to this subsection. The ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources and the Office of the Public Advocate may provide input to the commission upon review of the proposals, which may include an assessment as to whether any proposals submitted are consistent with the goals of the program as described in this section. If a proposal includes confidential or proprietary information, trade secrets or similar matters as provided by the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 26(c), the commission may issue appropriate protective orders in accordance with section 1311-A with respect to those portions of the proposal.

Sec. A-31. 35-A MRSA §3401-A, sub-§14, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 481, §2, is repealed.

Sec. A-32. 35-A MRSA §3404, sub-§2, as repealed and replaced by PL 2023, c. 481, §3, is amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

Beginning January 1, 2025 and every 2 years thereafter, the ~~office~~ department may reevaluate and increase the goal established by this subsection and report that goal to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utilities matters.

Sec. A-33. 35-A MRSA §3405, sub-§3, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 407, §2, is amended to read:

D. The licensing, permitting or approval by a state agency or municipality or other political subdivision of the State of the siting, construction or operation of or the issuance of a lease or the grant of an easement or other real property interest for utility cables or transmission lines that are intended to support generation of electricity from offshore wind energy facilities located seaward of the territorial waters if, by March 1, 2023:

(1) The ~~former~~ Governor's Energy Office has completed a strategic plan to inform the development of offshore wind power projects that minimizes conflict with existing maritime industries, particularly fishing; identifies opportunities to preserve existing maritime businesses and jobs; and maximizes jobs, investment, new technologies and sustainability;

(2) The ~~former~~ Governor's Energy Office, in consultation with other state agencies, has conducted a review of applicable state laws and rules to determine whether the existing offshore wind energy statutory and regulatory framework protects the State's coastal resources in a manner that avoids or minimizes adverse effects on coastal resources and users from the development of offshore wind power projects located seaward of the territorial waters; and

(3) The ~~former~~ Governor's Energy Office, with input from the advisory board of the Offshore Wind Research Consortium established in section 3406, has identified the preliminary research questions the consortium seeks to answer regarding the development of offshore wind power projects.

~~The Governor's Energy Office shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utility matters when the conditions established under subparagraphs (1) to (3) are met.~~

Sec. A-34. 35-A MRSA §3406, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2023, c. 481, §4, is further amended to read:

1. Offshore Wind Research Consortium. The Offshore Wind Research Consortium is an initiative of the ~~office~~ department, in collaboration with the Department of Marine Resources and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, to coordinate, support and arrange for the conduct of research on offshore wind power projects in the Gulf of Maine.

Sec. A-35. 35-A MRSA §3406, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2023, c. 481, §4, is further amended to read:

2. Advisory board. The ~~office~~ department, in consultation with independent scientific experts, shall establish an advisory board of the consortium to oversee the development and execution of a research strategy to better understand the local and regional impacts of floating offshore wind power projects in the Gulf of Maine. The advisory board must include, but is not limited to, the following members:

A. Two individuals from organizations that represent commercial lobster harvesting interests in the State;

B. At least one individual from an organization that represents the interest of commercial fisheries other than lobster harvesting;

C. The Commissioner of Marine Resources, or the commissioner's designee;

C-1. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, or the commissioner's designee;

D. Two individuals, not represented by an organization, that represent the interests of the commercial lobster harvesting industry and commercial fisheries in the State;

E. One individual from the recreational charter fishing industry;

F. At least one individual who is a member of one of the federally recognized Indian tribes in this State;

G. Two individuals with expertise in marine wildlife and habitats; and

H. At least one individual with experience in commercial offshore wind power development.

The advisory board is subject to all applicable provisions of the Freedom of Access Act. The operation of the advisory board must be informed by the work of regional and national scientific entities. The advisory board shall solicit input from stakeholders, including representatives of the fishing industry, state and federal agencies and scientific experts.

Sec. A-36. 35-A MRSA §3406, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2023, c. 481, §4, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

The advisory board shall advise the ~~office~~ department on the development of the components of the research strategy.

Sec. A-37. 35-A MRSA §3406, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2023, c. 481, §4, is further amended to read:

4. Offshore Wind Research Consortium Fund; established. The Offshore Wind Research Consortium Fund, referred to in this subsection as "the fund," is established as a nonlapsing fund administered by the ~~office~~ department and the Department of Marine Resources and in coordination with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The fund consists of funds that are appropriated by the Legislature, funds received from federal and state sources, payments from offshore wind power projects in accordance with section 3408, subsection 1, paragraph D, subparagraph (3) and other funds from any public or private source received for use for any of the purposes under this subsection. The source of any funds received from public or private sources must be publicly disclosed. The fund may be used to support the consortium and the work of the advisory board established in subsection 2, including for:

A. Developing the research strategy under subsection 3;

B. Conducting research pursuant to the strategy developed under subsection 3;

B-1. Supporting conservation actions and projects that support species and habitats impacted by offshore wind power development;

C. Producing reports or other materials;

D. Compensating independent experts, if needed to assist in the development or execution of the research strategy under subsection 3; and

E. Making any other expenditures that are necessary to achieve the purposes of this section.

The ~~office~~ department, in consultation with the advisory board, shall provide an annual report on the use of the fund in the last quarter of each calendar year to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and utility matters.

Sec. A-38. 35-A MRSA §3407, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 481, §5, is amended to read:

§3407. Maine Offshore Wind Renewable Energy and Economic Development Program

1. Program established. The Maine Offshore Wind Renewable Energy and Economic Development Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established to further the development and use of offshore wind power projects in the Gulf of Maine. The ~~office~~ department, in collaboration with the commission, shall administer the program in accordance with this section and shall ensure that the program is designed to advance the greenhouse gas emissions reduction obligations and climate policies of this State under Title 38, section 576-A and Title 38, section 577, the renewable energy goals established in section 3210, subsection 1-A and all applicable workforce development efforts of this State. Under the program, the ~~office~~ department, in collaboration with the commission, shall:

A. Encourage the responsible development of offshore wind power projects to stabilize energy supply prices, reduce this State's reliance on imported fossil fuels, realize direct and near-term economic benefits for the people of this State and ensure the achievement of this State's wind energy generation goal established in section 3404, subsection 2;

B. Support offshore wind power projects that result in long-term, family-supporting careers, including for disadvantaged populations and communities;

C. Support responsibly sited and operated offshore wind power projects that avoid or minimize and compensate for impacts to wildlife, habitat, fisheries and coastal communities in the Gulf of Maine;

D. Support efforts to increase understanding of impacts of offshore wind power projects on the marine environment and to advance research to better understand how offshore wind power projects can coexist with minimal impact to existing ocean users, wildlife, fisheries and the marine environment;

E. Promote diversity, equity and inclusion in the development of offshore wind power projects with particular consideration given to the energy and economic circumstances and opportunities in coastal and socially vulnerable communities and for the federally recognized Indian tribes in this State. For the purposes of this paragraph, "socially vulnerable communities" means those communities containing populations that are disproportionately burdened by existing social inequities or lack the capacity to withstand new or worsening burdens;

F. Support the advancement of port infrastructure, local offshore wind power-related economic development and the development of a supply chain to support the development of offshore wind power projects;

G. Support the development and deployment of innovative technologies to achieve the energy policy and economic development objectives of this State, including energy storage;

H. Support the use of Maine-based technical and engineering expertise and build on this State's leadership in offshore wind power, maritime industries and research and development;

I. Support the development of transmission infrastructure necessary for this State to expeditiously meet its renewable energy and climate goals, including advancing the development of shared or regional offshore wind power transmission infrastructure;

J. Collaborate with other states or entities when appropriate on regional issues, including, but not limited to, transmission, procurement, supply chain and workforce development and research and monitoring relating to wildlife, fisheries and the Gulf of Maine ecosystem;

K. Support responsibly sited offshore wind power projects with generation facilities located in areas outside of the area of the Gulf of Maine where the majority of lobster fishing or other significant commercial fishing occurs;

L. Coordinate the activities of state agencies that are affected by the development of offshore wind power projects, including, but not limited to, the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Department of Labor, the Department of Marine Resources, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Inland Fisheries and

Wildlife and the Department of Environmental Protection; and

M. Support the development of deep-water offshore wind power projects and transmission infrastructure in the Gulf of Maine that serve the public interest by advancing the renewable energy and climate policies and economic development goals of this State and helping to reduce energy price volatility.

2. Federal lease stipulations. The ~~office~~ department, in consultation with other state agencies, including, but not limited to, the Department of Marine Resources, shall advocate for the inclusion in any leases issued by a federal agency for offshore wind energy production in federal waters provisions that will:

A. Support economic development, including the development of port infrastructure;

B. Promote public communications plans about the leased activity;

C. Ensure appropriate engagement with federally recognized Indian tribes in this State;

D. Include adequate transmission planning;

E. Result in access to research conducted in connection with the lease; and

F. Maximize mitigation of and compensation for impacts to coastal communities, wildlife, fisheries and the marine environment.

Sec. A-39. 35-A MRSA §3408, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 481, §6, is amended to read:

1. Preparation of requests for proposals; offshore wind power projects. The ~~office~~ department shall establish a schedule for competitive solicitations for the development and construction of offshore wind power projects to meet the objectives of the program as described in section 3407. The ~~office~~ department shall prepare, in consultation with appropriate state agencies, a request for proposals to implement each competitive solicitation. Upon developing a request for proposals for a competitive solicitation under this section, the ~~office~~ department shall submit the request for proposals to the commission for approval.

A. A competitive solicitation under this section must specify the date on which a subsequent solicitation must be initiated and the specified date must be within 36 months of a previous solicitation.

B. The ~~office~~ department shall make reasonable efforts to consult with entities within this State, including, but not limited to, the commission, the Office of the Public Advocate and entities included in section 3407, subsection 1, paragraph L, and other states or entities regarding coordinated competitive solicitations.

C. A competitive solicitation under this section must seek proposals for offshore wind power projects with not less than approximately 600 megawatts of nameplate capacity or of sufficient size to enable cost-competitive commercial-scale development. A competitive solicitation developed in coordination with other states or entities may seek proposals for offshore wind power projects with a nameplate capacity of less than 600 megawatts if the coordinated solicitation is in an aggregate amount sufficient to enable cost-competitive commercial-scale development.

D. A solicitation under this section must specify bidder criteria, including:

(1) Submission of plans that meet or exceed state and federal requirements or guidelines and are consistent with the recommendations in the Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap issued by the ~~office~~ former Governor's Energy Office in February 2023:

(a) To ensure stakeholder engagement, capacity building and equity with particular consideration given to the energy and economic circumstances and opportunities in coastal and socially vulnerable communities, as defined in section 3407, subsection 1, paragraph E;

(b) To achieve economic and community benefits, including, but not limited to, investments in and development of ports, supply chains and the necessary workforce;

(c) To achieve diversity, equity and inclusion in employment and contracting for the project;

(d) To provide for fisheries research, monitoring and mitigation; and

(e) To provide for environmental and wildlife research, monitoring, mitigation and conservation;

(2) A fishing communities investment plan, as described in subsection 4;

(3) An agreement by the responsible entity, if it is approved for a contract under this section, to pay an amount set in the solicitation of at least \$5,000 per megawatt of the offshore wind power project's nameplate capacity to the Offshore Wind Research Consortium Fund in accordance with section 3406, subsection 4;

(4) An agreement by the responsible entity, if it is approved for a contract under this section, to provide financial and technical assistance necessary to implement the plans listed in subparagraphs (1) and (2); and

(5) Workforce requirements, as described in subsection 3.

The ~~office~~ department may waive any of the requirements of this paragraph if the ~~office~~ department determines that applicable federal criteria, including, but not limited to, federal lease provisions, adequately achieve the applicable requirement.

E. A competitive solicitation under this section must be announced, prior to issuance, through a notice of intent and made available in draft form, including the criteria for the plans required pursuant to paragraph D, for public comment. The ~~office~~ department shall:

(1) Conduct at least 2 public comment sessions on the solicitation, at least one of which must be in person, in advance of the publication of a draft solicitation to assist in the development of the contents of the draft solicitation;

(2) Respond in writing to the comments received regarding the draft solicitation;

(3) Coordinate with the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Department of Marine Resources, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Environmental Protection on the development of the criteria for the plans required pursuant to paragraph D;

(4) Coordinate with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to ensure submerged lands leasing rates and fees, as described in Title 12, section 1862, are aligned with the goals of the program as described in section 3407 and reflect a fair market rate considering fees set by other states in the region for the use of submerged lands in connection with an offshore wind power project;

(5) Seek public input on appropriate contracting mechanisms for inclusion in the solicitations to address market dynamics and impacts to ratepayers, including, but not limited to, indexing and price adjustments;

(6) Request comments on the draft solicitation from each federally recognized Indian tribe in this State and the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission; and

(7) In developing the plan criteria for the plans required pursuant to paragraph D, consider all comments received under subparagraph (6).

Sec. A-40. 35-A MRSA §3408, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2025, c. 476, Pt. A, §12, is further amended to read:

2. Requests for proposals; offshore wind power projects. The commission shall review a solicitation

developed by the department or the former Governor's Energy Office under subsection 1 and, upon finding that the solicitation is reasonably likely to attract competitive bids and further the objectives of the program as described in section 3407, shall authorize the department to issue a request for proposals in accordance with this subsection.

A. The ~~office~~ former Governor's Energy Office shall file with the commission the first solicitation by July 1, 2025 unless another date is established by mutual agreement between the ~~office~~ former Governor's Energy Office and the commission.

B. The department shall issue the first request for proposals by the later of January 15, 2026 and 3 months after the first auction by the federal Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management for offshore wind power leases in the Gulf of Maine.

C. If, within any 3-year period between January 15, 2026 and January 1, 2039, the commission has not found a solicitation submitted by the department to be reasonably likely to further the objectives of the program as described in section 3407, the commission shall expeditiously develop and issue a request for proposals consistent with the requirements of this section.

D. The commission shall review and make a determination regarding a solicitation submitted by the ~~office~~ former Governor's Energy Office or the department within 120 days of the date of submission unless a longer period is requested by the department.

E. If the commission determines that a contract for an amount greater than those specified in subsection 1, paragraph C is in the public interest, it may authorize the department to select resources and the commission may approve contracts accordingly.

F. In conducting a solicitation and selecting offshore wind power projects under this section, the department shall ensure that selected projects result in contracts that are cost-effective for electric ratepayers over the term of the contract, taking into consideration potential quantitative and qualitative economic, environmental and other benefits to ratepayers.

The department shall give priority to offshore wind power projects that:

- (1) Have generation facilities located outside of Lobster Management Area 1;
- (2) Include agreements compliant with subsection 3 or 29 United States Code, Section 158(f) and are open to disadvantaged business enterprises and small businesses;

(3) Provide employment and contracting opportunities for:

(a) Members of federally recognized Indian tribes in this State;

(b) Workers from disadvantaged communities as defined by:

(i) The United States Council on Environmental Quality's climate and economic justice screening tool or by an agency of this State using standards similar to those in the screening tool as determined by the commission;

(ii) The United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration's economic distress criteria; or

(iii) The United States Department of Energy's disadvantaged community criteria; and

(c) Certified businesses;

(4) Provide community benefits, as determined preconstruction through consultation with federally recognized Indian tribes in this State, a stakeholder engagement process that includes disadvantaged communities, as described in subparagraph (3), division (b), and investments in fishing communities;

(5) Provide financial contributions or technical assistance to support research, monitoring and mitigation of impacts to wildlife, fisheries and habitats and the minimization of environmental impacts from the offshore wind power project and related transmission and interconnection infrastructure;

(6) Provide economic benefits to the State, including using an offshore wind port located in this State;

(7) Maximize the hiring of residents of this State;

(8) Maximize economic, employment and contracting opportunities for residents of this State and all businesses in this State; and

(9) Provide ratepayer benefits, including, but not limited to, enhanced electric reliability, resource adequacy including contributing to reducing winter electricity price spikes and overall price impacts, avoidance of line loss and mitigation of transmission costs to the extent possible.

G. The commission shall review and approve the contracts upon a finding that the contracts meet the requirements of this section.

H. If, at the close of a competitive bidding process conducted under this section, the department determines that the proposals submitted do not satisfy the requirements of paragraph F, the department shall reject all proposals and shall open a new competitive bidding process under this subsection.

I. Notwithstanding Title 5, section 8071, subsection 3, the department, after consultation with the commission, may establish by rule reasonable fees that bidders must submit with proposals for offshore wind power projects. Fees collected pursuant to this paragraph may be used for the administration of this section, section 3406 and section 3407. Upon request of the commission, the department may transfer fees collected in accordance with this paragraph to the commission for the administration of this section, section 3406 and section 3407.

Sec. A-41. 35-A MRSA §3408, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 481, §6, is amended to read:

5. Funding. Notwithstanding section 116, subsection 4, upon receiving a written request from the ~~office~~ department, the commission may provide reasonable funding to the ~~office~~ department for the purposes of implementing the requirements of this section.

Sec. A-42. 35-A MRSA §3409, first ¶, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 481, §7, is amended to read:

The commission, in coordination with the ~~office~~ department, shall seek to advance regional transmission solutions to interconnect offshore wind power with transmission and distribution utilities, other New England states or entities and the independent system operator of the New England bulk power system or a successor organization.

Sec. A-43. 35-A MRSA §3409, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 481, §7, is amended to read:

B. The commission shall coordinate with the ~~office~~ department and may coordinate with other entities, including, but not limited to, transmission and distribution utilities, other New England states and the independent system operator of the New England bulk power system or a successor organization, in the solicitation and selection of proposals under this section.

Sec. A-44. 35-A MRSA §3454, first ¶, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §47, is amended to read:

In making findings pursuant to Title 38, section 484, subsection 3, the primary siting authority shall presume that an expedited wind energy development provides energy and emissions-related benefits described in section 3402 and shall make additional findings regarding other tangible benefits provided by the development. The Department of Labor, the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources and the

Public Utilities Commission shall provide review comments if requested by the primary siting authority.

Sec. A-45. 35-A MRSA §3454, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2019, c. 343, Pt. D, §16, is further amended to read:

5. Promoting economic development and resource conservation; assistance to host communities. To the extent practicable within existing resources, the Department of Economic and Community Development, the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources and the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future shall provide, upon the request of a host community, assistance for the purpose of helping the host community maximize the economic development and resource conservation benefits from tax payments and payments made pursuant to a community benefit agreement or a community benefits package in connection with expedited wind energy developments. As part of this assistance, the department and the Department of Economic and Community Development shall support host communities in identifying additional funding and developing regional economic and natural resource conservation strategies.

Sec. A-46. 35-A MRSA §3802, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 328, §1, is repealed.

Sec. A-47. 35-A MRSA §3802, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Department. "Department" means the Department of Energy Resources.

Sec. A-48. 35-A MRSA §3803, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 553, §3, is amended by amending subparagraph (3) to read:

(3) Integrate the ongoing energy planning efforts of the ~~office~~ department as appropriate.

Sec. A-49. 35-A MRSA §3803, sub-§2, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 553, §3, is amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) Incorporating the assumptions and advancing the findings and recommendations of the ~~office~~ former Governor's Energy Office in its "Maine Energy Plan: Pathway to 2040" study launched in August 2023, part of the comprehensive state energy plan required by Title 2, former section 9, subsection 3, paragraph C;

Sec. A-50. 35-A MRSA §3803, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2025, c. 476, Pt. A, §14, is further amended to read:

3. Funding and reporting. Notwithstanding sections 116 and 117, at the request of the trust, the commission may transfer money from funds in the Public Utilities Commission Regulatory Fund or the Public Utilities Commission Reimbursement Fund to the trust to implement the 3-year beneficial electrification plan

included in the triennial plan under subsection 2. At the end of any year in which the commission has transferred money under this subsection to the ~~office former Governor's Energy Office, the department~~ or the trust, the ~~office former Governor's Energy Office, the department~~ or the trust, respectively, shall provide a report to the commission detailing its fund requests, money received and expenditures.

Sec. A-51. 35-A MRSA §3803, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 328, §1, is amended to read:

4. Monitoring beneficial electrification trends and opportunities. To the extent possible through readily available information, the ~~office department~~, the commission and the trust shall coordinate to monitor:

- A. All beneficial electrification activity in the State and the effect of the commission's actions under section 3804;
- B. Trends in beneficial electrification in the State and in other jurisdictions; and
- C. The estimated costs and benefits for ratepayers of beneficial electrification programs occurring as a result of this chapter and other programs that have been implemented in the State.

Sec. A-52. 35-A MRSA §3805, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 328, §1, is amended to read:

2. Office Department report. The ~~office department~~ shall include in its annual report under ~~Title 2, section 9, subsection 3, paragraph C~~ section 10305, subsection 1 a summary of its activities in accordance with this chapter.

Sec. A-53. 35-A MRSA §4131, sub-§3, ¶C, as amended by PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. MM, §17 and affected by §26, is further amended to read:

C. The ~~Director of the Governor's Energy Office~~ Commissioner of Energy Resources, or another employee of ~~that office~~ the Department of Energy Resources, as the ~~director~~ Commissioner of Energy Resources may from time to time designate in writing filed with the clerk of the agency, shall serve as a member of the board of directors.

Sec. A-54. 35-A MRSA §10103, sub-§2, ¶A, as repealed and replaced by PL 2013, c. 424, Pt. B, §14, is amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

- (1) The ~~Director of the Governor's Energy Office~~ Commissioner of Energy Resources;

Sec. A-55. 35-A MRSA §10104, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2021, c. 693, §7, is further amended to read:

4. Triennial plan. The board shall vote on a detailed, triennial plan that includes the quantifiable performance metrics developed under subsection 3 and make a full report of the vote to the commission in accordance with this subsection. The triennial plan must

provide integrated planning, program design and implementation strategies for all energy efficiency, alternative energy resources and conservation programs administered by the trust, including but not limited to the electric efficiency and conservation programs under section 10110, the natural gas efficiency and conservation programs under section 10111, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund under section 10109, the Heating Fuels Efficiency and Weatherization Fund under section 10119 and any state or federal funds or publicly directed funds accepted by or allocated to the trust for the purposes of this chapter. The triennial plan must include provisions for the application of appropriate program funds to support workforce development efforts that are consistent with and promote the purposes of the trust. The plan must take into consideration the comprehensive state energy plan pursuant to ~~Title 2, section 9, subsection 3, paragraph C~~ section 10305, subsection 1. The plan must include, but is not limited to, efficiency and conservation program budget allocations, objectives, targets, performance metrics, program designs, program implementation strategies, timelines and other relevant information.

A. The triennial plan must be developed by the trust, in consultation with entities and agencies engaged in delivering efficiency programs in the State, to authorize and govern or coordinate implementation of energy efficiency and weatherization programs in the State. The triennial plan must identify the maximum achievable cost-effective energy efficiency savings, as defined by rule by the trust, and related programs that could be implemented pursuant to sections 10110 and 10111, the costs and benefits of such programs and the basis and support for such identified costs and benefits. The trust shall conduct an evaluation of the maximum cost-effective potential for electrical and natural gas energy efficiency savings in the State at least once every 3 years.

(1) Transmission and distribution utilities and natural gas utilities shall furnish data to the trust that the trust requests under this subsection to develop and implement the triennial plan or conduct the evaluation of all cost-effective potential for electrical and natural gas energy efficiency savings subject to such confidential treatment as a utility may request and the board determines appropriate pursuant to section 10106. The costs of providing the data are deemed reasonable and prudent expenses of the utilities and are recoverable in rates.

(2) Unless prohibited by federal law, the Maine State Housing Authority and the Department of Health and Human Services shall furnish to the trust data pertaining to the identity, location and contact information, but not including income or asset information, of

households that qualify for low-income programs, as determined necessary by the trust to develop and implement the triennial plan and to evaluate program effectiveness. Data received pursuant to this subparagraph is deemed to be received by the commission and is subject to a protective order issued by the commission pursuant to section 1311-A.

B. In developing the triennial plan, the staff of the trust shall consult the board and provide the opportunity for the board to provide input on drafts of the plan.

B-1. In developing the triennial plan, the trust shall provide the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters an opportunity to provide input on the plan, which may occur at the same time the trust consults with other entities in the development of the plan.

C. The board shall review and approve the triennial plan by affirmative vote of 2/3 of the trustees upon a finding that the plan is consistent with the statutory authority for each source of funds that will be used to implement the plan, advances the state energy efficiency targets in paragraph F, reflects the best practices of program administration under subsection 2 and is consistent with the provisions of this section.

D. Prior to submission of the triennial plan to the commission, the trust shall offer to provide a detailed briefing on the draft plan to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters and, at the request of the committee, shall provide such a briefing and opportunity for input from the committee. After providing such opportunity for input and making any changes as a result of any input received, the board shall deliver the plan to the commission for its review and approval. At the request of the trust or any party to the triennial plan, the commission shall open an adjudicatory proceeding to review the triennial plan. If an adjudicatory proceeding is not requested, the commission may use an adjudicatory proceeding or other process to review the triennial plan. The commission shall review the triennial plan to determine whether it will capture the maximum achievable cost-effective energy efficiency savings. In conducting the review, the commission shall defer to the trust's calculations of energy savings as long as the calculations were conducted consistent with rules of the trust and are supported by evidence in the record and the trust used a reasonable and transparent process to make the technical determinations necessary to make those calculations. The commission shall reject elements of the plan that propose to use funds generated pursuant to sections 3210-C, 10110, 10111 or 10119 if

the plan fails to reasonably explain how these elements of the program would achieve the objectives and implementation requirements of the programs established under those sections or the performance metrics under subsection 3. If the commission approves the triennial plan, the commission shall issue the appropriate orders to transmission and distribution utilities and natural gas utilities for the procurement of energy efficiency resources identified within the plan pursuant to section 10110, subsection 4-A and section 10111, subsection 2. If the commission rejects the triennial plan, the commission shall issue an order stating the reasons for the rejection. Funds generated under these statutory authorities may not be used pursuant to the triennial plan unless those elements of the plan proposing to use the funds have been approved by the commission. The commission shall approve or reject the entire plan or elements of the plan within 120 days of its delivery to the commission. The board, within 30 days of final commission approval of the triennial plan, shall submit the triennial plan to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters together with any explanatory or other supporting material as the committee may request and, at the request of the committee, shall provide a detailed briefing on the triennial plan. After receipt of the triennial plan, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters may submit legislation relating to the triennial plan.

E. The trust shall determine the period to be covered by the triennial plan except that the period of the plan may not interfere with the delivery of any existing contracts to provide energy efficiency services that were previously procured pursuant to efficiency and conservation programs administered by the commission.

F. It is an objective of the triennial plan to design, coordinate and integrate sustained energy efficiency and weatherization programs that are available to all energy consumers in the State and to users of all fuel types. The plan must set forth the costs and benefits of the trust's programs that advance the following goals and funding necessary to meet those goals:

- (1) Reducing energy costs, including residential heating costs;
- (2) For the period beginning January 1, 2020 and ending January 1, 2030, weatherizing 35,000 homes and businesses, with at least 10,000 of such weatherization projects completed in low-income households through the combined efforts of the trust and the Maine State Housing Authority;

(3) Reducing peak-load demand for electricity by the maximum achievable cost-effective amount;

(4) Achieving the maximum achievable cost-effective electricity and natural gas program savings, as defined in and determined pursuant to the performance metrics approved by the commission under section 10120;

(5) Creating stable private sector jobs providing alternative energy and energy efficiency products and services in the State;

(6) Contributing to the effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the State by amounts consistent with the greenhouse gas emission levels established in Title 38, section 576-A and in a manner consistent with the State's climate action plan adopted and updated under Title 38, section 577;

(7) Promoting the purchase of high-efficiency heat pump systems to achieve by 2030 the goal of at least 115,000 households in the State wholly heated by heat pumps and an additional 130,000 households in the State partially heated by heat pumps; and

(8) Promoting the purchase of battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles to achieve by 2030 the goal of at least 220,000 such vehicles registered in the State.

For the purposes of this subparagraph, "plug-in hybrid electric vehicle" has the same meaning as in section 10126, subsection 1, paragraph D.

G. In developing the triennial plan, or an annual update plan under subsection 6, the trust may include, as part of its budget for electric efficiency and conservation programs under section 10110, the costs of providing nonwires alternatives in accordance with section 3132-D.

H. After the triennial plan is approved, the trust or any party to the triennial plan may petition for, or the commission may initiate on its own, consideration of revising the calculations of avoided energy costs used in the determination of maximum achievable cost-effective energy efficiency resources pursuant to section 10110, subsection 4-A or section 10111, subsection 2 upon a showing that, subsequent to the publication of the avoided energy cost study relied upon, changes in price forecasts would result in more than a 25% change in the value of avoided energy cost affecting a significant portion of the program activity in the triennial plan.

Sec. A-56. 37-B MRSA §742, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. MM, §19 and affected by §26, is further amended to read:

B. Upon the issuance of an energy emergency proclamation and after consulting with the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources, the Governor may exercise all the powers granted in this chapter, except as specifically limited by paragraph C. The powers of the Governor include, without limitation, the authority to:

(1) Establish and implement programs, controls, standards, priorities and quotas for the allocation, conservation and consumption of energy resources;

(2) Regulate the hours and days during which nonresidential buildings may be open and the temperatures at which they may be maintained;

(3) Regulate the use of gasoline and diesel-powered land vehicles, watercraft and aircraft;

(4) After consulting, when appropriate, with the New England governors and upon the recommendations of the Public Utilities Commission, regulate the generation, distribution and consumption of electricity;

(5) Establish temporary state and local boards and agencies;

(6) Establish and implement programs and agreements for the purposes of coordinating the emergency energy response of the State with those of the Federal Government and of other states and localities;

(7) Temporarily suspend truck weight and size regulations, but not in conflict with federal regulations;

(8) Regulate the storage, distribution and consumption of home heating oil; and

(9) If the energy emergency was caused by a lack of electric grid reliability in this State resulting from insufficient capacity resources, take appropriate action, in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, to procure sufficient capacity resources including generation capacity and interruptible, demand response or energy efficiency capacity resources.

Sec. A-57. 38 MRSA §480-HH, sub-§3, ¶H, as amended by PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. MM, §20 and affected by §26 and amended by c. 657, Pt. W, §5 and c. 682, §38, is further amended to read:

H. Documentation that, in developing each plan required under paragraphs E to G, the applicant consulted with: the Department of Marine Resources, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry; the Maine Land Use Plan-

ning Commission and the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources; the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Coast Guard, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Park Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; the lobster management policy council established under Title 12, section 6447 for the lobster management zone in which the offshore wind energy demonstration project is proposed; each municipality in which or adjacent to which the project is proposed; and any other local, state or federal agency the applicant considers appropriate. This documentation must include copies of these agencies' comments and recommendations on the plan, if any, and specific descriptions of how the agencies' comments are accommodated by the plan, including the applicant's reasons, based on project-specific information, for any agency recommendation not adopted. The applicant shall allow a minimum of 60 days for the agencies to review and make comments and recommendations on each draft plan before it is filed with the department. No more than 30 days prior to its initiation, the applicant shall notify each municipality within or adjacent to which it intends to site and operate an offshore wind energy demonstration project and invite its participation in the consultation required under this paragraph;

Sec. A-58. 38 MRSA §484, sub-§10, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §51, is amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

The Department of Labor, the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources and the Public Utilities Commission shall provide review comments if requested by the primary siting authority.

Sec. A-59. 38 MRSA §484-C, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 448, §1, is amended to read:

2. Calculating fee. The compensation fee under this section must be calculated by the department, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, using the square footage of the impacted area and applying a per square foot compensation fee set by the department. The fee must be based upon the fair market value of the impacted area and include reasonable costs, including stewardship costs, for a compensation project, as defined by the department by rule, that is completed in whole or in part with the compensation fee. Square footage of the impacted area that is already subject to the compensation fee under section 484-D may not be included in calculating the compensation fee under this subsection. The compensation fee may be reduced by the department, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, if the applicant proposes mitigation strategies, including, but not limited to, dual-use agricultural and solar production. The fee may be increased

by the department, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, based on the severity of the adverse impacts on the impacted area. For purposes of this subsection, "dual-use agricultural and solar production" means the productive use of land for agricultural production and solar energy production in accordance with standards established by rule adopted by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in consultation with the department and the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources.

Sec. A-60. 38 MRSA §577, sub-§8, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 476, §8, is amended to read:

8. Use of existing data. In updating the climate action plan under subsection 1, the council shall draw upon existing state data and studies, including, but not limited to, analyses and data from the 2004 climate action plan and the 2010 adaptation plan developed by the department, the evaluations of the State's progress toward meeting greenhouse gas emissions levels under section 578, the comprehensive state energy plan pursuant to Title 2, ~~section 9, subsection 3, paragraph C~~ 35-A, section 10305, subsection 1 and the Efficiency Maine Trust's triennial plan pursuant to Title 35-A, section 10104, subsection 4.

Sec. A-61. 38 MRSA §577-A, sub-§1, ¶O, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 476, §9, is amended to read:

O. The ~~Director of the Governor's Energy Office~~ Commissioner of Energy Resources, or the ~~director's~~ commissioner's designee;

Sec. A-62. 38 MRSA §634, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. MM, §21 and affected by §26 and amended by c. 657, Pt. W, §5 and c. 682, §38, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

The commissioner shall circulate the application among the Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, ~~Department of Energy Resources~~, Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of Marine Resources, Department of Transportation, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, ~~Governor's Energy Office~~, Public Utilities Commission and the municipal officials of the municipality in which the project is located. The ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources and the Public Utilities Commission shall submit written comments on section 636, subsection 7, paragraph F. For projects within the jurisdiction of the Maine Land Use Planning Commission, the director may request and obtain technical assistance and recommendations from the staff of the department. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall respond to the requests in a timely manner. The recommendations of the Commissioner of Environmental Protection must be considered by the commission in acting upon a project application.

Sec. A-63. 38 MRSA §640, first ¶, as amended by PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. MM, §22 and affected by §26 and amended by c. 657, Pt. W, §5, is further amended to read:

Unless otherwise provided in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, for all existing hydropower projects located in Maine currently licensed under the Federal Power Act, and for all proposed hydropower projects requiring a license to operate under the Federal Power Act, all state agencies that review, comment on and consult in the proposed studies, plans, terms and conditions in the course of licensing or relicensing these projects, including the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Marine Resources, shall cooperatively take the following steps to ensure that interested members of the public are informed of, and allowed to participate in, the review and comment process.

Sec. A-64. 38 MRSA §1480-A, as amended by PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. MM, §23 and affected by §26, is further amended to read:

§1480-A. Joint hearings; intervention

The Department of Health and Human Services or the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources may intervene in any federal licensing proceeding to carry out the purpose of this chapter.

Sec. A-65. 38 MRSA §3201, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 448, §3 and affected by §5, is amended to read:

1. High-value agricultural land. "High-value agricultural land" means land that has a high value for agricultural use, as determined in accordance with rules adopted by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in consultation with the department and the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources.

PART B

Sec. B-1. 3 MRSA §959, sub-§1, ¶P, as amended by PL 2021, c. 617, §1, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (2-A) to read:

(2-A) The Department of Energy Resources in 2027;

Sec. B-2. 5 MRSA §1591, sub-§10 is enacted to read:

10. Department of Energy Resources. Any All Other balance remaining in the General Fund account in the Department of Energy Resources at the end of any fiscal year must be carried forward for use in the next fiscal year.

Sec. B-3. 5 MRSA §1764-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2017, c. 475, Pt. C, §1, is further amended to read:

2. Rules. The Bureau of General Services, in consultation with the ~~Public Utilities Commission~~ Department of Energy Resources, shall by rule require that all planning and design for the construction of new or substantially renovated state-owned or state-leased buildings and buildings built with state funds, including buildings funded through state bonds or the Maine Municipal Bond Bank:

A. Involve consideration of architectural designs and energy systems that show the greatest net benefit over the life of the building by minimizing long-term energy and operating costs;

B. Include an energy-use target that exceeds by at least 20% the energy efficiency standards in effect for commercial and institutional buildings pursuant to the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code under Title 10, chapter 1103; and

C. Include a life-cycle cost analysis that explicitly considers cost and benefits over a minimum of 30 years and that explicitly includes the public health and environmental benefits associated with energy-efficient building design and construction, to the extent they can be reasonably quantified.

Rules adopted pursuant to this section apply to all new or substantially renovated state-owned or state-leased buildings and buildings built with state funds, including buildings funded through state bonds or the Maine Municipal Bond Bank, regardless of whether the planning and design for construction is subject to approval by the department.

Rules adopted pursuant to this section may provide for exemptions, waivers or other appropriate consideration for buildings with little or no energy usage, such as unheated sheds or warehouses.

The Bureau of General Services shall adopt rules pursuant to this section by July 1, 2004. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. B-4. 5 MRSA §11052, sub-§1, ¶D-1 is enacted to read:

D-1. The Department of Energy Resources;

Sec. B-5. 12 MRSA §405-A, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. MM, §11 and affected by §26, is further amended to read:

4. Review. ~~The Governor's Energy Office~~ By January 1, 2028, and every 5 years thereafter, the Department of Energy Resources shall review the status of hydropower development on the St. Croix River and, if, as a result of that review, the department identifies any significant developments or develops recommendations concerning hydropower development on the St. Croix

River, the department shall report information regarding those developments or recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy and natural resources by January 1, 2013 and every 5 years thereafter matters. The report must include any recommendations for changes in the provisions of this section together with the justification for the changes. If the St. Croix River is included in any legislative Act or regulation that directly or indirectly has as its effect the essential prohibition of construction of new dams or development or redevelopment of existing dams on the St. Croix River, this section is repealed on the effective date of that Act or regulation.

Sec. B-6. 35-A MRSA §3408, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 481, §6, is amended to read:

6. Rulemaking; protective orders biannual reports. The ~~commission~~ department shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. The rules must include, but are not limited to, procedures for monitoring, measuring and enforcing ongoing compliance by responsible entities with the requirements of this section.

A. The rules must require the responsible entity to provide biannual reports to the ~~commission~~ department regarding its compliance with the plans submitted as part of its bid under subsection 2. The rules must require a report submitted by the responsible entity to exclude personally identifying information to the greatest extent practicable. ~~If the report includes confidential or proprietary information, trade secrets or similar matters as provided by the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 26(c), the commission may issue appropriate protective orders in accordance with section 1311-A with respect to those portions of the report and shall make available to the public an appropriately redacted copy of the report. The commission department shall provide to the office the redacted copy, which the office shall post on the office's post a redacted copy on the department's publicly accessible web-site.~~

B. The ~~commission~~ department shall establish by rule a process for the review, in coordination with the ~~office~~ commission, of the biannual reports provided by the responsible entity and a mechanism for public participation regarding the contents of the report.

Sec. B-7. 35-A MRSA §10312, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 476, Pt. A, §16, is amended to read:

B. "Primary storage facility" means a facility that receives petroleum products into the State by pipeline, rail, truck or by ship.

Sec. B-8. 35-A MRSA §10312, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 476, Pt. A, §16, is amended to read:

5. Department reports. If the department determines, based on available information, that there is or may be a significant shortfall in supply inventories or anticipated deliveries into the State of ~~home heating oil or kerosene~~ petroleum products, the department shall provide a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters including:

A. The information that suggests a supply shortfall;

B. Current and anticipated inventories of ~~home heating oil and kerosene~~ petroleum product storage supplies;

C. Any recommendations of the department for actions by the State in response to the anticipated supply shortfall; and

D. A report on inventories, deliveries, curtailments, shortfalls or other matters relating to the availability of petroleum products in this State, at the request of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters.

Sec. B-9. 35-A MRSA §10313, sub-§7, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 476, Pt. A, §16, is amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

The commission shall approve or reject a contract within 120 calendar days, unless a longer period is requested by the department. If the commission approves a contract, the commission shall issue an order directing a transmission and distribution utility to act with respect to the contract ~~within 120 calendar days, unless a longer period is requested by the department.~~ If the commission does not approve a contract, the commission may direct that the contract be amended and resubmitted to the commission for approval.

Sec. B-10. 35-A MRSA §10313, sub-§9, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 476, Pt. A, §16, is amended to read:

9. Confidentiality. Proposals submitted in response to a solicitation and materials created or submitted during contract negotiations pursuant to this section are confidential ~~and may not be disclosed, except the department may share proposals and contract negotiation materials with the commission as necessary for the commission to approve a contract pursuant to subsection 7 and the department may make public certain information regarding submitted proposals at the conclusion of a solicitation, including, but not limited to, the identity of the bidder awarded a contract and the bid price.~~

Sec. B-11. 38 MRSA §580-B, sub-§4, ¶F, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 317, §17, is amended by amending subparagraph (7) to read:

(7) Guarantee that the Attorney General, the ~~Public Utilities Commission~~ Commissioner of Energy Resources and the commissioner have access to all auction information and information concerning allowance trading activity, including reports provided to the regional organization by a market monitor.

Sec. B-12. 38 MRSA §580-B, sub-§6, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 317, §17, is amended to read:

A. If the regional greenhouse gas initiative results in price levels for allowances that will result in immediate and irreparable harm to the operations of a carbon dioxide budget unit regulated under this chapter, including but not limited to the termination of business at that location, the commissioner may, in consultation with the Attorney General and the ~~chair of the Public Utilities Commission~~ Commissioner of Energy Resources, grant a temporary waiver of enforcement not to exceed one year for any violation by an individual regulated carbon dioxide budget unit of a requirement of this chapter.

Sec. B-13. 38 MRSA §580-B, sub-§10, as amended by PL 2013, c. 369, Pt. D, §7, is further amended to read:

10. Annual report. The department, the ~~Public Utilities Commission~~ Commissioner of Energy Resources and the trustees of the Efficiency Maine Trust established pursuant to Title 35-A, section 10103 shall submit a joint report to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources matters and utilities and energy matters by March 15th annually. The report must assess and address:

A. The reductions of greenhouse gas emissions from carbon dioxide budget units, conservation programs funded by the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund pursuant to Title 35-A, section 10109 and carbon dioxide emissions offset projects;

B. The improvements in overall carbon dioxide emissions and energy efficiency from sources that emit greenhouse gases including electrical generation and fossil fuel fired units;

C. The maximization of savings through systemic energy improvements statewide;

D. Research and support of new carbon dioxide offset allowance categories for development in the State;

E. Management and cost-effectiveness of the State's energy conservation and carbon reduction programs and efforts funded by the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund, established pursuant to Title 35-A, section 10109;

F. The extent to which funds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund, established pursuant to Title 35-A, section 10109, serve customers from all classes of the State's transmission and distribution utilities; and

G. The revenues and expenditures of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Trust Fund, established pursuant to Title 35-A, section 10109.

The department, the ~~Public Utilities Commission~~ Commissioner of Energy Resources and the trustees of the Efficiency Maine Trust may include in the report any proposed changes to the program established under this chapter.

The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources matters may submit legislation relating to areas within the committee's jurisdiction in connection with the program. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utilities and energy matters may submit legislation relating to areas within the committee's jurisdiction in connection with the program.

Sec. B-14. PL 2025, c. 476, Pt. B, §2, sub-§6, is repealed.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 598

S.P. 879 - L.D. 2169

An Act to Improve the Public Employees Disability Retirement Program by Modifying Provisions Controlling the Reduction of Benefits and Clarifying Terminology

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §17857, sub-§2, ¶D, as amended by PL 1997, c. 769, §19 and PL 2021, c. 548, §45, is further amended to read:

D. A member who has not completed the service requirements for retirement under a special plan, including a member who completes the requirements of section 17851-A, subsection 2, paragraph A, on becoming disabled as defined in section ~~17901~~ 17901-B, subsection 1, or, after September 30, 1989, section 17921, subsection 1, and on becoming reemployed in a position not under a special plan on retirement receives retirement benefits as follows.

(1) The part of the member's service retirement based on membership service before becoming disabled must be computed according

to the formula for computing benefits under the member's previous special plan.

(2) The part of the member's service retirement based on membership service after becoming reemployed in a position not under a special plan must be computed according to the formula for computing benefits under the member's previous special plan.

(3) If the member is found to be no longer disabled, as defined in section ~~17901~~ 17901-B, subsection 1, or, after September 30, 1989, section 17921, subsection 1, the member may:

(a) Return to a position under the member's previous special plan; or

(b) Remain in the position that is not under a special plan and have the part of the member's service retirement benefit based on post-disability service computed in accordance with section 17852, subsection 1.

(4) The chief executive officer may require that a member subject to this paragraph undergo medical examinations or tests once each year to determine the member's disability in accordance with section 17903 or, after September 30, 1989, section 17926.

(a) If the member refuses to submit to the examination or tests under this subparagraph, the member's retirement benefit must be based on section 17852, subsection 1, until the member withdraws the refusal.

(b) If the member's refusal under division (a) continues for one year, all the member's rights to any further benefits under this paragraph shall cease.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §17901, as corrected by RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. B, §123, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §17901-B is enacted to read:

§17901-B. Definitions

As used in this article, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Disabled. "Disabled" means mentally or physically incapacitated:

A. To the extent that it is impossible for a person to perform the duties of the person's employment position and the incapacity can be expected to be permanent; and

B. Such that the incapacity will be revealed by medical examination or tests conducted in accordance with section 17903.

2. Final annual compensation. "Final annual compensation" means the annual rate of pay of a member, for a position covered by this article, immediately before the termination of the member's employment and the commencement of the member's disability retirement benefit.

3. Substantially gainful activity. "Substantially gainful activity" means any combination of activities, tasks or efforts, with any reasonable accommodations, for which the member is qualified by training, education or experience that would generate annual income in the labor market for the member's state of residence in an amount in excess of the greater of:

A. Thirty-five thousand five hundred dollars in calendar year 2026 or \$35,500 increased as described by this subsection in any subsequent calendar year;

B. The member's average final compensation; and

C. The member's final annual compensation.

The amounts under paragraphs A, B and C are increased on January 1st of each calendar year by any percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index during the 12 months ending on December 31st of the prior calendar year.

Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §17903, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 801, §§5 and 7, is amended to read:

The examination or tests to determine whether a member is disabled under section ~~17901~~ 17901-B, subsection 1 are governed as follows.

Sec. 5. 5 MRSA §17906, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2021, c. 548, §29, is repealed.

Sec. 6. 5 MRSA §17906, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Excess compensation. If the compensation received from engaging in any gainful occupation by a beneficiary of a disability retirement benefit exceeds \$35,500 in calendar year 2026 or in any subsequent calendar year exceeds that amount increased on January 1st of each calendar year by any percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index during the 12 months ending on December 31st of the prior calendar year, the disability retirement benefits must be reduced for a one-year period by the excess prorated on a monthly basis over the year.

The chief executive officer shall waive the reduction set forth under this subsection if the person demonstrates that the excess compensation has ceased and that the continuing reduction would cause a hardship.

Sec. 7. 5 MRSA §17907, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by PL 2003, c. 675, §1 and PL 2021, c. 548, §45, is further amended to read:

B. After the disability has continued for 5 years, the disability of the beneficiary must render the

beneficiary unable to engage in any substantially gainful activity ~~for which the beneficiary is qualified by training, education or experience. For purposes of this paragraph, the ability to engage in substantially gainful activity is demonstrated by the ability to perform work resulting in annual earnings that exceed \$20,000 or 80% of the recipient's average final compensation at retirement, whichever is greater, adjusted by the same percentage adjustments granted under section 17806.~~

(1) The chief executive officer may require, once each year, a recipient of a disability retirement benefit to undergo medical examinations or tests, conducted in accordance with section 17903, to determine the disability of the beneficiary.

(2) If the beneficiary refuses to submit to the examination or tests under subparagraph (1), the beneficiary's disability retirement benefit is discontinued until the beneficiary withdraws the refusal.

(3) If the beneficiary's refusal under subparagraph (2) continues for one year, all the beneficiary's rights to any further benefits under this article cease.

(4) If it is determined, on the basis of the examination or tests under subparagraph (1), that the disability of a beneficiary no longer exists, the payment of a beneficiary's disability retirement benefit ceases;

Sec. 8. 5 MRSA §17921, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Final annual compensation. "Final annual compensation" means the annual rate of pay of a member, for a position covered by this article, immediately before the termination of the member's employment and the commencement of the member's disability retirement benefit.

Sec. 9. 5 MRSA §17921, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Substantially gainful activity. "Substantially gainful activity" means any combination of activities, tasks or efforts, with any reasonable accommodations, for which the member is qualified by training, education or experience that would generate annual income in the labor market for the member's state of residence in an amount in excess of the greater of:

- A. Thirty-five thousand five hundred dollars in calendar year 2026 or \$35,500 increased as described by this subsection in any subsequent calendar year;
- B. The member's average final compensation; and
- C. The member's final annual compensation.

The amounts under paragraphs A, B and C are increased on January 1st of each calendar year by any percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index during the 12 months ending on December 31st of the prior calendar year.

Sec. 10. 5 MRSA §17929, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by PL 2021, c. 277, §25 and affected by §45 and amended by c. 548, §45, is further amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) After the disability has continued for 2 years, the disability must render the person unable to engage in any substantially gainful activity that is consistent with the person's training, education or experience and average final compensation adjusted by the same percentage adjustment as has been received under section 17806. The disability retirement benefit continues if the person can effectively demonstrate to the chief executive officer that the person is actively seeking work. ~~For the purposes of this subparagraph, the ability to engage in substantially gainful activity is demonstrated by the ability to perform work resulting in annual earnings that exceed \$20,000 or 80% of the recipient's average final compensation at retirement, whichever is greater, adjusted by the same percentage adjustments granted under section 17806.~~

Sec. 11. 5 MRSA §17930, as amended by PL 2025, c. 221, §§27 and 28, is repealed.

Sec. 12. 5 MRSA §17930-A is enacted to read:

§17930-A. Reduction in amount of benefit

Reduction of disability retirement benefits as the result of a person's receiving compensation from employment or from disability payments under other laws is governed as follows.

1. Compensation from employment; reduction of benefits required. The amount of a person's disability retirement benefit must be reduced when the person receives compensation in any year from engaging in any gainful activity or from employment that exceeds the greater of:

A. Thirty-five thousand five hundred dollars in calendar year 2026, increased on January 1st of each calendar year by any percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index during the 12 months ending on December 31st of the prior calendar year; and

B. The difference between the person's disability retirement benefit for that year and the higher of the person's average final compensation at the time that the person became a recipient of a disability retirement benefit and the person's final annual compensation, each increased on January 1st of each cal-

endar year by any percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index during the 12 months ending on December 31st of the prior calendar year.

Disability retirement benefits must be reduced by the amount of compensation for gainful activity or employment received in excess of the amount described in paragraph A or B, whichever is applicable, for a one-year period, prorated on a monthly basis over the year.

2. Reduction for employment; hardship; discontinuance; resumption of benefits; voluntary termination of benefits. The following provisions apply to the reduction of benefits pursuant to subsection 1.

A. The chief executive officer shall waive the reduction set forth in subsection 1 if the person demonstrates that the excess compensation has ceased and that continuing the reduction would cause a hardship.

B. If the disability retirement benefit payments are eliminated by subsection 1, the disability is deemed to no longer exist, the payment of the disability retirement benefit must be discontinued and, except as provided in paragraph C, all of the person's rights to benefits under this article cease.

C. If, during the first 5 years of reemployment, the person again becomes disabled, terminates employment and is not covered by any other disability program, the retirement system shall resume paying the disability retirement benefit payable prior to the reemployment with all applicable cost-of-living adjustments and shall provide rehabilitation services in accordance with section 17927. If, during the first 5 years of reemployment, the person again becomes disabled, terminates employment and is covered by another disability program and the benefit payable under the other disability program is not equal to or greater than the benefit under this article, the retirement system shall pay the difference between the amount of the benefit payable under the other disability program and the amount of the benefit payable under this article. The chief executive officer shall require examinations or tests to determine whether the person is disabled as described in section 17921.

D. At any time before the elimination of disability retirement benefit payments by subsection 1, the person may request that the benefit payments be terminated, and the chief executive officer shall terminate benefit payments at the end of the month in which the request is received.

3. Disability payments under other laws. The reduction of disability retirement benefits because of disability benefits received under other laws is governed as follows.

A. The amount of any disability retirement benefit payable under this article must be reduced by any

amount received by the person for the same disability under the workers' compensation or similar laws, except amounts that may be paid or payable under former Title 39, section 56-B or Title 39-A, section 212, subsection 3.

B. The reduction in the disability retirement benefit is governed as follows:

(1) The initial disability retirement benefit must be reduced if necessary so that the benefit plus any benefits under paragraph A do not exceed 80% of the person's average final compensation;

(2) The amount determined by the calculation under subparagraph (1) may not be adjusted when cost-of-living adjustments are applied to the benefits listed under paragraph A; and

(3) Adjustments under section 17806 must be applied to the reduced disability retirement benefit calculated under subparagraph (1) or paragraph C.

C. The disability retirement benefit may not be reduced below the amount of the retirement benefit that is the actuarial equivalent of the person's accumulated contributions at the time of retirement.

D. A lump-sum settlement of benefits that reduces the disability retirement benefit under this subsection must be prorated on a monthly basis in an equitable manner prescribed by the board.

(1) The prorated lump-sum settlement may not include any part of the lump-sum settlement attributable to rehabilitation, attorney's, physicians', nurses', hospital, medical, surgical or related fees or charges or any amount paid or payable under former Title 39, section 56-B or Title 39-A, section 212, subsection 3.

(2) The prorated lump-sum settlement must reduce the disability retirement benefit in the same manner and amount as monthly benefits under this subsection.

E. Any dispute about amounts paid under the workers' compensation laws or the amount of the lump-sum settlement and its attributions must be determined on a petition by a single member of the Workers' Compensation Board in accordance with Title 39-A. The determination may be appealed under Title 39-A, section 322.

Sec. 13. 5 MRSA §17932, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 409, §§8 and 12 and amended by PL 2021, c. 548, §45, is further amended to read:

3. Termination or reduction in benefits. At any time before the elimination of disability retirement benefit payments under section ~~17930~~ 17930-A, subsection 3 1, the person may request that benefit payments be

terminated, and the chief executive officer shall terminate benefit payments at the end of the month in which the request is received.

Sec. 14. 5 MRSA §18462, sub-§2, ¶D, as corrected by RR 2011, c. 2, §4 and amended by PL 2021, c. 548, §45, is amended to read:

D. A member who has not completed the service requirements for retirement under a special plan, on becoming disabled as defined in section ~~48504~~ 18501-B, subsection 1, and on becoming reemployed in a position not under a special plan must on retirement receive retirement benefits as follows.

(1) The part of the member's service retirement based on membership service before becoming disabled must be computed according to the formula for computing benefits under the member's previous special plan.

(2) The part of the member's service retirement based on membership service after becoming reemployed in a position not under a special plan must be computed according to the formula for computing benefits under the member's previous special plan.

(3) If the member is found to be no longer disabled, as defined in section ~~48504~~ 18501-B, subsection 1, the member may:

(a) Return to a position under the member's previous special plan; or

(b) Remain in the position that is not under a special plan and have the part of the member's service retirement benefit based on post-disability service computed in accordance with section 18452, subsection 1.

(4) The chief executive officer may require that a member subject to this paragraph undergo medical examinations or tests once each year to determine the member's disability in accordance with section 18503.

(a) If the member refuses to submit to the examination or tests under this subparagraph, the member's retirement benefit must be based on section 17852, subsection 1, until the member withdraws the refusal.

(b) If the member's refusal under division (a) continues for one year, all the member's rights to any further benefits under this paragraph cease.

Sec. 15. 5 MRSA §18501, as corrected by RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. B, §150, is repealed.

Sec. 16. 5 MRSA §18501-B is enacted to read:

§18501-B. Definitions

As used in this article, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Disabled. "Disabled" means mentally or physically incapacitated:

A. To the extent that it is impossible for a person to perform the duties of the person's employment position and the incapacity can be expected to be permanent; and

B. Such that the incapacity will be revealed by medical examination or tests conducted in accordance with section 18503.

2. Final annual compensation. "Final annual compensation" means the annual rate of pay of a member, for a position covered by this article, immediately before the termination of the member's employment and the commencement of the member's disability retirement benefit.

3. Substantially gainful activity. "Substantially gainful activity" means any combination of activities, tasks or efforts, with any reasonable accommodations, for which the member is qualified by training, education or experience that would generate annual income in the labor market for the member's state of residence in an amount in excess of the greater of:

A. Thirty-five thousand five hundred dollars in calendar year 2026 or \$35,500 increased as described by this subsection in any subsequent calendar year;

B. The member's average final compensation; and

C. The member's final annual compensation.

The amounts under paragraphs A, B and C are increased on January 1st of each calendar year by any percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index during the 12 months ending on December 31st of the prior calendar year.

Sec. 17. 5 MRSA §18503, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 801, §§5 and 7, is amended to read:

The examination or tests to determine whether a member is disabled under section ~~48504~~ 18501-B, subsection 1 are governed as follows.

Sec. 18. 5 MRSA §18506, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2025, c. 221, §42, is repealed.

Sec. 19. 5 MRSA §18506, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Excess compensation. If the compensation received from engaging in any gainful occupation by a beneficiary of a disability retirement benefit exceeds \$35,500 in calendar year 2026 or in any subsequent calendar year exceeds that amount increased on January 1st of each calendar year by any percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index during the 12 months ending

on December 31st of the prior calendar year, the disability retirement benefits must be reduced for a one-year period by the excess prorated on a monthly basis over the year.

The chief executive officer shall waive the reduction set forth under this subsection if the person demonstrates that the excess compensation has ceased and that the continuing reduction would cause a hardship.

Sec. 20. 5 MRSA §18506, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 1993, c. 680, Pt. A, §17, is further amended to read:

A. The amount of any disability retirement benefit payable under this article must be reduced by any amount received by the beneficiary for the same disability under ~~either or both of~~ the following:

(1) The workers' compensation or similar ~~law~~ laws, except amounts that may be paid or payable under former Title 39, section 56-B or Title 39-A, section 212, subsection 3; ~~or~~.

(2) ~~The United States Social Security Act, if the employment for which creditable service with the employer is allowed was also covered under that Act at the date of disability retirement.~~

Sec. 21. 5 MRSA §18507, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by PL 2003, c. 675, §3 and PL 2021, c. 548, §45, is further amended to read:

B. After the disability has continued for 5 years, the disability of the beneficiary must render the beneficiary unable to engage in any substantially gainful activity ~~for which the beneficiary is qualified by training, education or experience. For purposes of this paragraph, the ability to engage in substantially gainful activity is demonstrated by the ability to perform work resulting in annual earnings that exceed \$20,000 or 80% of the recipient's average final compensation at retirement, whichever is greater, adjusted by the same percentage adjustments granted under section 18407.~~

(1) The chief executive officer may require, once each year, a recipient of a disability retirement benefit to undergo medical examinations or tests, conducted in accordance with section 18503, to determine the disability of the beneficiary.

(2) If the beneficiary refuses to submit to the examination or tests under subparagraph (1), the beneficiary's disability retirement benefit is discontinued until the beneficiary withdraws the refusal.

(3) If the beneficiary's refusal under subparagraph (2) continues for one year, all the beneficiary's rights to any further benefits under this article cease.

(4) If it is determined, on the basis of the examination or tests under subparagraph (1), that the disability of a beneficiary no longer exists, the payment of the beneficiary's disability retirement benefit ceases.

Sec. 22. 5 MRSA §18521, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Final annual compensation. "Final annual compensation" means the annual rate of pay of a member in a position covered by this article immediately before the termination of the member's employment and the commencement of the disability retirement benefit.

Sec. 23. 5 MRSA §18521, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Substantially gainful activity. "Substantially gainful activity" means any combination of activities, tasks or efforts, with any reasonable accommodations, for which the member is qualified by training, education or experience that would generate annual income on the labor market for the member's state of residence in an amount in excess of the greater of:

A. Thirty-five thousand five hundred dollars in calendar year 2026 or \$35,500 increased as described by this subsection in any subsequent calendar year;

B. The member's average final compensation; and

C. The member's final annual compensation.

The amounts under paragraphs A, B, and C are increased on January 1st of each calendar year by any percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index during the 12 months ending on December 31st of the prior calendar year.

Sec. 24. 5 MRSA §18529, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by PL 2021, c. 277, §38 and affected by §45 and amended by c. 548, §45, is further amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) After the disability has continued for 2 years, the disability must render the person unable to engage in any substantially gainful activity ~~that is consistent with the person's training, education or experience and average final compensation adjusted by the same percentage adjustment as has been received under section 18407.~~ The disability retirement benefit continues if the person can effectively demonstrate to the chief executive officer that the person is actively seeking work. ~~For purposes of this subparagraph, the ability to engage in substantially gainful activity is demonstrated by the ability to perform work resulting in annual earnings that exceed \$20,000 or 80% of the recipient's average final compensation at retirement, whichever is greater, adjusted by the same percentage adjustments granted under section 18407.~~

Sec. 25. 5 MRSA §18530, as amended by PL 2025, c. 221, §§44 and 45 and c. 270, §4 and affected by §5, is repealed.

Sec. 26. 5 MRSA §18530-A is enacted to read:

§18530-A. Reduction in amount of benefit

1. Compensation from employment; reduction of benefits required. The amount of a person's disability retirement benefit must be reduced when the person receives compensation in any year from engaging in any gainful activity or from employment that exceeds the greater of:

A. Thirty-five thousand five hundred dollars in calendar year 2026, increased on January 1st of each calendar year by the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index during the 12 months ending on December 31st of the prior calendar year; and

B. The difference between the person's disability retirement benefit for that year and the higher of the person's average final compensation at the time that the person became a recipient of a disability retirement benefit and the person's final annual compensation, each increased on January 1st of each calendar year by the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index during the 12 months ending on December 31st of the prior calendar year.

Disability retirement benefits must be reduced by the amount of compensation for gainful activity or employment received in excess of the amount described in paragraph A or B, whichever is applicable, for a one-year period, prorated on a monthly basis over the year.

2. Reduction for employment; hardship; discontinuance; resumption of benefits; voluntary termination of benefits. The following provisions apply to the reduction of benefits pursuant to subsection 1.

A. The chief executive officer shall waive the reduction set forth in subsection 1 if the person demonstrates that the excess compensation has ceased and that continuing the reduction would cause a hardship.

B. If the disability retirement benefit payments are eliminated by subsection 1, the disability is deemed to no longer exist, the payment of the disability retirement benefit must be discontinued and, except as provided in paragraph C, all of the person's rights to benefits under this article cease.

C. If, during the first 5 years of reemployment, the person again becomes disabled, terminates employment and is not covered by any other disability program, the retirement system shall resume paying the disability retirement benefit payable prior to the reemployment with all applicable cost-of-living adjustments and shall provide rehabilitation services in accordance with section 18527. If, during the first 5 years of reemployment, the person

again becomes disabled, terminates employment and is covered by another disability program and the benefit payable under the other disability program is not equal to or greater than the benefit under this article, the retirement system shall pay the difference between the amount of the benefit payable under the other disability program and the amount of the benefit payable under this article. The chief executive officer shall require examinations or tests to determine whether the person is disabled as described in section 18521.

D. At any time before the elimination of disability retirement benefit payments by subsection 1, the person may request that the benefit payments be terminated, and the chief executive officer shall terminate benefit payments at the end of the month in which the request is received.

3. Disability payments under other laws. The reduction of disability retirement benefits because of disability benefits received under other laws is governed as follows.

A. The amount of any disability retirement benefits payable under this article must be reduced by any amount received by the person for the same disability under the workers' compensation or similar laws, except amounts that may be paid or payable under former Title 39, section 56-B or Title 39-A, section 212, subsection 3.

B. The reduction in the disability benefit is governed as follows:

(1) The initial disability retirement benefit must be reduced if necessary so that the benefit plus any benefits under paragraph A do not exceed 80% of the person's average final compensation;

(2) The amount determined by the calculation under subparagraph (1) may not be adjusted when cost-of-living adjustments are applied to the benefits listed under paragraph A; and

(3) Adjustments under section 18407 must be applied to the reduced disability retirement benefit calculated under subparagraph (1) or paragraph C.

C. The disability retirement benefit may not be reduced below the amount of the retirement benefit that is the actuarial equivalent of the person's accumulated contributions at the time of retirement.

D. A lump-sum settlement of benefits that reduces the disability retirement benefit under this subsection must be prorated on a monthly basis in an equitable manner prescribed by the board.

(1) The prorated lump-sum settlement may not include any part of the lump-sum settlement

attributable to rehabilitation, attorney's, physicians', nurses', hospital, medical, surgical or related fees or charges or any amount paid or payable under former Title 39, section 56-B or Title 39-A, section 212, subsection 3.

(2) The prorated lump-sum settlement must reduce the disability retirement benefit in the same manner and amount as monthly benefits under this subsection.

E. Any dispute about amounts paid or payable under the workers' compensation laws or the amount of the lump-sum settlement and its attributions must be determined on petition by a single member of the Workers' Compensation Board in accordance with Title 39-A. The determination may be appealed under Title 39-A, section 322.

Sec. 27. 5 MRSA §18532, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 409, §§11 and 12 and amended by PL 2021, c. 548, §45, is further amended to read:

3. Termination or reduction in benefits. At any time before the elimination of disability retirement benefit payments under section ~~18530~~ 18530-A, subsection ~~3~~ 1, the person may request that benefit payments be terminated, and the chief executive officer shall terminate benefit payments at the end of the month in which the request is received.

Sec. 28. Existing debt due to excess compensation before effective date of this Act. An individual who is required to reimburse the Maine Public Employees Retirement System for any excess payments due to the receipt of excess compensation from employment under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 17906, subsection 1; section 17930; section 18506, subsection 1; and section 18530 as of the effective date of this Act is no longer obligated to reimburse the Maine Public Employees Retirement System for that debt beginning on the effective date of this Act.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 599

H.P. 1261 - L.D. 1890

An Act to Facilitate the Development of Ambulatory Surgical Facilities by Increasing the Monetary Threshold for Certain Facilities Under the Requirement to Obtain a Certificate of Need and to Index the Threshold Annually Thereafter

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §329, sub-§4-A, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 424, Pt. A, §5 and affected by Pt. E, §1, is amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) If it requires a capital expenditure of more than ~~\$3,000,000~~ \$7,500,000. Beginning January 1, 2027 and annually thereafter, the threshold amount for review must be updated by the commissioner to reflect the change in the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index medical care services index, with an effective date of January 1st each year; or

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 600

S.P. 814 - L.D. 2000

An Act to Update the Campaign Finance Laws

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the changes in this legislation may directly impact statewide campaigns during the 2026 election; and

Whereas, it is necessary to amend the requirements of certain campaign finance laws as soon as possible to avoid undue burdens and confusion; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1017, sub-§2, ¶D, as amended by PL 2019, c. 323, §7, is further amended to read:

D. If the candidate has an opponent who is on the ballot or who is a declared write-in candidate, any single contribution of ~~\$1,000~~ \$10,000 or more received or any single expenditure of ~~\$1,000~~ \$10,000 or more made after the 14th day before the election and more than ~~24~~ 48 hours before 11:59 p.m. on the day of the election must be reported within ~~24~~ 48 hours of that contribution or expenditure. The candidate or treasurer is not required to include in this report expenditures for overhead expenses or compensation paid to an employee or other member of the campaign staff who has received payments at

regular intervals that have been disclosed in previously filed campaign finance reports. As used in this paragraph, "overhead expenses" includes, but is not limited to, rent, utility payments, taxes, insurance premiums or similar administrative expenses.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA §1017, sub-§3-A, ¶C, as amended by PL 2019, c. 323, §8, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

C. If the candidate has an opponent who is on the ballot or who is a declared write-in candidate, any single contribution received or any single expenditure made after the 14th day before any election and more than 48 hours before 11:59 p.m. on the day of any election that is equal to or greater than the following thresholds must be reported within 48 hours of that contribution or expenditure:

- (1) For a candidate for State Senator, \$5,000;
- (2) For a candidate for county office, \$2,500;
- (3) For a candidate for State Representative, \$1,500; and
- (4) For a candidate for municipal office, \$1,500.

The candidate or treasurer is not required to include in this report expenditures for overhead expenses or compensation paid to an employee or other member of the campaign staff who has received payments at regular intervals that have been disclosed in previously filed campaign finance reports. As used in this paragraph, "overhead expenses" includes, but is not limited to, rent, utility payments, taxes, insurance premiums or similar administrative expenses.

Sec. 3. 21-A MRSA §1017-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2019, c. 323, §11, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. Expenditures to influence campaign. A party committee shall report all expenditures made to influence a campaign, as defined in section 1052, subsection 1. For each expenditure, the party committee shall report:

- A. The candidate or ballot measure for which the expenditure was made;
- B. For a candidate, the office sought by the candidate and the district that the candidate seeks to represent;
- C. The date and amount of each expenditure;
- D. The purpose of each expenditure, including whether the expenditure was made to support or oppose the candidate or ballot measure; and
- E. The name and address of each payee.

Sec. 4. 21-A MRSA §1017-A, sub-§4-A, ¶E, as amended by PL 2019, c. 323, §12, is further amended to read:

E. If a state party committee is required to file a report 11 days before an election pursuant to paragraph B or C, the committee shall report any single contribution of ~~\$5,000~~ \$10,000 or more received or any single expenditure of ~~\$1,000~~ \$2,500 or more made after the 14th day before the election and more than 24 hours before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election within 24 hours of that contribution or expenditure. The committee is not required to include in this report expenditures for overhead expenses or compensation paid to an employee or other member of the campaign staff who has received payments at regular intervals that have been disclosed in previously filed campaign finance reports. As used in this paragraph, "overhead expenses" includes, but is not limited to, rent, utility payments, taxes, insurance premiums or similar administrative expenses.

Sec. 5. 21-A MRSA §1017-A, sub-§4-B, ¶C, as amended by PL 2019, c. 323, §13, is further amended to read:

C. A committee shall report any single contribution of ~~\$5,000~~ \$10,000 or more received or any expenditure of ~~\$1,000~~ \$2,500 or more made after the 14th day before a general or special election and more than 24 hours before 11:59 p.m. on the day of the election within 24 hours of that contribution or expenditure. The committee is not required to include in this report expenditures for overhead expenses or compensation paid to an employee or other member of the campaign staff who has received payments at regular intervals that have been disclosed in previously filed campaign finance reports. As used in this paragraph, "overhead expenses" includes, but is not limited to, rent, utility payments, taxes, insurance premiums or similar administrative expenses.

Sec. 6. 21-A MRSA §1019-B, sub-§4, as amended by IB 2023, c. 4, §3, is further amended to read:

4. Report required; content; rules. A person, party committee or political action committee that makes any independent expenditure in excess of ~~\$250~~ \$1,000 during any one candidate's election shall file a report with the commission. In the case of a municipal election, the report must be filed with the municipal clerk.

A. A report required by this subsection must be filed with the commission according to a reporting schedule that the commission shall establish by rule that takes into consideration existing campaign finance reporting requirements. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical

rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

B. A report required by this subsection must contain an itemized account of the total contributions from each contributor, each expenditure in excess of ~~\$250~~ \$1,000 in any one candidate's election, the date and purpose of each expenditure and the name of each payee or creditor. The report must state whether the expenditure is in support of or in opposition to the candidate and must include, under penalty of unsworn falsification, as provided in Title 17-A, section 453, a statement whether the expenditure is made in cooperation, consultation or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, the candidate or an authorized committee or agent of the candidate.

C. A report required by this subsection must be on a form prescribed and prepared by the commission. A person filing this report may use additional pages if necessary, but the pages must be the same size as the pages of the form. The commission may adopt procedures requiring the electronic filing of an independent expenditure report, as long as the commission adopts an exception for persons who lack access to the required technology or the technological ability to file reports electronically.

Sec. 7. 21-A MRSA §1052, sub-§2-A, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 217, §3, is amended to read:

2-A. Ballot question committee. "Ballot question committee" means a person that receives contributions or makes expenditures aggregating in excess of \$5,000 for the purpose of initiating or influencing a campaign, other than a campaign for the nomination or election of a candidate. The term "ballot question committee" does not include a ~~political action committee or an exempt donor party committee, an exempt donor or a political action committee not required to register as a ballot question committee under section 1052-A, subsection 1-A, paragraph A.~~

Sec. 8. 21-A MRSA §1059, sub-§2, ¶E, as amended by PL 2019, c. 323, §24, is further amended to read:

E. If a committee is required to file a report 11 days before an election pursuant to paragraph B or C, the committee shall report any single contribution of ~~\$5,000~~ \$10,000 or more received or single expenditure of ~~\$1,000~~ \$2,500 or more made after the 14th day before the election and more than 24 hours before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election within 24 hours of that contribution or expenditure. The treasurer is not required to include in this report expenditures for overhead expenses or compensation paid to an employee or other member of the campaign staff who has received payments at regular intervals that have been disclosed in previously

filed campaign finance reports. As used in this paragraph, "overhead expenses" includes, but is not limited to, rent, utility payments, taxes, insurance premiums or similar administrative expenses.

Sec. 9. Qualifying period for Maine Clean Election Act in 2026. Notwithstanding the definition of "qualifying period" in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, section 1122, subsection 8, for State Senate or State House of Representatives participating candidates who file with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices a declaration of intent to seek certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate after January 15, 2026, the qualifying period ends at 5:00 p.m. on May 21, 2026.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 601

H.P. 1360 - L.D. 2030

An Act to Expand the Scope of Practice of Independent Practice Dental Hygienists

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this legislation allows an independent practice dental hygienist to administer local anesthesia or nitrous oxide analgesia as long as the independent practice dental hygienist has the appropriate licensure authority; and

Whereas, this legislation will provide more opportunities for persons in need of dental cleanings and other preventive dental services to access these services through an independent practice dental hygienist; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this legislation is necessary to expand access to oral health care in this State; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §18375, sub-§1, ¶Q, as amended by PL 2023, c. 354, §8, is further amended to read:

Q. Prescribe, dispense or administer fluoride, silver diamine fluoride, antimicrobial solutions for mouth rinsing, topical anesthetics, other nonsystemic antimicrobial agents, desensitizing agents and resorbable antimicrobial agents; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §18375, sub-§1, ¶R, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 354, §8, is amended to read:

R. Perform dental hygiene assessment, dental hygiene diagnosis and dental hygiene treatment planning and implementation in the identification, prevention and management of oral disease; ~~and~~

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §18375, sub-§1, ¶S is enacted to read:

S. Administer local anesthesia or nitrous oxide analgesia, as long as the independent practice dental hygienist has authority to administer the relevant medication pursuant to section 18345, subsection 2, paragraph D or E, respectively.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 602

S.P. 846 - L.D. 2060

An Act to Make Technical Changes to the Maine Uniform Securities Act and to Clarify the Securities Administrator's Authority to Grant Licensing Exemptions for Broker-Dealers

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this legislation makes technical changes to the Maine Uniform Securities Act to ensure its provisions are accurate and consistent; and

Whereas, this legislation also clarifies the scope of the authority of the Securities Administrator in the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Securities to grant licensing exemptions to all broker-dealers wherever they are located; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this legislation is necessary to provide clear authority for the administration and enforcement of the Maine Uniform Securities Act; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of

the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §16202, sub-§26, as amended by PL 2019, c. 252, Pt. A, §1, is further amended to read:

26. Nonpublic offerings under ~~4(2)~~ Section 4(a)(2). A security offered in a nonpublic offering under Section ~~4(2)~~ 4(a)(2) of the federal Securities Act of 1933, 15 United States Code, Section ~~77d(2)~~ 77d(a)(2) if, no later than 15 days after the first sale in this State, a notice on "Form D," as promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission, is filed with the administrator together with a consent to service of process complying with section 16611, signed by the issuer, and the payment of a nonrefundable filing fee of \$300 for each type or class of security sold. If the Form D includes a consent to service of process, a separate document need not be filed for this purpose, and if the consent to service of process on the Form D is executed in a manner accepted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, it is deemed to comply with the requirement in this section and section 16611, subsection 1 that the consent be signed. An additional nonrefundable late filing fee of \$500 must be paid for a filing made 16 or more days after the first sale in this State.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §16401, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 65, Pt. A, §2, is amended to read:

2. Exemptions from licensing. The following persons are exempt from the licensing requirement of subsection 1:

A. A broker-dealer without a place of business in this State if its only transactions effected in this State are with:

- (1) The issuer of the securities involved in the transactions;
- (2) A broker-dealer licensed as a broker-dealer under this chapter or not required to be licensed as a broker-dealer under this chapter, except when the person is acting as a clearing broker-dealer;
- (3) An institutional investor;
- (4) A nonaffiliated federal covered investment adviser with investments under management in excess of \$100,000,000 acting for the account of others pursuant to discretionary authority in a signed record;
- (5) A bona fide preexisting customer whose principal place of residence is not in this State and the person is registered as a broker-dealer under the federal Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or not required to be registered under the

federal Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and is registered or licensed under the securities act of the state in which the customer maintains a principal place of residence; and

(6) A bona fide preexisting customer whose principal place of residence is in this State but was not present in this State when the customer relationship was established, if:

(a) The broker-dealer is registered under the federal Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or not required to be registered under the federal Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and is registered or licensed under the securities laws of the state in which the customer relationship was established and where the customer had maintained a principal place of residence; and

(b) Within 45 days after the customer's first transaction in this State, the person files an application for licensing as a broker-dealer in this State and no further transactions are effected until the license is effective. Any broker-dealer may seek an order granting a temporary exemption under ~~subparagraph (7)~~ paragraph C while the application is pending; ~~and~~

~~(7) Any other person exempted by rule adopted or order issued under this chapter; and~~

B. A person that deals solely in United States government securities and is supervised as a dealer in government securities by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the United States Department of the Treasury, Office of Thrift Supervision or Comptroller of the Currency; and

C. Any other person exempted by rule adopted or order issued under this chapter.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §16606, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 65, Pt. A, §2, is amended to read:

1. Public register of filings. Subject to state record-keeping requirements, the administrator shall maintain, or designate a person to maintain, records or a register of: applications for registration of securities; registration statements; notice filings; applications for ~~registration~~ licensure of broker-dealers, agents, investment advisers and investment adviser representatives; notice filings by federal covered investment advisers that are or have been effective under this chapter or the predecessor act; notices of claims of exemption from registration or notice filing requirements contained in a record; orders issued under this chapter or the predecessor act; and interpretative opinions or no action determinations issued under this chapter. Records may be maintained in computer or microform format or any

other form of data storage, as long as the records are readily accessible.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 603

H.P. 1389 - L.D. 2076

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Reporting of Incidents by Municipal Fire Chiefs

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergency; and

Whereas, the United States Fire Administration within the United States Department of Homeland Security has implemented a new fire information and analytics reporting system; and

Whereas, the State's fire reporting system does not fulfill modern data analysis and decision support requirements of fire and emergency responders; and

Whereas, accurate incident reporting is essential for fire prevention, emergency planning, firefighter safety and federal grant eligibility; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2395, as amended by PL 2007, c. 82, §2, is further amended to read:

§2395. ~~Filing statement~~ Incident report of fire or other occurrence

The municipal fire chief or a designee shall submit to the State Fire Marshal an incident report for each response made, regardless of whether an actual fire occurred. ~~The~~ Until January 1, 2026, the report must be submitted in a manner consistent with a national fire incident reporting system or, as available, a national emergency response information system. On or after January 1, 2026, the report must be submitted in a manner consistent with a national emergency response information system or a successor system as determined by the United States Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, United States Fire Administration.

Sec. 2. Rules. The State Fire Marshal within the Department of Public Safety may adopt rules to collect statewide incident response data and facilitate the transition from a national fire incident reporting system to a national emergency response information system, including provisions for electronic submission, technical assistance and system integration with municipal reporting systems. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 3. Retroactivity. That section of this Act that amends the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, section 2395 applies retroactively to January 1, 2026.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 604

H.P. 1403 - L.D. 2088

An Act to Increase Access to Primary Care Provided by Physician Associates

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, there is a shortage of medical providers in the State, particularly in rural areas, and this legislation will increase the number of physician associates who are able to practice in primary care, which will provide more health care opportunities throughout the State and has the potential to make the State eligible for funds from federal rural health care grants; and

Whereas, this legislation needs to take effect immediately in order to remedy the shortage of medical providers and funding as soon as possible; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §2594-E, sub-§5, ¶E, as amended by PL 2019, c. 627, Pt. B, §12, is further amended to read:

E. Requirements for collaborative agreements and practice agreements under section 2594-F, including uniform standards and forms;

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §2594-F, sub-§1, ¶F, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 627, Pt. B, §13 and amended by PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §2594-F, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 627, Pt. B, §13 and amended by PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is further amended to read:

4. Consultation. A physician associate ~~shall~~ **may**, as indicated by a patient's condition, the education, competencies and experience of the physician associate and the standards of care, consult with, collaborate with or refer the patient to an appropriate physician or other health care professional. The level of consultation ~~required~~ under this subsection is determined by the practice setting, including a physician employer, physician group practice or private practice, or by the system of credentialing and granting of privileges of a health care facility. ~~A physician must be accessible to the physician associate at all times for consultation.~~ Consultation may occur electronically or through telecommunication and includes communication, task sharing and education among all members of a health care team.

Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §2594-F, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 627, Pt. B, §13 and amended by PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is repealed.

Sec. 5. 32 MRSA §3270-E, sub-§5, ¶E, as amended by PL 2019, c. 627, Pt. B, §16, is further amended to read:

E. Requirements for collaborative agreements ~~and practice agreements~~ under section 3270-G, including uniform standards and forms;

Sec. 6. 32 MRSA §3270-G, sub-§1, ¶F, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 627, Pt. B, §17 and amended by PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is repealed.

Sec. 7. 32 MRSA §3270-G, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 627, Pt. B, §17 and amended by PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is further amended to read:

4. Consultation. A physician associate ~~shall~~ **may**, as indicated by a patient's condition, the education, competencies and experience of the physician associate and the standards of care, consult with, collaborate with or refer the patient to an appropriate physician or other health care professional. The level of consultation ~~required~~ under this subsection is determined by the practice setting, including a physician employer, physician group practice, or private practice, or by the system of credentialing and granting of privileges of a health care facility. ~~A physician must be accessible to the physician associate at all times for consultation.~~ Consultation may occur electronically or through telecommunication and includes communication, task sharing and education among all members of a health care team.

Sec. 8. 32 MRSA §3270-G, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 627, Pt. B, §17 and amended by PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is repealed.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 605

H.P. 1410 - L.D. 2095

An Act to Prohibit Bulk Purchasing of Tickets in Certain Lottery Games

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, there has been a rise in lottery ticket bulk purchasing activities across the country and internationally; and

Whereas, bulk purchasing activities threaten the integrity of the lottery, undermine fairness for the public player and run contrary to the legislative intent of the lottery authorized by voters in 1973; and

Whereas, bulk purchasing activities should therefore be prohibited as soon as possible; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §374, sub-§1, ¶L, as amended by PL 1997, c. 301, §1, is further amended to read:

L. The apportionment of the total annual revenue accruing from the sale of lottery tickets or shares and from all other sources for the payment of prizes to the holders of winning tickets or shares; for the payment of costs incurred in the operation and administration of the lotteries, including the expenses of the commission and the costs resulting from any contract or contracts entered into for promotional, advertising, consulting or operational services or for the purchase or lease of lottery equipment and materials; for the repayment of the money appropriated to the State Lottery Fund; and for transfer to the General Fund for distribution pursuant to section 387; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §374, sub-§1, ¶M, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 301, §2, is amended to read:

M. The imprinting on all lottery tickets sold in the State of the overall odds of winning a prize for each game;

Sec. 3. 8 MRSA §374, sub-§1, ¶N is enacted to read:

N. The quantity of tickets or shares that may be sold to a person by an agent; and

Sec. 4. 8 MRSA §374, sub-§1, ¶O is enacted to read:

O. The bulk purchase of tickets or shares as prohibited pursuant to section 381-A.

Sec. 5. 8 MRSA §376, sub-§1, ¶E, as amended by PL 2011, c. 310, §10, is further amended to read:

E. Insufficiency of the number of tickets sold by a person licensed to sell lottery tickets or shares; ~~or~~

Sec. 6. 8 MRSA §376, sub-§1, ¶F, as amended by PL 2011, c. 310, §10, is further amended to read:

F. A material change, since issuance of the license, with respect to any of the matters required to be considered by the director under section 375 or as defined by rules adopted under this chapter; ~~or~~

Sec. 7. 8 MRSA §376, sub-§1, ¶G is enacted to read:

G. Knowingly selling tickets or shares to a person attempting to make a bulk purchase in violation of section 381-A or any rules adopted to implement section 381-A.

Sec. 8. 8 MRSA §381-A is enacted to read:

§381-A. Bulk purchase of tickets or shares prohibited

1. Bulk purchase; definition. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "bulk purchase" means the purchase, in aggregate, of tickets or shares in a lottery game in an amount exceeding \$25,000 that:

A. Occurs in a single transaction or multiple transactions;

B. Is made at a single retail location or multiple retail locations; and

C. Is made by an individual or multiple individuals acting in concert.

2. Bulk purchases prohibited. The bulk purchase of tickets or shares for a lottery game is prohibited.

3. Refusal of payment. The commission may refuse payment of a prize for a winning ticket or share that was purchased as part of a bulk purchase in violation of subsection 2.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 606
H.P. 1470 - L.D. 2189

**An Act to Require Prior
Notification of Closures of
Labor and Delivery Units and
Changes in Maternity or
Newborn Care Services by
Hospitals as Recommended by
the Commission to Evaluate
the Scope of Regulatory
Review and Oversight over
Health Care Transactions That
Impact the Delivery of Health
Care Services in the State**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the notification required by this legislation is needed as soon as possible to give affected residents adequate time to prepare for closures of labor and delivery units and make other plans; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1822-B is enacted to read:

§1822-B. Notice of termination of or change in maternity or newborn care services

1. Termination of maternity or newborn care services. A hospital shall file with the department at least 120 days prior to the effective date of the termination of maternity or newborn care services a notice setting forth the following information:

A. The effective date of the proposed termination and the reason for the termination;

B. The name, title, e-mail address and phone number for a contact person at the hospital;

C. The hospital's plan for emergency care, including the development and review of policy and procedure for maternity emergencies and training for emergency department and family practice staff on emergency obstetric care;

D. A list and descriptions of notifications sent to surrounding hospitals within 50 miles and Level II, Level III and Level IV newborn nursery units, to

any local emergency management, fire and law enforcement services and to any registered patients that are affected by the termination; and

E. A description of how the hospital provided public notification of the termination.

2. Change in level of care of maternity or newborn care services. A hospital shall file with the department at least 120 days prior to the effective date of a change in the level of care of maternity or newborn care services a notice setting forth the following information:

A. The effective date of the proposed change in the level of care and the reason for the change;

B. The name, title, e-mail address and phone number for a contact person at the hospital;

C. A list and descriptions of notifications sent to surrounding hospitals within 50 miles and Level II, Level III and Level IV newborn nursery units, to any local emergency management, fire and law enforcement services and to any registered patients that are affected by the change; and

D. A description of how the hospital provided public notification of the change.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 607

S.P. 894 - L.D. 2193

**An Act to Extend the
Requirement That the Maine
Commission on Public Defense
Services Compensate Certain
Private Attorneys Appointed to
Provide Indigent Legal
Services**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, Public Law 2025, chapter 40 requires the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services to compensate an attorney appointed by a District Court, a Superior Court or the Supreme Judicial Court to represent a person who is eligible to receive indigent legal services if no public defender, assigned counsel, contract counsel or employed counsel is available to represent the person and if the appointed attorney is willing and qualified to undertake the representation; and

Whereas, the provision of Public Law 2025, chapter 40 requiring compensation of private attorneys appointed by state courts to provide indigent legal services was repealed on February 1, 2026; and

Whereas, due to the current lack of attorneys rostered by the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services to take these indigent legal services cases, it is important to extend this provision for a period of one year to ensure that the fundamental rights of indigent parties in these proceedings are protected; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §1802, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Private attorney. "Private attorney" means an attorney who is not a public defender, contract counsel, assigned counsel or employed counsel.

Sec. 2. 4 MRSA §1805-A, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2025, c. 40, §1, is further amended to read:

1. Duties. The executive director shall administer and improve reimbursement of expenses incurred by assigned counsel, contract counsel and, until ~~February April 1, 2026~~ 2027, a private attorney appointed under section ~~1807~~ 1807-A by:

A. Establishing procedures to ensure that the eligibility of defendants and civil parties is verified and reviewed randomly and when circumstances have changed, information has changed, additional information is provided or as otherwise needed;

B. Petitioning the court to reassess the indigency of a defendant or civil party if the executive director determines that indigency should be reassessed;

C. Providing to the commission recommendations to improve reimbursement of expenses;

D. Requiring that the amount of time spent on each case by assigned counsel or contract counsel is recorded separately for each case; and

E. Receiving from the courts collections for the costs of representation from defendants or civil parties who are found to be partially indigent or who have otherwise been determined to be able to reimburse the commission for expenses incurred by assigned counsel, contract counsel or, until ~~February April 1, 2026~~ 2027, a private attorney appointed under section ~~1807~~ 1807-A.

Sec. 3. 4 MRSA §1805-A, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2025, c. 40, §2, is further amended to read:

3. Partial indigency and reimbursement. This subsection applies to partial indigency and reimbursement of expenses incurred by assigned counsel, contract counsel or, until ~~February April 1, 2026~~ 2027, a private attorney appointed under section ~~1807~~ 1807-A.

A. If the court determines that a defendant or civil party is unable to pay to obtain private counsel but is able to contribute to payment of assigned counsel, contract counsel or, until ~~February April 1, 2026~~ 2027, a private attorney appointed under section ~~1807~~ 1807-A, the court shall order the defendant or civil party to make installment payments up to the full cost of representation or to pay a fixed contribution. The court shall remit payments received to the commission.

B. A defendant or civil party may not be required to pay for legal services in an amount greater than the expenses actually incurred.

C. Upon petition of a defendant or civil party who is incarcerated, the court may suspend an order for reimbursement issued pursuant to this subsection until the time of the defendant's or civil party's release.

D. The executive director may enter into contracts to secure the reimbursement of fees and expenses paid by the commission as provided for in this section.

Sec. 4. 4 MRSA §1807-A is enacted to read:

§1807-A. Court appointment of private attorney

1. Appointment of private attorneys by District Court and Superior Court. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, a court may appoint a private attorney to represent a person who is eligible to receive indigent legal services in a matter pending before the District Court or Superior Court, including for purposes of providing limited representation as defined by the court in its appointment order, if the court finds the following:

A. A public defender, assigned counsel, contract counsel or employed counsel is not available to represent the person;

B. The private attorney is qualified to represent the person in the matter pending before the court, has not been disqualified by the commission and has at least 3 years of legal experience relevant to the pending matter; and

C. The private attorney consents in advance to the appointment.

2. Private attorney appointment; Supreme Judicial Court. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, a court may appoint a private attorney to represent a person who is eligible to receive indigent legal services in a matter before the Supreme

Judicial Court, including for purposes of providing limited representation as defined by the court in its appointment order, if the court finds the following:

A. A public defender, assigned counsel, contract counsel or employed counsel is not available to represent the person;

B. The private attorney is qualified to represent the person in the matter pending before the court, has not been disqualified by the commission and either has at least 3 years of legal experience relevant to the pending matter or has previously served as a law clerk analyzing cases relevant to the pending matter; and

C. The private attorney consents in advance to the appointment.

3. Compensation and reimbursement. The commission shall provide compensation and reimbursement to a private attorney appointed by the court under subsection 1 or 2 in accordance with this subsection.

A. The compensation and reimbursement must be equivalent to the compensation and reimbursement provided to assigned counsel under the rulemaking directed by section 1804, subsection 3, paragraph F. The commission may decline to compensate or reimburse the private attorney for a particular expense or task to the same extent that the commission would decline to compensate or reimburse assigned counsel for a similar expense or task under the rules and procedures adopted by the commission pursuant to section 1804.

B. The process for compensation and reimbursement must be in accordance with the requirements established by the commission under section 1804, subsection 3, paragraph B for voucher review and payment authorization.

C. For each court proceeding identified by a single docket number, the commission is not required to compensate or reimburse more than one private attorney for services provided to represent a single indigent legal services client.

4. Supervision. The commission's supervision of a private attorney appointed pursuant to subsection 1 or 2 is limited to addressing complaints made by the client whom the private attorney was appointed to represent under subsection 1 or 2.

5. Confidentiality. The provisions of section 1806, subsections 2 and 3 apply, to the same extent that those provisions apply to commission-rostered attorneys who serve as assigned counsel, to private attorneys appointed by the court to provide indigent legal services pursuant to subsections 1 and 2.

6. Repeal. This section is repealed April 1, 2027.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 608

S.P. 214 - L.D. 474

An Act to Establish a Stewardship Program for Primary and Rechargeable Batteries

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §1604, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 583 and repealed and replaced by c. 878, Pt. A, §116, is amended to read:

2. Lead-acid battery retailers. A Except as provided in subsection 2-A, a person selling or offering for retail sale lead-acid batteries shall:

A. Accept, at the point of transfer, used lead-acid batteries in reasonably clean and unbroken condition from customers in a quantity at least equal to the number of new batteries purchased;

B. If a used lead-acid battery is not exchanged at the time of sale, collect a \$10 deposit on the new battery.

(1) The deposit shall be returned to the customer when the customer delivers a used lead-acid battery within 30 days of the date of sale.

(2) All funds received by a dealer as a deposit on a lead-acid battery shall be held in trust and separately accounted for by the retailer. Any interest on those funds shall inure to the benefit of the retailer. Annually on July 1st, all deposits not returned to customers in exchange for lead-acid batteries during the previous year ending June 30th shall inure to the benefit of the retailer; and

C. Post an 8 1/2" x 11" written notice that includes the display of the universal recycling symbol and the following language.

(1) "State law requires us to accept motor vehicle batteries or other lead-acid batteries for recycling in exchange for new batteries purchased."

(2) "A deposit of \$10 will be charged for each new lead-acid battery that is not exchanged with an old lead-acid battery."

(3) "It is illegal to dump, bury or incinerate a motor vehicle lead-acid battery or other lead-acid battery."

(4) "Recycle your used batteries."

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §1604, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Relationship to other programs. A person is exempt from complying with the requirements of subsection 2 with respect to any lead-acid battery sold or offered for sale by that person if:

A. The battery is a covered battery, as defined in section 1617, subsection 1, paragraph I; and

B. The battery is managed under a covered battery stewardship program established in accordance with section 1617 and the person is participating under the program as a collection site for covered batteries.

Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §1617 is enacted to read:

§1617. Battery stewardship program

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Battery" means a device consisting of one or more cells in which chemical energy is converted into electricity and used as a source of power or for power storage.

B. "Battery stewardship organization" or "stewardship organization" means a corporation, nonprofit organization or other legal entity created or designated by a producer or a group of producers to directly implement and operate a battery stewardship program in accordance with a battery stewardship plan approved by the department.

C. "Battery stewardship program" or "stewardship program" means a program financed and implemented by a producer, a group of producers or a battery stewardship organization on behalf of a producer or a group of producers in accordance with a battery stewardship plan approved by the department.

D. "Brand" has the same meaning as in section 1771, subsection 1.

E. "Collection" means the gathering of waste, including the preliminary sorting and storage of waste, for the purposes of transporting the waste to a recycling establishment.

F. "Collection container" means a container used at a collection site under a battery stewardship program that is accessible to and usable by persons bringing covered batteries to the collection site for collection. "Collection container" does not include a container used at a collection site solely to store collected covered batteries that is not accessible to or usable by persons bringing covered batteries to the collection site for collection.

G. "Collection rate" means a percentage, by weight, of covered batteries collected by a battery stewardship program in the State, calculated by dividing the total weight of covered batteries collected by the program during the prior calendar year by the average annual weight of all covered batteries estimated to have been sold into the State during the prior 3 calendar years, which may be based on reasonable pro rata calculations using national sales data, by all producers participating in the program.

H. "Collection site" means a location to which a person may bring covered batteries for collection under a battery stewardship program that is approved by the operator of the program pursuant to subsection 7 and that is operated by a retailer, wholesaler, municipality or tribal government, solid waste management facility, household hazardous waste facility or other entity.

I. "Covered battery" means a portable battery or a medium format battery. "Covered battery" does not include:

(1) Prior to January 1, 2030, a portable battery or medium format battery that is an embedded battery. Beginning January 1, 2030, "covered battery" includes a portable battery or medium format battery that is an embedded battery;

(2) A battery contained within a medical device that is not principally designed for or marketed to consumers for personal use;

(3) A large format battery;

(4) A battery that contains an electrolyte as a free liquid; or

(5) A lead-acid battery, as defined in section 1604, weighing greater than 11 pounds.

J. "Covered battery-containing product" means a product that contains or is packaged with a covered battery. "Covered battery-containing product" does not include a product that is a covered electronic device regulated under section 1610.

K. "Damaged or defective battery" means a battery that has been damaged or identified by the producer as being defective for safety reasons and that has the potential of producing a dangerous evolution of heat, fire or short circuit, as described in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, 173.185(f).

L. "Easily removable" means, with respect to a battery within a battery-containing product, designed by the producer of the product to be removable by a user of the product using common household tools.

M. "Embedded battery" means a portable battery or medium format battery that is contained within

a battery-containing product and that is not intended or designed to be easily removable from the product.

N. "Large format battery" means:

- (1) A primary battery that weighs more than 25 pounds; or
- (2) A rechargeable battery that:
 - (a) Weighs more than 25 pounds; or
 - (b) Has a rating of more than 2,000 watt-hours.

O. "Medium format battery" means:

- (1) A primary battery that weighs more than 4.4 pounds but not more than 25 pounds; or
- (2) A rechargeable battery that:
 - (a) Weighs more than 11 pounds but not more than 25 pounds; or
 - (b) Has a rating of more than 300 watt-hours but not more than 2,000 watt-hours.

P. "Municipality" means a city, town, county, township, village or plantation; a refuse disposal district under chapter 17; or a regional association, as defined in section 1303-C, subsection 24.

Q. "Portable battery" means:

- (1) A primary battery that weighs not more than 4.4 pounds; or
- (2) A rechargeable battery that:
 - (a) Weighs not more than 11 pounds; and
 - (b) Has a rating of not more than 300 watt-hours.

R. "Primary battery" means a battery that is not designed to be and is not capable of being recharged.

S. "Producer" means, with respect to a covered battery or covered battery-containing product:

- (1) If the battery or product is sold, offered for sale or distributed for sale in or into the State under a brand owned by the person that manufactures the battery or product, the person that manufactures the battery or product;
- (2) If the battery or product is sold, offered for sale or distributed for sale in or into the State under a brand not owned by the person that manufactures the battery or product, the person that owns the brand under which the battery or product is sold, offered for sale or distributed for sale in or into the State;
- (3) If there is no person to which subparagraph (1) or (2) applies, the person that is a licensee

of the brand or trademark under which the battery or product is sold, offered for sale or distributed for sale in or into the State;

(4) If there is no person to which subparagraph (1), (2) or (3) applies that is located in the United States, the person that is the importer of record into the United States for the battery or product for the purpose of selling, offering for sale or distributing for sale the battery or product in or into the State; or

(5) If there is no person to which subparagraph (1), (2), (3) or (4) applies that has a commercial presence in the State, the person that first sells, offers for sale or distributes for sale the battery or product in or into the State.

"Producer" does not include a person that sells, offers for sale or distributes for sale a covered battery-containing product in or into the State if the covered battery contained in or packaged with the product is supplied by a producer participating in a battery stewardship program in the State for that battery, as long as the participating producer provides the person and the operator of the program with a written certification stipulating the producer's participation in the program for that battery.

"Producer" does not include a person that would otherwise be considered a producer under this paragraph if the person enters into a signed agreement with another producer that is participating in a battery stewardship program in the State to accept responsibility as producer under this section for the person's covered batteries or covered battery-containing products sold, offered for sale or distributed for sale in or into the State, as long as the other producer provides a copy of that signed agreement to the operator of the program.

T. "Proprietary information" has the same meaning as in section 1771, subsection 6-A.

U. "Rechargeable battery" means a battery that contains one or more voltaic or galvanic cells that are electrically connected to produce electric energy and that is designed to be recharged.

V. "Recycling" has the same meaning as in section 1771, subsection 7.

W. "Recycling efficiency rate" means a percentage, by weight, calculated by dividing the weight of components and material recycled by the operator of a battery stewardship program under this section by the weight of covered batteries collected by the operator.

X. "Recycling establishment" has the same meaning as in section 2101-A, subsection 4.

Y. "Retailer" means a person that sells or offers for sale a covered battery or covered battery-

containing product in or into the State or that offers, distributes or otherwise makes a covered battery or covered battery-containing product available to an individual or commercial customer for the customer's use in the State.

Z. "Tribal government" means the government of a federally recognized Indian tribe in the State.

2. Sales requirements. This subsection governs requirements for the sale, offer for sale or distribution for sale in or into the State of covered batteries, covered battery-containing products and, prior to January 1, 2030, products containing embedded batteries.

A. Beginning 180 days after the date a battery stewardship plan submitted pursuant to subsection 4 is first approved by the department in accordance with subsection 5, a producer may not sell, offer for sale or distribute for sale in or into the State a covered battery or covered battery-containing product unless the producer is participating in a battery stewardship program that is operating in accordance with an approved stewardship plan.

B. Beginning March 1, 2027, a producer participating in a battery stewardship program under this section may not sell, offer for sale or distribute for sale in or into the State a battery-containing product that contains an embedded battery unless the producer annually provides to the operator of the battery stewardship program for inclusion in the report required pursuant to subsection 8 the information for that embedded battery and product required pursuant to subsection 8, paragraph C. The operator of the battery stewardship program shall notify the department of any failure by the participating producer to provide to the operator the information for that embedded battery and product required pursuant to subsection 8, paragraph C.

This paragraph is repealed January 1, 2030.

3. Marking requirement. Except as otherwise provided by the department by rule adopted pursuant to this subsection, beginning 2 years after the date a battery stewardship plan submitted pursuant to subsection 4 is first approved by the department in accordance with subsection 5, a producer or retailer may not sell, offer for sale or distribute for sale in or into the State a covered battery or covered battery-containing product if the covered battery or the covered battery contained in or packaged with the product is 1/2 inch or greater in diameter or has a surface with a length that is 1/2 inch or greater, unless that covered battery is marked with information that identifies the producer and chemistry of the battery and that indicates the battery should not be disposed of as household waste.

The department may adopt rules establishing marking requirements that differ from this subsection as necessary to maintain consistency with federal laws or fed-

eral regulations concerning battery labeling requirements or concerning voluntary standards for battery labeling.

4. Submission of plan; plan requirements. Not later than 6 months after the effective date of rules initially adopted by the department to implement this section pursuant to subsection 11, a producer, individually, collectively with one or more producers or through a battery stewardship organization, shall submit a proposed battery stewardship plan to the department for review and approval. The plan must cover a term of not more than 5 years and must include, at a minimum, the following information:

A. Identification of and contact information for the individual or entity submitting the plan and for each producer that will be participating in the battery stewardship program, as well as information regarding the brands of covered batteries and covered battery-containing products for each participating producer that will be managed under the plan.

(1) Pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph S, the plan must include copies of:

(a) Any written certification describing a participating producer's responsibility under the program for a covered battery supplied by the producer to a person for sale in or with a covered-battery containing product of that person; and

(b) Any signed agreement entered into by a participating producer to accept responsibility under this section for a person's covered batteries or covered battery-containing products.

(2) If the plan is submitted by a battery stewardship organization, the plan must also include:

(a) A description of the organization, including its organizational structure, administration and management, and the tasks that will be performed by the organization; and

(b) A written certification that the organization will assume the responsibilities, obligations and liabilities under this section for all producers that will be participating in the battery stewardship program;

B. A description of how the program will provide effective education and outreach to promote program use and ensure that collection options for covered batteries are understood by consumers, retailers and others, which must include, but is not limited to:

(1) A description of how the program will develop and maintain a publicly accessible web-site that provides information regarding the producers participating in the program and the brands of covered batteries and covered battery-containing products managed under the program; and

(2) A description of the methods to be used by the program to educate and conduct outreach to retailers regarding the prohibition under subsection 2, paragraph A on the sale of covered batteries and covered battery-containing products of a producer that is not participating in a battery stewardship program under this section;

C. A description of how the stewardship program will include a collection system for all covered battery chemistries and brands that is convenient and adequate to serve the needs of persons in both rural and urban areas and that otherwise satisfies the requirements of subsection 6. Information regarding the proposed collection system must include, but is not limited to:

(1) A list of collection sites and the street addresses of those sites proposed for use under the program;

(2) A description of the criteria that will be used to determine whether an entity will be approved to participate as a collection site for covered batteries under the program;

(3) A description of how the program will make available for voluntary use by collection sites signage, written materials and other promotional items that may be used by collection sites to inform consumers regarding end-of-life management options for batteries collected under the program;

(4) A description of the safety training procedures related to battery collection activities at collection sites that will be developed for use by collection sites under the program, including a description of the operating protocols that will be used to reduce the risk of spills or fires at collection sites, the response protocols that will be used in the event of spills or fires at collection sites and the protocols that will be used for the safe management of damaged or defective batteries collected at collection sites;

(5) Identification of proposed service providers, including sorters, transporters, processors and recycling establishments, that will be used by the program to provide for the final disposition of batteries collected through the program's collection system and a description of the method by which collected batteries will be recorded, tracked and documented from the

point of collection to the point of final disposition; and

(6) Identification of and explanation for any anticipated delays in the implementation of the collection system for covered batteries that are medium format batteries, including any anticipated delays in the program's ability to collect, package, transport or process medium format batteries pursuant to the requirements of this section.

The plan must be designed to ensure that, if the implementation of the collection system for and management of covered batteries that are medium format batteries is delayed, the collection system requirements for and management of medium format batteries in accordance with subsection 6, paragraph A will be satisfied not later than 2 years after the date of commencement of collection of covered batteries under the program's collection system;

D. Proposed performance goals for the stewardship program for at least the first 3 years of program implementation, which must include, but are not limited to:

(1) A description of the promotional activities that will be undertaken and the public awareness goals that will be achieved by the stewardship program and a description of the public education and outreach strategies the program will employ to achieve those goals; and

(2) A description of how the stewardship program will be designed to achieve collection rates and recycling efficiency rates for covered batteries that are primary batteries and for covered batteries that are rechargeable batteries;

E. A description of the methods by which the producers participating in the battery stewardship program will finance the collection and transportation and the reuse, recycling or disposition of covered batteries under the program; effective education and outreach related to the program; program assessment and reporting; any incentives necessary to achieve program goals, including education and infrastructure investments made under the program; and payment to the department in accordance with subsection 11 of reasonable fees for review of the program plan and any proposed amendments and annual fees to cover the department's actual costs for the program for report review, oversight, administration and enforcement.

(1) For a program that will be implemented by or on behalf of more than one producer, the plan must include a description of the methods by which each participating producer's cost share will be determined and paid, which must be designed to equitably distribute responsibility

ity for the costs of implementing, administering and operating the program among the participating producers and may not create unreasonable barriers to producer participation in the program.

(2) The program must be designed to provide at a minimum a half-time employee or contracted agent whose job duties are dedicated to implementing the program in the State unless the commissioner determines that a lesser staffing requirement is adequate to provide the administrative oversight, training and ongoing technical support for collection sites, education and outreach efforts, program performance assessment and reporting necessary for program implementation; and

F. Any other information required by the department.

5. Review and approval of plan; amendments.

The department shall review a proposed battery stewardship plan or amendment to an approved stewardship plan in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

A. Within 120 days after receipt of a proposed battery stewardship plan, the department shall determine whether the stewardship plan complies with the requirements of this section and the rules adopted pursuant to this section. The department shall notify the person that submitted the plan in writing regarding its decision to approve or disapprove the proposed plan. If the department disapproves a proposed stewardship plan, the written notice of disapproval must state the reason or reasons for the disapproval.

B. Upon receipt of a written notice of disapproval pursuant to paragraph A, the entity that submitted the proposed battery stewardship plan may submit a revised plan to the department within 60 days of the date of issuance of the written notice or may withdraw the plan. The department shall review and approve or disapprove a revised plan submitted under this paragraph within 90 days of receipt.

C. The operator of a battery stewardship program making a substantive change to an approved battery stewardship plan shall submit the proposed change as a plan amendment to the department for review and approval prior to implementation. If the operator determines a change is not substantive, the operator shall inform the department of the change within 30 days of implementation but need not receive department approval unless the department determines that the change is substantive.

(1) Examples of changes to an approved battery stewardship plan that are not substantive include, but are not limited to, the addition to or removal from the program of collection

sites, participating producers or battery transporters, processors or recycling establishments used by the program.

(2) Examples of changes to an approved battery stewardship plan that are substantive include, but are not limited to, changes to the financing method used for funding the program.

The department shall review and approve a proposed amendment to an approved stewardship plan using the process described in paragraphs A and B.

D. A battery stewardship plan approved by the department under this subsection must be updated as necessary by the operator of the battery stewardship program and submitted for review and reapproval at least once every 5 years. If the department has determined that a program has failed to make adequate progression toward achieving the performance goals established under the approved plan pursuant to subsection 4, paragraph D, the updated plan submitted to the department under this paragraph must propose corrective measures designed to achieve those goals, as directed by the department or as proposed by the operator, which may include, but are not limited to, improvements to the convenience of the collection system, increased program investments in education or infrastructure or other improvements to the program to improve program performance.

E. A proposed battery stewardship plan, revised stewardship plan or amendment to an approved stewardship plan that is submitted to the department for review under this subsection must be made available for review on the department's publicly accessible website and the department shall accept public comment on that proposed plan or amendment for at least 30 days.

F. Within 30 days of approval by the department of a battery stewardship plan or an amendment to an approved stewardship plan pursuant to this subsection, the department shall make the approved plan available on its publicly accessible website.

6. Collection system requirements. In accordance with the provisions of this subsection, a battery stewardship program must implement and administer a collection system for covered batteries that is convenient and adequate to serve the needs of persons in both rural and urban areas. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the collection system must be designed to allow any individual, business, government entity, non-profit organization or other person to bring a covered battery of any chemistry or brand for collection, without charge, to any collection site under the program.

A. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, not later than one year following the commencement of collection of covered batteries under a battery stewardship program's collection system, the

program must provide statewide collection opportunities for covered batteries that are portable batteries, medium format batteries and damaged or defective batteries that include a reasonable geographic distribution of collection sites for those batteries throughout the State with:

(1) At least one permanent collection site for portable batteries, medium format batteries and damaged or defective batteries within a 15-mile radius for at least 95% of the residents of the State;

(2) At least one permanent collection site for portable batteries, medium format batteries and damaged or defective batteries in each county; and

(3) At least one additional collection site for portable batteries, medium format batteries and damaged or defective batteries for each 30,000 residents in a population center in a location that provides convenient and reasonably equitable access for residents of the population center unless otherwise approved by the department.

Unless otherwise approved by the department, any delay in the satisfaction by the program of the requirements of this paragraph for medium format batteries must be consistent with any delay provisions included in the program's approved plan pursuant to subsection 4, paragraph C, subparagraph (6).

B. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, not later than January 1, 2031, or one year following the commencement of collection of covered batteries that are embedded batteries under a battery stewardship program's collection system, whichever is later, the program must provide statewide collection opportunities for covered batteries that are embedded batteries that include a reasonable geographic distribution of collection sites for embedded batteries throughout the State with:

(1) At least one permanent collection site for embedded batteries in each county; and

(2) At least one additional collection site for embedded batteries for each 30,000 residents in a population center in a location that provides convenient and reasonably equitable access for residents of the population center unless otherwise approved by the department.

C. Determination of whether a battery stewardship program has satisfied the collection system requirements of this subsection must be based on geographic information modeling data and must account only for permanent collection sites available under the program. A battery stewardship program

may offer one-time or recurring but nonpermanent collection events to provide additional collection opportunities for covered batteries, but nonpermanent collection events may not be counted towards the program's satisfaction of the requirements of this subsection.

D. The department may waive the requirements of paragraph A or B with respect to collection sites within a county or population center in the State if the department determines that those requirements are not practicable due to geographical constraints or that implementation by the stewardship program of an alternative collection system that does not meet those requirements will result in equivalent and more efficient collection opportunities in the county or population center.

As used in this subsection, "population center" means an urbanized area or urban cluster, as defined by the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census to identify areas of high population density and urban land use with a population of 2,500 or greater.

7. Collection site and collection event requirements and operation. This subsection governs collection sites and collection events available under a battery stewardship program.

A. Within 90 days of receiving a request from a retailer, wholesaler, municipality or tribal government, solid waste management facility, household hazardous waste facility or other entity to participate in a battery stewardship program as a collection site or to hold a collection event for covered batteries, the operator of the program shall approve that participation as long as the proposed site or event satisfies the requirements of the approved battery stewardship plan to serve as a site or event. Once a battery stewardship program has met the collection system requirements of subsection 6, the operator, with prior approval from the department, may decline additional collection site or collection event requests under this paragraph.

B. The operator of a battery stewardship program shall provide to each approved collection site or collection event under the program all appropriate collection containers, ancillary materials and staff training necessary for that participation.

(1) Collection containers provided to a collection site or collection event must be suitable for the collection of covered batteries and must be segregated from other waste that may be accepted at the site or event or, with the agreement of the entity managing the site or event, the operator may implement an alternative arrangement for covered battery collection consistent with the approved battery stewardship plan.

(2) Each collection container used at a collection site or collection event must be located within the view of a responsible person at the site or event and must be accompanied by signage made available to the site or event through the program containing information for consumers regarding end-of-life management options for batteries accepted at the site or event.

(3) All reasonable costs associated with the participation of a collection site or collection event in a battery stewardship program must be paid or reimbursed to the entity managing the site or event by the battery stewardship program.

C. A collection site or collection event may accept for collection covered batteries that are medium format batteries only if the site or event meets applicable state requirements for the management of household hazardous waste or for the management of medium format batteries.

D. A collection site or collection event may accept for collection covered batteries that are damaged or defective batteries only if the site or event is staffed by responsible persons trained to handle and prepare damaged or defective batteries for transportation. The operator of a battery stewardship program shall provide for the collection, overseen by qualified staff persons, of damaged or defective batteries at any permanent collection site under the program that meets applicable state requirements for the management of household hazardous waste or for the management of damaged or defective batteries.

E. A collection site or collection event is not required to accept, and a battery stewardship program is not required to provide or support collection opportunities for, batteries that are not covered batteries, including, but not limited to, large format batteries, batteries contained within covered electronic devices regulated under section 1610 or, prior to January 1, 2030, embedded batteries.

F. A collection site or collection event may not require a person that brings a covered battery for collection to the site or event to pay a fee associated with that collection.

G. The operator of a battery stewardship program may issue a warning to, suspend or terminate a collection site or collection event participating in the program if the site or event fails to satisfy the requirements of the approved battery stewardship plan for sites or events or if the operator determines, after consultation with the department, that the site or event poses an immediate risk to public health or safety.

8. Annual reporting requirement; record retention. In accordance with the requirements of this subsection, by May 1st of the calendar year after the calendar year in which an approved battery stewardship program is implemented, and annually thereafter, the operator of the program shall submit to the department a report on the program for the previous calendar year. The department shall make any report submitted pursuant to this subsection available on its publicly accessible website. A report submitted to the department pursuant to this subsection must include, at a minimum, the following information:

A. Contact information for the operator of the battery stewardship program and a list of producers participating in the program. The report must include, if known by the operator of the program, a list of producers not participating in the program that the operator believes are not in compliance with the requirements of this section. The report must include any information known by the operator regarding the covered batteries or covered battery-containing products of a noncompliant producer that have been sold, offered for sale or distributed for sale in or into the State;

B. The brands and universal product codes, or UPCs, of the covered batteries and covered battery-containing products of the producers participating in the battery stewardship program;

C. Beginning with the report due under this subsection in 2027 and ending with the report due in 2030, for each battery-containing product that contains an embedded battery that is sold, offered for sale or distributed for sale in or into the State by a producer participating in the battery stewardship program:

(1) A description of the product and identification of the battery chemistry and battery type of the embedded battery; and

(2) The universal product code, or UPC, of the embedded battery.

This paragraph is repealed April 1, 2030;

D. The total amount, by weight or by volume, of each type of covered battery, including covered batteries contained in covered battery-containing products, that was sold, offered for sale or distributed for sale in or into the State by each producer participating in the battery stewardship program during the prior calendar year. The report must also include information regarding the collection rate and recycling efficiency rate for covered batteries collected under the program during the prior calendar year;

E. A complete accounting of payments made to the operator of the battery stewardship program by

producers participating in the program and of expenditures made by the operator during the prior calendar year, including information regarding how the amount required to be paid by each participating producer was determined.

(1) The report must include an assessment of whether the payments required of producers participating in the program pursuant to subsection 4, paragraph E have been or are designed to incentivize improvements in the recycling efficiency rate or recyclability of covered batteries.

(2) The report must include a complete accounting of revenue derived by the operator of the battery stewardship program from the sale of covered batteries collected for recycling under the program during the prior calendar year.

(3) The report must include a description of the education and infrastructure investments made by the operator of the battery stewardship program during the prior calendar year and an evaluation of how those investments were designed to increase access to recycling for covered batteries in the State and to encourage proper management of unwanted batteries.

(4) The report must include the results of a 3rd-party financial audit of the battery stewardship program paid for by the operator of the program;

F. An assessment of the progress made by the battery stewardship program during the prior calendar year in achieving the program's performance goals set forth in the plan pursuant to subsection 4, paragraph D;

G. A description of any proposals for changes to the battery stewardship program or new investments in education or infrastructure designed to increase access to recycling for covered batteries, increase the collection rate or the recycling efficiency rate or recyclability of covered batteries, reduce program costs or otherwise increase program efficiency;

H. An estimate of the annual greenhouse gas emissions effects in the State associated with the operation of the battery stewardship program, calculated using methods directed by the department by rule; and

I. Any other information required by the department.

The operator of a battery stewardship program shall retain any record relating to the implementation and administration of the stewardship program for not less than 5 years from the date the record is created and shall make those records available to the department for in-

spection upon request. As used in this subsection, "universal product code" or "UPC" has the same meaning as in section 2146, subsection 1, paragraph V.

9. Battery stewardship fund required; authorized expenditures. The operator of a battery stewardship program shall establish a battery stewardship fund as a separate account or separate accounts maintained by the operator into which the operator shall deposit all payments received from participating producers in accordance with subsection 4, paragraph E and all other revenue derived by the operator from the management of the program. The operator shall expend money within that fund only for the following authorized purposes:

A. To cover the operator's costs of implementing, administering and operating the battery stewardship program, which must be annually verified by a 3rd-party financial audit paid for from the fund as required by subsection 8, paragraph E, subparagraph (4);

B. To pay to the department all applicable fees required in accordance with subsection 11 for costs incurred by the department in implementing, administering and enforcing the requirements of this section and the rules adopted pursuant to this section;

C. To pay for or reimburse costs incurred by retailers, wholesalers, municipalities or tribal governments, solid waste management facilities, household hazardous waste facilities or other entities for their participation in the battery stewardship program as a collection site in accordance with subsection 7; and

D. To pay for investments in education or infrastructure made in accordance with subsection 10.

10. Education and infrastructure investments. In accordance with the provisions of this subsection, the operator of a battery stewardship program shall make investments in education and infrastructure to support or improve the recycling of covered batteries in the State under the program.

A. Prior to making any proposed investment in education or infrastructure, the operator shall submit the proposed investment to the department for review and approval. A proposed investment submitted to the department must incorporate any input solicited and received by the operator regarding the proposal from participating producers; municipalities, tribal governments, retailers and other entities participating in the program as collection sites; and recycling establishments, transporters and processors used by the program for the transportation, management and disposition of collected covered batteries. The department shall approve or deny a proposed investment in writing within 90 days of receipt of the proposal.

B. The department shall adopt rules setting forth criteria for its review and approval or disapproval of proposed education or infrastructure investments under this subsection. In reviewing and approving proposed education or infrastructure investments under this subsection, the department shall ensure that funding preference is given to proposals that support the solid waste management hierarchy under section 2101; promote a circular economy for batteries; increase the recyclability of batteries that are not readily recyclable in the State; increase access to recycling infrastructure in the State for batteries; improve consumer education efforts in the State regarding the recycling and recyclability of batteries; and equitably support battery recycling and education efforts in municipalities participating in the program as collection sites, particularly in those municipalities that have not previously benefited from an investment made pursuant to this subsection.

11. Department administration. The following provisions govern the administration and enforcement of this section by the department.

A. The department shall implement, administer and enforce this section and may adopt rules as necessary for those purposes. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

B. The operator of a battery stewardship program is responsible for payment to the department of:

(1) A reasonable fee associated with the department's review of the stewardship program's proposed stewardship plan and any proposed amendments to that plan pursuant to subsection 5. A fee required under this subparagraph must be paid to the department at the time that the proposed stewardship plan or amendment is submitted to the department for review; and

(2) A reasonable annual fee to cover the department's actual costs for annual report review, oversight, administration and enforcement for the program. An annual fee required under this subparagraph must be properly documented and provided by the department to the operator prior to or at the time the payment is required.

C. Beginning February 15, 2027, and annually thereafter, the department shall submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters a report regarding the status of battery stewardship programs implemented under this section. The report required under this paragraph may be included in the report required pursuant to section 1772, subsection 1.

12. Relationship to other programs. A producer of a covered battery subject to the requirements of section 2165 and to the requirements of this section may submit a request to the department for a waiver from the requirements of this section with respect to that battery.

A. The department shall grant the waiver if it determines that the producer has established and is maintaining a system for the proper collection, transportation and processing of that battery in accordance with all applicable requirements of section 2165.

B. If the department grants a waiver to a producer under this subsection, the producer is relieved from complying with the requirements of this section with respect to that battery.

A producer of a covered battery subject to the requirements of section 2165 and to the requirements of this section that complies with all applicable requirements of this section is exempt from complying with the requirements of section 2165 with respect to that battery.

13. Antitrust exclusions. A producer or battery stewardship organization, including a producer's or stewardship organization's officers, members, employees and agents, that organizes a battery stewardship program under this section is immune from liability for the producer's or stewardship organization's conduct under state laws relating to antitrust, restraint of trade, unfair trade practices and other regulation of trade or commerce only to the extent necessary to plan and implement the producer's or stewardship organization's battery stewardship program consistent with the requirements of this section.

14. Proprietary information. Proprietary information submitted to the department pursuant to the requirements of this section or the rules adopted by the department pursuant to this section that is identified by the submitter as proprietary information is confidential and must be handled by the department in the same manner as confidential information is handled under section 1310-B.

Sec. 4. 38 MRSA §2165, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 808, §2, is amended to read:

2. Disposal ban. A person employed directly or indirectly by a government agency, or an industrial, communications or medical facility may not knowingly dispose of a dry cell mercuric oxide battery or a rechargeable battery in a manner that is not part of a collection system established under subsection 4 or under section 1617.

Sec. 5. 38 MRSA §2165, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 808, §2, is amended to read:

4. Manufacturer responsibility. A Except as provided under section 1617, subsection 12, a manufacturer of dry cell mercuric oxide or rechargeable batteries that are subject to subsection 1 shall:

A. Establish and maintain a system for the proper collection, transportation and processing of waste dry cell mercuric oxide and rechargeable batteries for purchasers in this State;

B. Clearly inform each purchaser that intends to use these batteries of the prohibition on disposal of dry cell mercuric oxide and rechargeable batteries and of the available systems for proper collection, transportation and processing of these batteries;

C. Identify a collection system through which mercuric oxide and rechargeable batteries must be returned to the manufacturer or to a manufacturer-designated collection site; and

D. Include the cost of proper collection, transportation and processing of the waste batteries in the sales transaction or agreement between the manufacturer and any purchaser.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 609

H.P. 683 - L.D. 1054

An Act to Amend Certain Definitions in the Laws Governing Conservation Easements

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

Sec. 1. 33 MRSA §476, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 395, §3, is amended to read:

1. Conservation easement. "Conservation easement" means a nonpossessory interest of a holder in real property imposing limitations or affirmative obligations the purposes of which include retaining or protecting natural, scenic or open space values of real property; assuring its availability for agricultural, forest, recreational or open space use; protecting natural resources; ~~or maintaining or enhancing air or water quality of real property; or preserving the historical, architectural, archaeological or cultural aspects of real property.~~

Sec. 2. 33 MRSA §476, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 395, §3, is amended to read:

A. A governmental body empowered to hold an interest in real property under the laws of this State or the United States, including a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in the State; or

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 610

S.P. 505 - L.D. 1216

An Act to Improve Behavioral Health Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention Services

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

Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA §1001, sub-§4-C is enacted to read:

4-C. 9-8-8. "9-8-8" means the telephone number designated as the universal telephone number within the United States for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system operating through the 9-8-8 suicide and crisis lifeline.

Sec. 2. 34-B MRSA §1001, sub-§4-D is enacted to read:

4-D. 9-8-8 suicide and crisis lifeline. "9-8-8 suicide and crisis lifeline" means a national network of local crisis services that provide free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis, behavioral health crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the United States. The 9-8-8 suicide and crisis lifeline, or its successor, is the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system maintained by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use under the federal Public Health Service Act, 42 United States Code, Section 290bb-36c.

Sec. 3. 34-B MRSA c. 3, sub-c. 3, art. 2, headnote is amended to read:

ARTICLE 2

CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Sec. 4. 34-B MRSA §3621, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 349, Pt. H, §21, is repealed.

Sec. 5. 34-B MRSA §3625 is enacted to read:

§3625. Crisis intervention support

The department shall establish crisis intervention support services in all 16 counties. These services must be community-based programs that provide counseling, consultation, evaluation, treatment, referral, education and training services, delivered by a crisis intervention team, including mobile crisis intervention teams. The crisis intervention support services must include:

1. Emergency room services. Crisis intervention and psychiatric emergency services based in a hospital emergency room;

2. Outreach services. Outreach services and crisis intervention beyond the hospital setting; and

3. Telephone hotline services. A community-based telephone crisis intervention hotline, which must

coordinate with the 9-8-8 suicide and crisis lifeline, offering counseling, consultation, evaluation, treatment and referral services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 611

H.P. 1063 - L.D. 1609

An Act Regarding Background Checks for Medical Cannabis Providers

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §2421-A, sub-§16, ¶B, as amended by PL 2023, c. 679, Pt. A, §3, is amended to read:

B. If required by the office pursuant to this chapter, the applicant has submitted to a criminal history record check pursuant to section 2425-B;

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §2423-A, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2019, c. 501, §12 and PL 2021, c. 669, §5, is further amended to read:

4. Long-term care facility. A qualifying patient may designate a long-term care facility to assist with the qualifying patient's medical use of cannabis if that use is consistent with the facility's policy and is pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph F-1, subparagraph (2). If a long-term care facility is designated, the facility shall complete the registration process with the department and obtain a registration certificate for the facility. For a long-term care facility to be issued a registration certificate, staff persons of the facility who will be assisting a qualifying patient with the patient's medical use of cannabis in accordance with this chapter must be at least 21 years of age, must submit to a criminal history record check pursuant to section 2425-B and may not have been convicted of a disqualifying drug offense. The long-term care facility and the staff of the facility may not cultivate cannabis plants for the patient.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §2423-A, sub-§10, ¶A, as repealed and replaced by PL 2019, c. 331, §13 and amended by PL 2021, c. 669, §5, is amended to read:

A. A cannabis testing facility that meets the requirements of this subsection and any rules adopted under paragraph D and submits to a criminal history record check pursuant to section 2425-B may receive and possess samples from qualifying patients, caregivers, dispensaries and manufacturing facilities to provide testing for the cannabinoid profile and potency of the samples and for contaminants in the samples, including but not limited to mold, mildew, heavy metals, plant regulators and

illegal pesticides. For the purposes of this paragraph, "plant regulator" has the same meaning as in Title 7, section 604, subsection 26.

Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §2423-F, sub-§8, ¶B, as repealed and replaced by PL 2019, c. 331, §17 and amended by PL 2021, c. 669, §5, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

The department may not issue a registry identification card to an officer or director or assistant of a registered manufacturing facility or person authorized to engage in cannabis extraction using inherently hazardous substances who has been convicted of a disqualifying drug offense. The department shall conduct a criminal history record check pursuant to section 2425-B of each person, officer or director ~~or assistant~~ subject to this subsection on an annual basis.

Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §2425-A, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2023, c. 679, Pt. A, §§10 and 11, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

The department shall conduct a criminal history record check pursuant to section 2425-B for any applicant for a registry identification card, except that an assistant is not required to submit to a criminal history record check. The criminal history record check is valid for 2 years from the date it was conducted, regardless of the person's employment status. Except as provided in subsection 3-A, the department may not issue a registry identification card to an applicant who is not permitted under this chapter to have a disqualifying drug offense.

Sec. 6. 22 MRSA §2425-A, sub-§3-A, as amended by PL 2021, c. 387, §8 and c. 669, §5, is further amended to read:

3-A. Criminal history record check for caregivers administering medical cannabis on school grounds. The department shall request a criminal history record check pursuant to section 2425-B for a caregiver designated under section 2423-A, subsection 1, paragraph F-1, subparagraph (4), except for a caregiver who is a parent, a legal guardian or a person having legal custody of the qualifying patient. The department may not issue a registry identification card to an applicant who is not permitted to have a disqualifying drug offense or who would be denied an approval, credential, certification, authorization or renewal under Title 20-A, section 6103 or 13011 based on that criminal history record check.

~~The criminal history record check requested under this subsection must include criminal history record information obtained from the Maine Criminal Justice Information System established in Title 16, section 631 and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The following provisions apply.~~

~~A. The criminal history record information obtained from the Maine Criminal Justice Information System must include a record of public criminal history record information as defined in Title 16, section 703, subsection 8.~~

~~B. The criminal history record information obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation must include other state and national criminal history record information.~~

~~C. A person subject to a criminal history record check under this section shall submit to having fingerprints taken. The State Police, upon payment of the fee, shall take or cause to be taken the person's fingerprints and shall forward the fingerprints to the State Bureau of Identification so that the bureau can conduct state and national criminal history record checks. Except for the portion of the payment, if any, that constitutes the processing fee charged by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, all money received by the State Police for purposes of this paragraph must be paid over to the Treasurer of State. The money must be applied to the expenses of administration incurred by the Department of Public Safety.~~

~~D. The subject of a Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history record check may obtain a copy of the criminal history record check by following the procedures outlined in 28 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 16.32 and 16.33. The subject of a state criminal history record check may inspect and review the criminal history record information pursuant to Title 16, section 709.~~

~~E. State and federal criminal history record information may be used by the department for the purpose of screening a person in accordance with this chapter.~~

~~F. Information obtained pursuant to this subsection is confidential. The results of criminal history record checks received by the department are for official use only and may not be disseminated to any other person.~~

~~G. If a person is no longer subject to this chapter that person may request in writing that the State Bureau of Identification remove the person's fingerprints from the bureau's fingerprint file. In response to a written request, the bureau shall remove the person's fingerprints from the fingerprint file and provide written confirmation of that removal.~~

The department, with the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police, State Bureau of Identification, shall adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, except that, beginning July 1, 2021, rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 7. 22 MRSA §2425-A, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 452, §12, is amended to read:

6. Application for registration certificate; qualifications. The department shall register and issue a registration certificate to an applicant who submits a complete application that meets the requirements of this subsection. ~~An application must include, as applicable:~~

The department shall conduct a criminal history record check pursuant to section 2425-B for each officer or director of the applicant for a registration certificate. The department may not issue a registration certificate to an applicant if any officer or director of the applicant has been convicted of a disqualifying drug offense.

An application must include, as applicable:

A. The annual fee required pursuant to subsection 10;

B. Evidence of the applicant's registration with the Secretary of State and evidence that the applicant is in good standing with the Secretary of State; and

C. The name, address and date of birth of each officer or director of the applicant.

Sec. 8. 22 MRSA §2425-A, sub-§10, ¶J, as amended by PL 2023, c. 679, Pt. A, §13, is repealed.

Sec. 9. 22 MRSA §2425-B is enacted to read:

§2425-B. Criminal history record check

The department shall request a criminal history record check for each applicant for an initial registry identification card and registration certificate as required under this chapter and for each registrant or registrant agent, except that an assistant is not required to submit to a criminal history record check, and every 2 years thereafter, unless a different period is specified in this chapter. If the applicant or registrant is a business entity, every officer or director of the business entity is required to submit to a criminal history record check in accordance with this section. If the applicant or registrant is a long-term care facility under section 2423-A, subsection 4, any staff person of the facility who will be assisting a qualifying patient with the patient's medical use of cannabis is required to submit to a criminal history record check in accordance with this section. A criminal history record check conducted pursuant to this section must include criminal history record information as defined in Title 16, section 703, subsection 3 and obtained from the Maine Criminal Justice Information System established in Title 16, section 631 and the United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

1. Record of public criminal history record information required. Criminal history record information obtained from the Maine Criminal Justice Information System pursuant to this section must include a record of public criminal history record information as defined in Title 16, section 703, subsection 8.

2. Other state and national criminal history record information required. Criminal history record information obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation pursuant to this section must include other state and national criminal history record information.

3. Fingerprinting. A person required to submit to a criminal history record check under this section shall submit to having fingerprints taken. The Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police, upon payment of the fee required under subsection 4, shall take or cause to be taken the person's fingerprints and shall forward the fingerprints to the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police, State Bureau of Identification. The State Bureau of Identification shall conduct the state and national criminal history record checks required under this section. Except for the portion of a payment, if any, that constitutes the processing fee for a criminal history record check charged by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, all money received by the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police under this section must be paid to the Treasurer of State, who shall apply the money to the expenses incurred by the Department of Public Safety in the administration of this section.

4. Fees. The fee for a criminal history record check under this section may not be less than \$31 or more than \$60. The fee must be paid by the applicant, registrant or registrant agent, except that if the applicant, registrant or registrant agent is a business entity, the fee must be paid by the business entity for any officer or director required to submit to a criminal history record check under this section.

5. Availability of criminal history record information. The subject of a Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history record check pursuant to this section may obtain a copy of the criminal history record check by following the procedures outlined in 28 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 16.32 and 16.33. The subject of a state criminal history record check pursuant to this section may inspect and review the criminal history record information pursuant to Title 16, section 709.

6. Use of criminal history record information. State and national criminal history record information obtained by the department under this section may be used only for the purpose of screening an applicant for a registry identification card or registration certificate, a registrant or a registrant agent under this chapter.

7. Confidentiality. All criminal history record information obtained by the department pursuant to this section is confidential, is for the official use of the department only and may not be disseminated outside of the department or disclosed to any other person or entity except as provided in subsection 5.

8. Rules. The department, after consultation with the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police, State Bureau of Identification, shall adopt rules to

implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 10. 25 MRSA §1542-A, sub-§1, ¶S, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §31, is amended to read:

S. Who is required to have a criminal history record check under Title 22, section ~~2425-A, subsection 3-A~~ 2425-B.

Sec. 11. 25 MRSA §1542-A, sub-§3, ¶R, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 343, Pt. G, §9; c. 399, §6; c. 402, §6; and c. 416, §6, is amended to read:

R. The State Police shall take or cause to be taken the fingerprints of the person named in subsection 1, paragraph S at the request of that person or the Department of Administrative and Financial Services under Title 22, section ~~2425-A, subsection 3-A~~ 2425-B.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 612

S.P. 816 - L.D. 2002

An Act to Extend the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative to December 31, 2028

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-H, sub-§14-A, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 491, §1, is amended to read:

14-A.

Maine Lobster Marketing	\$55 Per Diem	12 MRSA
Collaborative	Plus Expenses	§6455-A

This subsection is repealed December 31, ~~2026~~ 2028.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6455-A, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 491, §2 and affected by §7, is amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

Members are appointed by the commissioner for staggered terms of 3 years. A person may not serve more than 2 consecutive 3-year terms as a member of the collaborative.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §6455-A, sub-§14, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 491, §2, is amended to read:

14. Repeal. This section is repealed December 31, ~~2026~~ 2028.

Sec. 4. Report. The Department of Marine Resources shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters no later than January 1, 2028 with

an update on the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative as established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 6455-A and work accomplished by the collaborative in 2026 and 2027. The committee may report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 613

S.P. 831 - L.D. 2042

An Act to Clarify the Requirement for Municipalities to Provide Public Notice in a Newspaper

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §2007 is enacted to read:

§2007. Public notice

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a municipality required by this Title to place a notice in a newspaper may meet this requirement by placing the notice on the newspaper's publicly accessible website or the statewide repository for legal notices as described in Title 1, section 603, subsection 2, as long as either action is followed by placement of the notice in the next available print edition of the newspaper. The notice on the newspaper's publicly accessible website must contain all information required to be published in a newspaper.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 614

S.P. 844 - L.D. 2057

An Act to Support Rehabilitation and Development of Affordable Housing

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4832, as amended by PL 2017, c. 234, §27, is further amended to read:

§4832. Construction loans

The Maine State Housing Authority may ~~participate with financial institutions in the State in the making of~~ make construction loans ~~for the purpose of land development and the construction of housing units or housing projects for persons of low income, to support programs authorized under this chapter and~~ under any

terms and conditions that the Maine State Housing Authority may establish by rule.

~~1. Participation requirements. Except as provided in paragraphs A and B, the Maine State Housing Authority may not participate in the making of construction loans unless a financial institution in the State agrees to participate in the loan at least to the extent of acting as escrow agent. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, financial institutions in the State may act as required by this subchapter.~~

~~A. The Maine State Housing Authority may make construction loans to state public bodies or other public instrumentalities and private nonprofit corporations without the participation of a financial institution.~~

~~B. If a project's financing requires that the Maine State Housing Authority participate in the construction loan at a level greater than 60%, the Maine State Housing Authority may make the whole construction loan without using an escrow agent.~~

2. Rules. The Maine State Housing Authority shall establish rules in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375, governing, without limitation, the following subjects and procedures for ~~participating in~~ the making of construction loans:

A. The submission, review and acceptance of requests from borrowers for construction loans under this section;

B. Qualifications of borrowers;

C. Limitation on and standards for location and construction of housing units or housing projects;

D. Schedules of fees and other charges made by the authority ~~and the financial institution~~ to the borrower in accepting, reviewing and acting upon applications for construction loans under this subchapter; and

E. Restrictions on the interest rates charged by the financial institutions and the authority on the construction loans or the return on those loans to be realized by ~~the~~ a financial institution, if the authority participates with a financial institution in making the construction loan.

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §4833, as amended by PL 2023, c. 218, §2, is repealed.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 615
H.P. 1416 - L.D. 2101

**An Act to Establish a Monetary
Penalty for Employers Whose
Unemployment Payment Is
Returned Unpaid**

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1225, sub-§9 is enacted to read:

9. Returned payments. If any payment made under this chapter is returned unpaid for any reason, including but not limited to insufficient funds, account closure, nonexistence of the account, stop-payment order or any other cause, the commissioner shall assess a penalty equal to \$25 or 1% of the payment amount, whichever is greater.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF

Employment Security Services 0245

Initiative: Allocates funding for bank fees charged for returned payments made under the Employment Security Law.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$7,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	\$7,000
FUNDS TOTAL		

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 616
S.P. 892 - L.D. 2187

**An Act to Update Certain
Water Quality Standards and
to Reclassify Certain Waters of
the State**

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §465, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2021, c. 551, §9, is further amended to read:

B. ~~The aquatic life.~~ Except for activities associated with fish stocking and fish management that are approved by a state agency, the aquatic life of Class AA waters must be as naturally occurs. The dissolved oxygen and bacteria content of Class AA waters must be as naturally occurs, except that the

number of Escherichia coli bacteria in these waters may not exceed a geometric mean of 64 CFU or MPN per 100 milliliters over a 90-day interval or 236 CFU or MPN per 100 milliliters in more than 10% of the samples in any 90-day interval.

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §465, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by PL 2021, c. 551, §10, is further amended to read:

B. Except for activities associated with fish stocking and fish management that are approved by a state agency, the aquatic life of Class A waters must be as naturally occurs. The dissolved oxygen content of Class A waters may not be less than 7 parts per million ~~or and~~ 75% of saturation, ~~which ever is higher~~, except that for the period from October 1st to May 14th, in order to ensure spawning and egg incubation of indigenous fish species, the 7-day mean dissolved oxygen concentration may not be less than 9.5 parts per million and the one-day minimum dissolved oxygen concentration may not be less than 8.0 parts per million in identified fish spawning areas. Except as provided in section 464, subsection 4, paragraph C, the pH of Class A waters must fall within the 6.5 to 9.0 range. The ~~aquatic life and~~ bacteria content of Class A waters must be as naturally occurs, except that the numbers of Escherichia coli bacteria in these waters may not exceed a geometric mean of 64 CFU or MPN per 100 milliliters over a 90-day interval or 236 CFU or MPN per 100 milliliters in more than 10% of the samples in any 90-day interval.

Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §465, sub-§3, ¶B, as amended by PL 2021, c. 551, §11, is further amended to read:

B. Class B waters must be of sufficient quality to support all aquatic species indigenous to those waters without detrimental changes in the resident biological community. ~~The~~ Except as provided in section 464, subsection 4, paragraph C, the dissolved oxygen content of Class B waters may not be less than 7 parts per million ~~or and~~ 75% of saturation, ~~which ever is higher~~ calculated as a daily average, except that ~~for the dissolved oxygen of any individual reading at any time may not be less than 6 parts per million.~~ For the period from October 1st to May 14th, in order to ensure spawning and egg incubation of indigenous fish species, the 7-day mean dissolved oxygen concentration may not be less than 9.5 parts per million and the one-day minimum dissolved oxygen concentration may not be less than 8.0 parts per million in identified fish spawning areas. Except as provided in section 464, subsection 4, paragraph C, the pH of Class B waters must fall within the 6.5 to 9.0 range. Between April 15th and October 31st, the number of Escherichia coli bacteria in these waters may not exceed

a geometric mean of 64 CFU or MPN per 100 milliliters over a 90-day interval or 236 CFU or MPN per 100 milliliters in more than 10% of the samples in any 90-day interval.

Sec. 4. 38 MRSA §465, sub-§4, ¶B, as amended by PL 2021, c. 551, §12, is further amended to read:

B. Class C waters must be of sufficient quality to support all species of fish indigenous to those waters and to maintain the structure and function of the resident biological community. The dissolved oxygen content of Class C ~~water~~ waters may not be less than 5 parts per million ~~or~~ and 60% of saturation, ~~whichever is higher~~, except that in identified salmonid spawning areas where water quality is sufficient to ensure spawning, egg incubation and survival of early life stages, that water quality sufficient for these purposes must be maintained. In order to provide additional protection for the growth of indigenous fish, the following standards apply.

(1) The 30-day average dissolved oxygen criterion of a Class C water is 6.5 parts per million using a temperature of 22 degrees centigrade or the ambient temperature of the water body, whichever is less, if:

(a) A license or water quality certificate other than a general permit was issued prior to March 16, 2004 for the Class C water and was not based on a 6.5 parts per million 30-day average dissolved oxygen criterion; or

(b) A discharge or a hydropower project was in existence on March 16, 2005 and required but did not have a license or water quality certificate other than a general permit for the Class C water.

This criterion for the water body applies to licenses and water quality certificates issued on or after March 16, 2004.

(2) In Class C waters not governed by subparagraph (1), dissolved oxygen may not be less than 6.5 parts per million as a 30-day average based upon a temperature of 24 degrees centigrade or the ambient temperature of the water body, whichever is less. This criterion for the water body applies to licenses and water quality certificates issued on or after March 16, 2004.

The department may negotiate and enter into agreements with licensees and water quality certificate holders in order to provide further protection for the growth of indigenous fish. Agreements entered

into under this paragraph are enforceable as department orders according to the provisions of sections 347-A to 349.

Except as provided in section 464, subsection 4, paragraph C, the pH of Class C waters must fall within the 6.5 to 9.0 range. Between April 15th and October 31st, the number of Escherichia coli bacteria in Class C waters may not exceed a geometric mean of 100 CFU or MPN per 100 milliliters over a 90-day interval or 236 CFU or MPN per 100 milliliters in more than 10% of the samples in any 90-day interval. The board shall adopt rules governing the procedure for designation of spawning areas. Those rules must include provision for periodic review of designated spawning areas and consultation with affected persons prior to designation of a stretch of water as a spawning area.

Sec. 5. 38 MRSA §465-A, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2021, c. 551, §13, is further amended to read:

B. Class GPA waters must be described by their trophic state based on measures of the chlorophyll "a" content, Secchi disk transparency, total phosphorus content and other appropriate criteria. Class GPA waters must have a stable or decreasing trophic state, subject only to natural fluctuations, and must be free of culturally induced algal blooms that impair their use and enjoyment. Except for activities associated with fish stocking and fish management that are approved by a state agency, the aquatic life of Class GPA waters must be as naturally occurs. Except as provided in section 464, subsection 4, paragraph C, the pH of Class GPA waters must fall within the 6.5 to 9.0 range. The number of Escherichia coli bacteria in these waters may not exceed a geometric mean of 29 CFU or MPN per 100 milliliters over a 90-day interval or 194 CFU or MPN per 100 milliliters in more than 10% of the samples in any 90-day interval.

Sec. 6. 38 MRSA §465-B, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by PL 2021, c. 551, §15, is further amended to read:

B. Class SB waters must be of sufficient quality to support all estuarine and marine species indigenous to those waters without detrimental changes in the resident biological community. The dissolved oxygen content of Class SB waters may not be less than 85% of saturation. Except as provided in section 464, subsection 4, paragraph C, the pH of Class SB waters must fall within the 7.0 to 8.5 range. Between April 15th and October 31st, the number of enterococcus bacteria in these waters may not exceed a geometric mean of 8 CFU or MPN per 100 milliliters in any 90-day interval or 54 CFU or MPN per 100 milliliters in more than 10% of the samples in any 90-day interval. The number of total coliform bacteria or other specified

indicator organisms in samples representative of the waters in shellfish harvesting areas may not exceed the criteria recommended under the National Shellfish Sanitation Program, United States Food and Drug Administration as set forth in its publication "Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish" (2019 revision) or any successor publication.

Sec. 7. 38 MRSA §465-B, sub-§3, ¶A, as amended by PL 2003, c. 227, §8, is further amended to read:

A. Class SC waters must be of such quality that they are suitable for the designated uses of recreation in and on the water, fishing, aquaculture, propagation and restricted harvesting of shellfish, industrial process and cooling water supply, hydroelectric power generation, navigation and as a habitat for fish and other estuarine and marine life.

Sec. 8. 38 MRSA §465-B, sub-§3, ¶B, as amended by PL 2021, c. 551, §16, is further amended to read:

B. Class SC waters must be of sufficient quality to support all species of fish indigenous to those waters and to maintain the structure and function of the resident biological community. The dissolved oxygen content of Class SC waters may not be less than 70% of saturation. Except as provided in section 464, subsection 4, paragraph C, the pH of Class SC waters must fall within the 7.0 to 8.5 range. Between April 15th and October 31st, the number of enterococcus bacteria in these waters may not exceed a geometric mean of 14 CFU or MPN per 100 milliliters in any 90-day interval or 94 CFU or MPN per 100 milliliters in more than 10% of the samples in any 90-day interval. The number of total coliform bacteria or other specified indicator organisms in samples representative of the waters in restricted shellfish harvesting areas may not exceed the criteria recommended under the National Shellfish Sanitation Program, United States Food and Drug Administration as set forth in its publication "Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish" (2019 revision) or any successor publication.

Sec. 9. 38 MRSA §467, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 2009, c. 163, §1, is further amended by amending subparagraph (4-A) to read:

(4-A) Abbott Brook and its tributaries ~~in Lincoln Plantation~~ - Class AA.

Sec. 10. 38 MRSA §467, sub-§4, ¶G, as amended by PL 2021, c. 551, §24, is further amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read:

(2) Sandy River, tributaries - Class B unless otherwise specified.

(a) All tributaries entering above the Route 142 bridge in Phillips - Class A unless otherwise specified.

(a-1) South Branch Sandy River and its tributaries - Class AA.

(a-2) Cottle Brook and its tributaries - Class AA.

(b) Wilson Stream, main stem, below the outlet of Wilson Pond - Class C.

(c) Mount Blue Stream and its tributaries - Class ~~A~~ AA.

(d) Orbeton Stream above Toothaker Pond Road and its tributaries - Class AA.

(e) All tributaries entering between Avon Valley Road and Mount Blue Pond Road west of Route 4 in Avon - Class A.

(f) Temple Stream and all its tributaries above the confluence with Edes Brook - Class A.

(g) All tributaries to Drury Pond and the stream between Drury Pond and Temple Stream - Class A.

Sec. 11. 38 MRSA §467, sub-§4, ¶H, as repealed and replaced by PL 2003, c. 317, §9, is amended by amending subparagraph (2), division (a) to read:

(a) Sebasticook River, East Branch from the outlet of Corundel Lake, also known as East Branch Sebasticook River Reservoir and Corundel Bog, to its confluence with the West Branch - Class C.

Sec. 12. 38 MRSA §467, sub-§7, ¶E, as amended by PL 2021, c. 551, §§37 to 40, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (2), division (c-1) to read:

(c-1) Pleasant River, Middle Branch and its tributaries - Class AA.

Sec. 13. 38 MRSA §467, sub-§7, ¶F, as amended by PL 2021, c. 551, §§41 and 42, is further amended by amending subparagraph (5) to read:

(5) Olamon Stream and its tributaries above the bridge on Horseback Road, also known as Spring Bridge Road - Class A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 617
H.P. 1484 - L.D. 2207

**An Act Regarding the Statute
of Limitations for Certain
Sexual Offenses Committed
Against Minors**

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

Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §8, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2023, c. 475, §2 and affected by §3, is further amended to read:

1. It is a defense that prosecution was commenced after the expiration of the applicable period of limitations provided in this section, except that the following prosecutions may be commenced at any time:

A. A prosecution for murder or criminal homicide in the first or 2nd degree; ~~or~~

B. If the victim had not attained the age of 18 years at the time of the crime, a prosecution for incest; unlawful sexual contact; sexual abuse of a minor; rape or gross sexual assault, formerly denominated as gross sexual misconduct; unlawful sexual touching; or sexual exploitation of a minor; or

C. If the victim had not attained the age of 18 years at the time of the crime, a prosecution for aggravated sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of a minor. The provisions of this paragraph apply only to those crimes of aggravated sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of a minor committed on or after September 1, 2026 or for which the prosecution was not barred by the statute of limitations in force immediately prior to September 1, 2026.

Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA §8, sub-§2-A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 479, §1, is further amended to read:

2-A. A Except as provided in subsection 1, paragraphs B and C, a prosecution for a Class A, Class B or Class C crime involving unlawful sexual contact or gross sexual assault or a prosecution for a Class A or Class B crime involving aggravated sex trafficking must be commenced within 20 years after it is committed.

This subsection does not apply to a Class D crime enhanced to a Class C crime pursuant to section 1604, subsection 5, paragraph B.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 618
H.P. 1489 - L.D. 2210

**An Act to Clarify Board of
Environmental Protection
Procedures Regarding Appeals
of Licensing or Permitting
Decisions of the Commissioner
of Environmental Protection**

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §341-D, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2023, c. 512, §2, is further amended to read:

4. Appeal or review. The record on appeal for appeals decided by the board is the administrative record relied upon by the commissioner in the commissioner's review of a license or permit application, including the record of any adjudicatory hearing held by the department, any supplemental evidence admitted by the board on appeal and, if the board holds a hearing on the appeal, any additional evidence obtained by the board from that hearing. The board shall review, may hold a hearing at its discretion on and may affirm, amend, reverse or remand to the commissioner for further proceedings any of the following:

A. Final license or permit decisions made by the commissioner when a person aggrieved by a decision of the commissioner appeals that decision to the board within 30 days of the date of the decision. An appellant shall identify in the appeal the licensing or permitting criterion or standard the appellant believes was not satisfied in the commissioner's final license or permit decision and shall include in the appeal all information required to be submitted by rules adopted pursuant to this section. Any proposed supplemental evidence offered by an appellant must be included with the filing of the appeal. The board staff shall issue to the appellant; the licensee or permittee, if the licensee or permittee is not the appellant; interested persons; and ~~to any other persons who have requested to be notified of the license or permit decision written notice of the filing of the appeal and, which must identify any proposed supplemental evidence offered by the appellant.~~ For the purposes of this paragraph, "interested person" means any person that submitted written comments on the application that is the subject of the appeal. Within 30 days of the issuance of the written notice by the board staff of the filing of the appeal ~~by the board staff,~~ the licensee or permittee, if the licensee or permittee is not the appellant, ~~and any interested parties identified by the commissioner pursuant to section 344, subsection 4-A, paragraph B may submit proposed supplemental evidence to the board and the appellant addressing the issues raised in the appeal.~~ The chair

of the board may ~~allow~~ admit proposed supplemental evidence into the record to be supplemented when ~~it~~ the chair finds that the evidence offered is relevant and material ~~to the appeal~~ and that:

- (1) ~~An interested party seeking to supplement the record~~ The person that submitted the proposed supplemental evidence has shown due diligence in bringing the evidence to the licensing ~~or permitting~~ process at the earliest possible time; or
- (2) The evidence is newly discovered and could not, by the exercise of diligence, have been discovered in time to be presented earlier in the licensing ~~or permitting~~ process.

The board shall admit into the record additional evidence and analysis submitted by department staff in response to issues raised in the appeal and any supplemental evidence allowed by the board in accordance with this paragraph. ~~The licensee or permittee, if the licensee or permittee is not the appellant, may submit to the board a written response to the merits of the appeal.~~ The board is not bound by the commissioner's findings of fact or conclusions of law but may adopt, modify or reverse findings of fact or conclusions of law established by the commissioner. Any changes to a final license or permit decision of the commissioner made by the board under this paragraph must be based upon the board's review of the record, ~~any supplemental evidence admitted by the board and any other evidence obtained by the board through any hearing on the appeal held by the board on appeal.~~

If the board modifies or reverses a final license or permit decision of the commissioner pursuant to this paragraph, the licensee or permittee shall implement any changes to the project necessary to comply with the decision of the board, which may include, but are not limited to, deconstruction and site restoration, and the department may initiate enforcement actions pursuant to section 347-A and impose penalties pursuant to section 349 if the licensee or permittee fails to satisfactorily implement those changes;

C. License or permit decisions appealed to the board under another law. Unless the law provides otherwise, the standard of review is the same as provided under paragraph A;

D. License or permit decisions regarding an expedited wind energy development as defined in Title 35-A, section 3451, subsection 4 or a general permit pursuant to section 480-HH or section 636-A. In reviewing an appeal of a license or permit decision by the commissioner under this paragraph, the board shall base its decision on the ~~administrative record of the department, including the record of any adjudicatory hearing held by the department,~~

~~and any supplemental information allowed by the board for supplementation of the record on appeal.~~ The board may remand the decision to the department for further proceedings if appropriate. The chair of the Public Utilities Commission or the chair's designee may serve as a nonvoting member of the board and is entitled to fully participate but is not required to attend meetings and hearings when the board considers an appeal pursuant to this paragraph. The chair's participation on the board pursuant to this paragraph does not affect the ability of the Public Utilities Commission to submit information to the department for inclusion in the record of any proceeding before the department; and

E. Decisions on insurance claims-related matters heard under section 568-A, including but not limited to decisions on eligibility for coverage, eligibility of costs and waiver and amount of deductible. Except as provided in board rules, an applicant must file the appeal not later than the 30th day after the applicant receives the decision made under section 568-A. If the board overturns the decision made under section 568-A, the department must pay reasonable costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, incurred by the aggrieved applicant in pursuing the appeal to the board from the Maine Ground and Surface Waters Clean-up and Response Fund established under section 551. Reasonable attorney's fees include only those fees incurred from the time of an insurance claims-related decision forward. Decisions of the board are subject to judicial review pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 7.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 619

H.P. 1495 - L.D. 2218

An Act to Increase the Per Diem Rate for Members of the Maine Labor Relations Board

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-B, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1989, c. 503, Pt. A, §7, is further amended to read:

2.

Maine Labor Relations Board	\$75/Day	26 MRSA §968
	\$100/Day	
	\$150/Day	
	\$200/Day Chair	

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 620
S.P. 905 - L.D. 2221

**An Act to Amend the
Composition of the
Landowners and Land Users
Relations Advisory Board**

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10157, sub-§1-A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. A, §28, is further amended to read:

1-A. Appointment and composition. The Landowners and Land Users Relations Advisory Board, referred to in this chapter as "the advisory board" and established by Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 49-C, consists of the following 18 members:

A. ~~Eleven~~ Thirteen voting members, appointed by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) One representative of a statewide small woodland owners association;
- (2) One representative of a large landowners association;
- (3) One representative of a statewide farmers organization;
- (4) Three representatives who hunt, fish or trap;
- (5) ~~Two~~ Three representatives of outdoor recreationists, including one representative of an all-terrain vehicle club, one representative of a snowmobile club and one representative of a nonmotorized recreation industry with a focus on hiking, wildlife watching, biking, paddling, trail running or other popular outdoor pursuits;
- (6) Two representatives of environmentalist organizations; ~~and~~
- (7) One representative of land trust organizations; and
- (8) One representative of an organization managing recreational access to the North Maine Woods; and

B. Five nonvoting members:

- (1) Two representatives of the Bureau of Warden Service, designated by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife;
- (2) One representative of the Department of Economic and Community Development, designated by the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development; and

(3) Two representatives of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, designated by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 621
H.P. 1504 - L.D. 2227

**An Act to Update Financial
Assurance Requirements for
Certain Solid Waste Facilities**

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §1310-Y, as amended by PL 2023, c. 517, §§7 and 8, is further amended to read:

§1310-Y. Financial assurance

An owner or operator of a solid waste processing facility that processes plastic waste through chemical plastic processing that is licensed under section 1310-N or of a solid waste disposal facility that is licensed under section 1310-N shall provide the department assurance of its financial ability to satisfy the estimated cost of corrective action for known releases from the facility and its financial capacity to satisfy the estimated cost of closure and postclosure care and maintenance at the facility for a period of at least 30 years after closure. The board may adopt rules that increase or decrease that postclosure care period, as long as those rules are consistent with applicable federal rules. The department may consider the use of more than one acceptable form of financial assurance per facility to satisfy the financial assurance requirement of this section. This section applies to all privately owned solid waste disposal facilities licensed by the department, including facilities licensed by the department before June 16, 1993, and to all solid waste processing facilities that process plastic waste through chemical plastic processing. This section does not apply to a municipally owned or operated solid waste disposal facility that accepts exclusively special waste, construction and demolition debris, land-clearing debris or any combination of those types of waste or to a municipally owned or operated solid waste disposal facility licensed before June 16, 1993.

1. Acceptable forms of financial assurance. Acceptable forms of financial assurance ~~are under this section~~ must include at least one of the following:

- A. A letter of credit;
- B. A surety bond;
- C. An escrow account;
- D. A reserve account calculated in a manner consistent with the United States Internal Revenue Code;

E. An irrevocable trust account; ~~or~~

~~F. In the case of a municipal solid waste disposal facility, any of the allowable financial assurance mechanisms set forth in applicable federal rules.~~

G. A corporate financial test that satisfies the requirements of 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 258.74(e);

H. A local government financial test that satisfies the requirements of 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 258.74(f);

I. A corporate guarantee that satisfies the requirements of 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 258.74(g); or

J. A local government guarantee that satisfies the requirements of 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 258.74(h).

~~1-A. Substitute requirements.~~ The department may substitute part of the acceptable forms of financial assurance under subsection 1 with one or more of the following requirements:

~~A. A current rating for its senior unsubordinated debt of AAA, AA, A or BBB as issued by Standard and Poor's Corporation or Aaa, Aa, A or Baa as issued by Moody's Investors Services, Inc.;~~

~~B. A ratio of less than 1.5 comparing total liabilities to net worth; or~~

~~C. A ratio of greater than 0.10 comparing the sum of net income plus depreciation, depletion and amortization, minus \$10,000,000, to total liabilities.~~

1-B. Review of financial assurance. A licensee subject to the requirements of this section shall annually review and, as necessary and in accordance with department rule, update its financial assurance mechanisms under this section. The department may require an applicant or licensee subject to the requirements of this section to conduct and submit to the department an independent 3rd-party financial review of any proposed form of financial assurance.

2. Report. An owner or operator of a solid waste processing facility that processes plastic waste through chemical plastic processing or of a solid waste disposal facility shall annually prepare a report containing a sworn statement providing the year-end balance or value of any ~~escrow, trust or reserve account form of financial assurance~~ established under this section. That report must be submitted to the commissioner by March

31st of each year or such other date as the commissioner may designate.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 622

H.P. 67 - L.D. 102

An Act to Notify the Public of Juveniles That Have Escaped a Department of Corrections Facility and to Direct the Department of Corrections to Study the Further Release of Juvenile Intelligence and Investigative Record Information

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

Sec. 1. 15 MRSA §3308-A, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Limited dissemination; escaped juveniles. Notwithstanding any provision of this Part or in Title 34-A, section 1216 to the contrary, when a juvenile has escaped from a Department of Corrections facility and there is probable cause to believe that the juvenile presents a serious risk to the juvenile's own safety or to public safety, the Commissioner of Corrections or the commissioner's designee may publicly disclose the following information for the purpose of identifying and apprehending the juvenile:

A. The juvenile's physical description;

B. A photograph of the juvenile;

C. Any recent location of the juvenile;

D. Any likely location of the juvenile;

E. The fact that the Department of Corrections is searching for the juvenile; and

F. Instructions for the public not to approach the juvenile, but to report any sightings or relevant information to a criminal justice agency.

Sec. 2. Department of Corrections to convene working group. The Department of Corrections shall convene a working group to examine best practices for apprehending a juvenile for whom a warrant of arrest has been issued, a juvenile who has escaped from arrest or a juvenile who has escaped from arrest during transport following arrest.

1. The working group's examination shall determine what juvenile intelligence and investigative record information, if any, should be made public to assist in the apprehension of wanted or escaped juveniles. In making this determination, the working group shall

consider both the purpose of the Maine Juvenile Code and the potential safety risks to a wanted or escaped juvenile and to the public. If the release of juvenile intelligence and investigative record information is determined appropriate by the working group, the working group shall further determine best methods for a criminal justice agency to petition a court seeking the release of juvenile intelligence and investigative record information to the public to assist in the apprehension of juveniles. For the purposes of this section, "juvenile intelligence and investigative record information" has the same meaning as in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 15, section 3308-A, subsection 1, paragraph E.

2. The Commissioner of Corrections, or the commissioner's designee, shall serve as a member of the working group and shall appoint, at a minimum, the following additional members to the working group:

- A. One member representing a statewide association representing sheriffs;
- B. One member representing a statewide association representing municipal chiefs of police;
- C. One member who is a defense attorney with experience in the juvenile justice system;
- D. One member who is a prosecuting attorney with experience in the juvenile justice system;
- E. One member who is an active or retired judge with experience in the juvenile justice system upon the recommendation of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court; and
- F. One member with experience in law and policy development for juveniles.

The Commissioner of Public Safety or the commissioner's designee shall serve as an ex officio member.

Sec. 3. Report. By January 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Corrections shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters that includes the findings, recommendations and any suggested legislation by the working group under section 2 for apprehending escaped and wanted juveniles. The joint standing committee may report out legislation based on the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 623

H.P. 1162 - L.D. 1744

An Act to Modify Provisions of the State Civil Service System Governing Employee Recruitment and Retention

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §7065, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1993, c. 705, §1, is further amended to read:

2. Salary limits. ~~No~~ A position may ~~not~~ be assigned a salary greater than the maximum or less than the minimum rates fixed in the compensation plan except as provided by subsection ~~2-D~~ 2-E.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §7065, sub-§2-D, as corrected by RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. B, §38 and affected by §50, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §7065, sub-§2-E is enacted to read:

2-E. Recruitment and retention adjustments.
The following provisions govern the process of requesting a recruitment and retention adjustment.

A. An agency or bargaining agent shall file a request for a recruitment and retention adjustment with the Bureau of Human Resources on forms prescribed by the bureau.

B. When a request for a recruitment and retention adjustment is filed by an agency or bargaining agent with the Bureau of Human Resources under paragraph A, the officer shall conduct a preliminary review to determine the extent to which vacancy rates, turnover rates or other workforce indicators identified in the request are attributable to any of the following conditions:

(1) Statewide or departmental hiring freezes, position holds, delays in hiring authorizations or funding lapses;

(2) Management-directed attrition, including for the purposes of anticipated reorganizations, or programmatic changes affecting staffing levels;

(3) Temporary operational decisions or policy directives that limit recruitment or filling of vacancies; or

(4) Any other reasonable material, operational, fiscal or administrative circumstances that reasonably explain vacancy or turnover levels independent of compensation or labor market competitiveness.

If any of the conditions in subparagraphs (1) to (4) are determined to be present, the officer may

choose not to form a committee pursuant to paragraph D, subject to an appeal filed pursuant to paragraph F. If none of the conditions in subparagraphs (1) to (4) are determined to be present, the committee must be formed.

The officer shall complete the preliminary review outlined in this paragraph as soon as possible but no later than 30 days following the receipt of the request.

C. A recruitment and retention adjustment may be authorized by the officer only when justified by the following conditions:

- (1) High turnover exists or long-term vacancies exist either within a specific department or across State Government in the relevant occupational classifications or job series;
- (2) Reasonable and appropriate recruitment and retention efforts have been attempted and have proven ineffective at the current levels of compensation; and
- (3) Comprehensive, verifiable documentation of labor market compensation levels for the relevant occupation has been compiled to determine competitive pay levels within the defined labor market. This documentation must demonstrate that a labor market disparity exists and that the disparity represents a long-term problem and not a transitory or seasonal problem.

D. Except as provided in paragraph B, to assist the officer in making a determination under paragraph C, a committee must be formed to evaluate the request from an agency or bargaining agent for a recruitment and retention adjustment. The following provisions apply to the committee formed under this paragraph.

- (1) The committee must be composed of a representative of the Bureau of Human Resources, a representative of the agency and a representative of the bargaining agent if applicable.
- (2) The committee shall evaluate the request against the conditions specified in paragraph C and shall conduct studies as the committee considers necessary to evaluate the request.
- (3) The committee shall, by majority vote, provide the officer, the agency and the bargaining agent, if applicable, with a report recommending and documenting adjustments authorized under this subsection. The officer, the agency and the bargaining agent, if applicable, shall act on the report. If resources within the department or agency budget do not exist to fund an approved adjustment, the officer shall

submit the cost items for inclusion in the Governor's next operating budget. If the Legislature does not appropriate the requested funds, the department or agency is not obligated to pay any requested recruitment and retention adjustment.

(4) Salary compression within the affected position's supervisory organizational structure must be given consideration by the committee. The committee may recommend pay adjustments within the supervisory organizational structure in order to reduce any potential compression that exceeds 4 steps in a salary grade. If resources within the department or agency budget do not exist for the pay adjustment to reduce this compression, the original request must move forward without addressing the compression and the officer shall submit the cost items regarding potential additional compressed positions for inclusion in the Governor's next operating budget. If the Legislature does not appropriate the requested funds, the department or agency is not obligated to make the requested pay adjustments. For the purposes of this subparagraph, "salary compression" means a relatively narrow range of salaries within an occupational classification.

The officer shall provide to the requesting agency or bargaining agent a written decision including the proposed course of action within 30 days of receiving the committee's final recommendation.

E. A recruitment and retention adjustment must be reviewed at least every 4 years in alignment with section 7061, subsection 4, paragraph B and adjusted to changes in the labor market or the overall relation of the standard pay policy to the specialized labor market. If the subsequent review provided in this paragraph results in the adjustment being decreased or discontinued, an employee receiving the recruitment and retention adjustment may not be subject to a reduction in pay. The resulting recruitment and retention adjustment applies to employees hired subsequent to the review provided in this paragraph.

F. A decision by the officer may be appealed by an interested party consistent with the following.

- (1) A party appealing the officer's decision must file a written request for appeal with the officer. All appeals must be submitted within 10 business days following receipt of the officer's written decision.
- (2) An employee whose classification is not represented by a bargaining agent may appeal a decision of the officer to the appeals board

pursuant to subchapter 3. The officer's decision satisfies the requirement of section 7083, subsection 4.

(3) An employee whose classification is represented by a bargaining agent may submit to a neutral 3rd party for a final decision and report. The neutral 3rd party may be jointly agreed upon by the officer, the agency and the bargaining agent, but if an agreement is not reached, the parties must petition the Maine Labor Relations Board to appoint a neutral 3rd party. The Maine Labor Relations Board must submit to the parties a list from which the parties can alternately strike a name until a single name is left, and that person must be appointed by the Maine Labor Relations Board as the arbitrator.

(4) All decisions requiring funding by the neutral 3rd party are subject to the legislative budgeting process. If resources within the department or agency do not exist to fund the neutral 3rd party's decision, the officer shall submit the cost items for inclusion in the Governor's next operating budget. If the Legislature does not appropriate the requested funds, the department or agency is not obligated to pay any requested recruitment and retention adjustment.

(5) A decision by the officer under paragraph B to not form a committee may be appealed. The arbitrator's authority on such an appeal is limited to ordering the formation of a committee.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 624

H.P. 1284 - L.D. 1923

An Act to Update Juvenile Justice System Reporting Requirements and to Direct the Department of Corrections and the Department of Health and Human Services to Study Modifying the Long Creek Youth Development Center

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

Sec. 1. 34-A MRSA §7009, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 425, §4, is amended to read:

§7009. Publication of data

By February 15, 2024 Beginning August 15, 2026, each month the department shall develop and publish on

its publicly accessible website data regarding the number of juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system. The data must be updated monthly and include information regarding the numbers of juveniles referred, diverted, detained, placed on probation, ordered to serve a period of confinement and committed to the department. The department shall deidentify the data and remove any potential personal identifying information of the juveniles. The data must be organized by region of the State and broken down by age, gender and race.

Sec. 2. Department of Corrections and Department of Health and Human Services to convene working group. The Department of Corrections and the Department of Health and Human Services shall jointly convene a working group to examine the current programming and use of physical facilities at the Long Creek Youth Development Center, referred to in this section as "the center." The working group shall provide recommendations for modifying the use of land and facilities at the center and reinvesting corrections funds currently designated for youth incarceration into a continuum of community-based services over the next 5 years.

1. The Commissioner of Corrections and the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, or the commissioners' designees, shall serve as members of the working group and shall jointly appoint the following 9 members to the working group:

- A. A representative of children's behavioral health services within the Department of Health and Human Services;
- B. A representative of the Department of Education;
- C. A representative of a community-based youth service provider;
- D. A representative from a community-based organization offering youth shelter or housing resources;
- E. A representative of the State Forensic Service with experience in juvenile justice matters in the State;
- F. An expert in juvenile justice matters in the State;
- G. A youth who has directly experienced the juvenile justice system in the State;
- H. A parent of a youth who has directly experienced the juvenile justice system in the State; and
- I. A representative of a statewide labor organization representing employees at the center.

The superintendent of the center or the superintendent's designee serves as an ex officio, voting member of the working group.

2. The working group shall:

A. Study efforts of other states and municipalities in other states that have modified their juvenile detention centers to determine the best practices for modifying the center;

B. Examine the current status of the land and facilities at the center to determine opportunities for modifying the land and facilities, including renovating existing buildings or constructing additional facilities;

C. Consider alternate uses for the land and facilities at the center, including but not limited to a crisis receiving center, an assessment of youth in crisis center, a youth emergency shelter, youth transitional housing and a community resource center;

D. Examine the current use of the center's budget and staffing and explore opportunities for alternative uses of financial and human resources for services, including, but not limited to, housing, behavioral health, education, substance use disorder prevention and treatment, wraparound case management and diversion;

E. Explore existing community-based services provided to youth and work with community-based organizations to determine potential programming that could take place at the center; and

F. Examine and recommend best practices for maintaining and operating a secure and safe facility for juvenile clients.

3. No later than February 15, 2028, the Commissioner of Corrections and the Commissioner of Health and Human Services shall jointly submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters that includes the working group's findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation related to the working group's duties. The joint standing committee may report out legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 625

H.P. 1343 - L.D. 2013

An Act to Authorize the Commissioner of Marine Resources to Adopt Emergency Rules to Protect Certain Marine Mammals in Exceptional Circumstances

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6171, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Emergency rules to limit taking of marine organisms. Notwithstanding subsections 3 and 5, the commissioner may adopt routine technical rules as emergency rules under Title 5, section 8054 that limit the taking of marine organisms by method or location to protect marine mammals listed under section 6975 when the commissioner, upon consultation with industry personnel, determines that immediate action is necessary to mitigate circumstances posing an exceptionally high level of risk to those mammals.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6171, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

7. Annual report on use of emergency rule-making authority. The department shall submit a written report on or before January 1st of each year to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters regarding the use of emergency rulemaking pursuant to subsection 6. The joint standing committee may report out a bill based on the report to any regular or special session of the Legislature in the year the report is due.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 626

H.P. 1345 - L.D. 2015

An Act to Require Superintendents of School Administrative Units to Report Data Related to Educator Vacancies

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1055, sub-§9, ¶E, as amended by PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. A, §§4 and 25, is further amended to read:

E. The amount received for tuition; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §1055, sub-§9, ¶E-1 is enacted to read:

E-1. The number and type of the school administrative unit's vacant teacher and educational technician positions; and

Sec. 3. Department of Education; use of data. Activities undertaken by the Department of Education using data reported to the commissioner of education by superintendents of school administrative units pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 1055, subsection 9, paragraph E-1, including, but not limited to, data aggregation and data mapping, must be done within existing resources.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 627
S.P. 839 - L.D. 2046

**An Act to Update Certain
Duties Regarding Student
Health Related to
Communicable and Infectious
Disease**

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6301, as amended by PL 2017, c. 381, §§5 to 7 and corrected by RR 2017, c. 2, §3, is further amended to read:

§6301. ~~Student health~~ Communicable or infectious disease

The following provisions apply to a student ~~health~~ showing symptoms of a communicable or infectious disease.

1. ~~Duty of teacher~~ school personnel. A ~~teacher~~ member of school personnel who has reason to believe that a student is a ~~public health threat as a result of having a communicable disease of the skin, mouth or eyes~~ showing symptoms of a communicable or infectious disease reportable under Title 22, chapter 250, subchapter 3 or that pose a public health threat shall inform the ~~superintendent~~ building administrator.

1-A. Duty of building administrator. A building administrator informed by a member of school personnel that a student is showing symptoms of a communicable or infectious disease under subsection 1 shall consult with the school nurse. Upon recommendation from the school nurse, the building administrator shall inform the superintendent or superintendent's designee.

2. Duty of superintendent. A superintendent or a superintendent's designee informed by a ~~teacher~~ building administrator under subsection ~~4~~ 1-A may:

A. ~~Inform~~ Advise the student's parent: to furnish the student with the required home or medical treatment for the relief of the student's symptoms or disease reported under subsection 1;

(1) ~~To cleanse the clothing and body of the student; and~~

(2) ~~To furnish the student with the required home or medical treatment for the relief of the student's trouble so defined in subsection 1;~~

B. Exclude the student from the public schools until the student is no longer a public health threat;

C. Exclude the student from public school as soon as safe and proper transportation home is available; and

D. Consult with the school nurse.

3. Duty of parent. A parent informed by a superintendent ~~or the superintendent's designee~~ under subsection 2 shall promptly do what is reasonably necessary to ensure that the student is not a public health threat.

4. Penalty. Any parent who fails to comply with subsection 3 shall be fined not more than \$5 for the first offense or \$10 for subsequent offenses.

5-A. Notification. ~~The~~ A superintendent ~~or the superintendent's designee~~ informed by a building administrator under subsection 1-A shall cause notice of the communicable ~~or infectious~~ disease to be given to the Department of Health and Human Services, in accordance with the requirements of Title 22, chapters 250 and 251, and rules issued under those chapters.

6. Authority and duties of the Department of Health and Human Services. The Department of Health and Human Services has the authority and duties prescribed in Title 22, chapters 250 and 251 with respect to the control of notifiable diseases and conditions and communicable ~~or infectious~~ diseases.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6305, as amended by PL 2019, c. 560, §2, is further amended to read:

§6305. Epinephrine autoinjectors automated devices; guidelines; emergency administration

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Collaborative practice agreement" means a written and signed agreement between a physician licensed in this State or a school health advisor under section 6402-A and a school nurse under section 6403-A that provides for the prescription of epinephrine ~~autoinjectors~~ automated devices by the physician or school health advisor and administration of epinephrine ~~autoinjectors~~ automated devices by a school nurse or designated school personnel to students, school personnel or visitor during school or a school-sponsored activity under emergency circumstances involving anaphylaxis.

B. "Designated school personnel" means those employees, agents or volunteers of a school administrative unit or an approved private school designated by a collaborative practice agreement between a physician licensed in this State or a school health advisor under section 6402-A and a school nurse under section 6403-A who have completed the training required by rule to provide or administer an epinephrine ~~autoinjector to a student~~ automated device.

C. "Epinephrine ~~autoinjector~~ automated device" means a single-use device used for the automatic ~~injection~~ administration of a premeasured dose of epinephrine into a human body ~~or another single~~

use epinephrine delivery system approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for public use.

D. "School" means a public or approved private school.

2. Collaborative practice agreement; adoption authorized. A school administrative unit or an approved private school may authorize adoption of a collaborative practice agreement for the purposes of stocking and administering epinephrine ~~autoinjectors~~ automated devices as provided under this section. The administration of an epinephrine ~~autoinjector~~ automated device in accordance with this section is not the practice of medicine.

3. Collaborative practice agreement; authority. A collaborative practice agreement permits a physician licensed in this State or school health advisor under section 6402-A to prescribe an epinephrine ~~autoinjector~~ automated device and direct a school nurse under section 6403-A to administer an epinephrine ~~autoinjector~~ automated device in good faith to any student experiencing anaphylaxis during school or a school-sponsored activity. Pursuant to a collaborative practice agreement, a physician licensed in this State or school health advisor under section 6402-A may authorize the school nurse under section 6403-A during school or a school-sponsored activity to designate other school personnel with training required by rule to administer an epinephrine ~~autoinjector~~ automated device if the school nurse is not present when a student experiences anaphylaxis.

4. Collaborative practice agreement; terms and provisions. A collaborative practice agreement must include the following information:

- A. Name and physical address of the school;
- B. Identification and signatures of the physician or school health advisor under section 6402-A and school nurse under section 6403-A who are parties to the collaborative practice agreement, the dates the agreement is signed by each party and the beginning and end dates of the period of time within which the agreement is in effect; and
- C. Any other information considered appropriate by the physician or school health advisor under section 6402-A and school nurse under section 6403-A.

5. Use of epinephrine ~~autoinjectors~~ automated devices without a collaborative practice agreement. The governing body of a school administrative unit or an approved private school may authorize a school nurse under section 6403-A to train and designate designated school personnel to administer an epinephrine ~~autoinjector~~ automated device to a student in accordance with a prescription specific to the student on file with the school nurse and in accordance with section 254, subsection 5. ~~The administration of an epinephrine~~

~~autoinjector in accordance with this subsection is not the practice of medicine.~~

6. Manufacturer or supplier arrangement. A school administrative unit or an approved private school may enter into an arrangement with a manufacturer of epinephrine ~~autoinjectors~~ automated devices or a 3rd-party supplier of epinephrine ~~autoinjectors~~ automated devices to obtain epinephrine ~~autoinjectors~~ automated devices at fair market prices or reduced prices or for free.

7. Purchase from licensed pharmacies. A collaborative practice agreement under this section may provide that a school administrative unit or an approved private school may purchase epinephrine ~~autoinjectors~~ automated devices from a pharmacy licensed in this State.

8. Guidelines. By December 1, 2015 and as needed after that date, the department in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services shall develop and make available to all schools guidelines for the management of students with life-threatening allergies. The guidelines must include, but are not limited to:

- A. Guidelines regarding education and training for school personnel on the management of students with life-threatening allergies, including training related to the administration of an epinephrine ~~autoinjector~~ automated device;
- B. Procedures for responding to life-threatening allergic reactions;
- C. A process for the development of individualized health care and allergy action plans for students with known life-threatening allergies; and
- D. Protocols to prevent exposure to allergens.

9. Plan. By September 1, 2016 and as needed after that date, the governing body of a school administrative unit or an approved private school shall:

- A. Implement a protocol based on the guidelines developed pursuant to subsection 8 for the management of students with life-threatening allergies enrolled in the schools under its jurisdiction; and
- B. Make the protocol under paragraph A available on the governing body's publicly accessible website or the publicly accessible website of each school under the governing body's jurisdiction or, if those websites do not exist, make the protocol publicly available through other means as determined by the governing body.

The governing body of the school administrative unit or the approved private school shall annually attest to the department that the schools under its jurisdiction are implementing the protocol in accordance with the provisions of this subsection.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §6401-B, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 380, Pt. DD, §3, is amended to read:

3. Staff development. Foster and promote staff development for school nurses by planning and providing orientation, educational offerings and networking with universities and other providers of continuing education to meet identified needs; ~~and~~

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §6401-B, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 380, Pt. DD, §3, is amended to read:

4. Standards. Gather and analyze data relevant to the school health care program and monitor standards to promote school nursing excellence and optimal health of school children; and

Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §6401-B, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Guidance. Manage the development and dissemination of school health guidelines as they relate to the health and well-being of students and staff in schools.

Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §6403-A, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 258, §4, is amended to read:

1. Duties. The school nurse shall supervise and coordinate the health services and health-related activities required by this Title in accordance with the most recent scope and standards of school nursing practices and follow all applicable rules adopted by the State Board of Nursing and laws under Title 32, chapter 31.

Sec. 7. 20-A MRSA §6403-A, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 258, §4, is amended to read:

5. Guidelines. The commissioner shall issue guidelines on the provision of school health services and health-related activities. Guidelines must be based on state and national standards and updated at least every 3 years.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 628

H.P. 1395 - L.D. 2080

An Act to Protect Consumers by Prohibiting the Use of Credit Cards in Sports Wagering and Internet Gaming

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

Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §1203, sub-§2, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 681, Pt. J, §6, is amended to read:

C. The methods of operation of sports wagering, including but not limited to the permitted systems

and methods of wagers; the use of credit and checks by persons making wagers, which must prohibit a person from making a wager using a credit card; the types of wagering receipts that may be used; the method of issuing receipts; the prevention of sports wagering on prohibited sports events; the protection of patrons placing wagers; and the promotion of social responsibility and responsible gaming and display of information on resources for problem gambling at a facility operator's premises or on any mobile application or digital platform used to place wagers;

Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §1203, sub-§2, ¶F, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 681, Pt. J, §6, is amended to read:

F. Minimum design and security requirements for the physical premises of facility operators in which sports wagering is conducted, including but not limited to minimum requirements for the acceptance of wagers at a self-serve kiosk located on the premises and minimum required methods for verifying the identity and age of a person who places a wager with a facility operator, for verifying that the person making a wager is not prohibited from making a wager under section 1213, for ensuring that a person does not use a credit card to make a wager and for requiring the refund of any wager determined to have been placed by a person prohibited from making a wager under section 1213;

Sec. 3. 8 MRSA §1203, sub-§2, ¶G, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 681, Pt. J, §6, is amended to read:

G. Minimum design and security requirements for mobile applications and digital platforms for the acceptance of wagers by mobile operators, including required methods for verifying the age and identity of a person who places a wager with a mobile operator, for verifying that the person making the wager is physically located in the State and is not prohibited from making a wager under section 1213, for ensuring that a person does not use a credit card to make a wager and for requiring the refund of any wager determined to have been placed by a person prohibited from making a wager under section 1213;

Sec. 4. 8 MRSA §1214-A is enacted to read:

§1214-A. Credit cards prohibited

An operator and a management services licensee under section 1209 conducting sports wagering on behalf of an operator may not accept a wager on a sports event from a person using a credit card.

Sec. 5. 8 MRSA §1403, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 538, §4, is amended to read:

A. The methods of operation of Internet gaming, including but not limited to the permitted systems and methods of wagers; the use of credit and checks

by persons making wagers, which must prohibit a person from making a wager using a credit card; the types of wagering receipts that may be used; the method of issuing receipts; the protection of patrons placing wagers; and the promotion of social responsibility and responsible gaming and display of information on resources for problem gambling;

Sec. 6. 8 MRSA §1403, sub-§2, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 538, §4, is amended to read:

C. Minimum design and security requirements for applications and digital platforms for the acceptance of wagers by operators, including required methods for verifying the age and identity of a person who places a wager with an operator, for verifying that the person making the wager is physically located in the State and is not prohibited from making a wager under section 1412, for ensuring that a person does not use a credit card to make a wager and for requiring the refund of any wager determined to have been placed by a person prohibited from making a wager under section 1412;

Sec. 7. 8 MRSA §1412-A is enacted to read:

§1412-A. Credit cards prohibited

An operator and a management services licensee under section 1408 conducting Internet gaming on behalf of an operator may not accept a wager from a person using a credit card.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 629

H.P. 1408 - L.D. 2093

**An Act to Codify and Update a
Provision of Private and
Special Law Governing
Temporary Disability for State
Employees**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §7073 is enacted to read:

§7073. Provision for temporary disability

When a confidential employee has a temporary total disability, the appointing authority shall provide temporary disability benefits to the confidential employee in accordance with this section and continue to pay the confidential employee's regular employment benefits in accordance with subsection 7.

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Confidential employee" means an employee within the executive branch, including a probationary employee, who is employed in a position excluded from the definition of "state employee" pursuant to Title 26, section 979-A, subsection 6, paragraphs B, C, D, I and J.

B. "Continuous leave" means leave that is not intermittent and not a reduced schedule.

C. "Temporary disability benefit" means a benefit for temporary total disability paid to an eligible confidential employee pursuant to this section.

D. "Total disability" means the inability to engage in any gainful occupation for which a confidential employee is reasonably suited by training, education and experience.

2. Eligibility. A confidential employee employed by the State in that position for more than 6 months who becomes totally disabled may receive a temporary disability benefit while the confidential employee remains totally disabled and under the care of a licensed physician if:

A. The confidential employee incurs a loss of time from work as a result of the disability, including a disability resulting from sickness or accidental bodily injury; and

B. The disability prevents the confidential employee from performing the duties of that confidential employee's occupation.

3. Start of benefit. The temporary disability benefit must commence on the day immediately following the later of:

A. The exhaustion of the confidential employee's accumulated sick leave; or

B. The 30th day of continuous total disability.

4. End of benefit. The temporary disability benefit must continue until whichever of the following occurs first:

A. The day before the day the confidential employee returns to any gainful occupation;

B. The day after the confidential employee exhausts the remaining balance of the 365 days of temporary disability benefits allowed per confidential employee pursuant to subsection 6; or

C. The first day the confidential employee is eligible for a disability retirement allowance under Title 5, chapter 423, subchapter 5, article 3.

5. Benefit amount; exception for disabilities compensable under workers' compensation. The temporary disability benefit equals 2/3 of the confidential employee's weekly salary at the date of the commencement of the total disability. Any state retirement

allowance must be deducted from the temporary disability benefit. A temporary disability benefit may not be made if the confidential employee's disability is compensable under Title 39-A.

6. Benefit cap; subsequent periods of total disability. A confidential employee may not receive more than 365 days of temporary disability benefits during that confidential employee's entire tenure of service as a confidential employee, regardless of any breaks in service. If a confidential employee does not use all 365 days of temporary disability benefits for a single period of continuous leave for total disability, the confidential employee carries the remaining balance of the 365 days and may use those remaining days for subsequent periods of continuous leave for total disability in accordance with this section.

7. Continuation of regular employment benefits. A confidential employee who is provided temporary disability benefits under this section must continue to receive the regular employment benefits that were provided to the confidential employee immediately before the first date of the total disability.

Sec. 2. P&SL 1989, c. 86, Pt. C, §5 is repealed.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 630

H.P. 1413 - L.D. 2098

An Act to Update Certain Higher Education Statutes and Laws

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 321, as amended, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §10017, first ¶, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. BB, §1, is amended to read:

The Higher Education Administrative Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within the department as a nonlapsing fund to receive participation fees and application fees from institutions of higher education for applications under section 10707 and for applications for membership or membership renewal in the interstate reciprocity agreement authorized under section 405, subsection 3, paragraph W. Funds deposited in the fund must be used to support the department's facilitation of the interstate reciprocity agreement and for other department costs associated with the administration of higher education in the State.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §10703, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Basis for degree-granting authority. Temporary approval granted pursuant to this section may not

be used as a basis for a recommendation by the state board for permanent degree-granting authority under section 10707.

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §10707, as amended by PL 2007, c. 572, Pt. A, §13, is further amended to read:

§10707. Applications

1. Degree-granting authority. Applications for authority to grant degrees shall must be made on application to the state board ~~on forms~~ through a process provided by the commissioner. An educational institution shall pay a fee for the initial application that reflects the costs to the department for processing the application, as determined by the commissioner.

A. The state board may recommend an educational institution to the Legislature for degree-granting authority without additional review if:

(1) The state board has approved or renewed approval for the educational institution to offer academic programs in the State within 5 years of the institution's application for degree-granting authority; and

(2) The educational institution has applied for degree-granting authority only for degrees for which the institution offers academic programs approved by the state board.

B. Upon recommending an educational institution to the Legislature for degree-granting authority under section 10704, the state board shall provide any reports resulting from completed state board reviews of the applicant educational institution to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters.

2. Temporary use of name. Applications for temporary state board authority to use the name "community college," "college" or "university" must be made to the state board ~~on forms~~ through a process provided by the commissioner. An educational institution shall pay a fee for the initial application that reflects the costs to the department for processing the application, as determined by the commissioner.

3. Courses for academic credit. Applications by out-of-state educational institutions to offer courses for academic credit shall must be made to the state board ~~on forms~~ through a process provided by the commissioner. Such an educational institution shall pay a fee for the initial application that reflects the costs to the department for processing the application, as determined by the commissioner.

4. Coordinated programs. Applications to offer coordinated programs shall must be made to the state board ~~on forms~~ through a process provided by the commissioner. An educational institution shall pay a fee for

the initial application that reflects the costs to the department for processing the application, as determined by the commissioner.

5. Exempt status. Applications for exempt status under section 10708, subsection 2, ~~shall~~ must be made to the commissioner. An educational institution shall pay a fee for the initial application that reflects the costs to the department for processing the application, as determined by the commissioner.

Sec. 5. P&SL 1973, c. 29, §1 is amended to read:

Sec. 1. Degrees. The College of the Atlantic, located in Bar Harbor, shall have the power to confer the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Human Ecology as is usually conferred by like institutions of higher learning.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 631

H.P. 1414 - L.D. 2099

An Act to Amend Certain Eligibility Requirements for Secondary Students Receiving State Subsidies for Postsecondary Courses

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4771, as amended by PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. VVV, §1, is further amended to read:

§4771. Eligible institution ~~and~~, semester and academic year; defined

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, "eligible institution" means the institutions of the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy. "Semester" means the fall, spring or summer term of an academic year. "Academic year" means one full academic cycle that includes a summer semester, a fall semester and a spring semester.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §4772, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2005, c. 519, Pt. XX, §1, is further amended to read:

2. Academic standing. Unless granted a waiver by the eligible institution, the student is maintaining a minimum secondary school grade point average of at least ~~3.0~~ 2.0 on a scale of 4.0, or the equivalent of a "B C" average, as determined by the school administrative unit.

This subsection is repealed July 31, 2028;

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §4772, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2005, c. 519, Pt. XX, §2, is further amended to read:

5. Parental approval. The student's parent approves; ~~and~~

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §4772, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 519, Pt. XX, §3, is amended to read:

6. Recommendation. The student has received a recommendation to take a postsecondary course or courses at an eligible institution from the student's school administration or one of the student's secondary school teachers following an assessment of the student by the school administration, or from a school official with knowledge of the student's academic performance; ~~and~~

Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §4772, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

7. Public tuition. The student is a resident of the State who:

A. Is enrolled in a school administrative unit or in a magnet school pursuant to chapter 312 in the State;

B. Is enrolled as a tuition student in a school administrative unit or a private school approved for tuition purposes pursuant to chapter 219; or

C. Is a student receiving home instruction as outlined in section 5001-A, subsection 3, paragraph A, subparagraph (4).

Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §4772, as amended by PL 2005, c. 519, Pt. XX, §§1 to 3, is further amended by enacting at the end a new paragraph to read:

This chapter may not be construed to limit an eligible institution's authority to determine individual student enrollment.

Sec. 7. 20-A MRSA §4772-A, as amended by PL 2005, c. 519, Pt. XX, §4, is further amended by enacting at the end a new paragraph to read:

This section is repealed July 31, 2028.

Sec. 8. 20-A MRSA §4772-B, 2nd ¶, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 400, §1, is amended to read:

A student who meets the requirements of this section is eligible to participate in postsecondary courses at an eligible institution under this section, subject to the requirements and conditions of sections 4774 ~~to 4776 and 4775~~. Notwithstanding section 15672, subsection 32, a student described in this section is considered to be a subsidizable pupil for purposes of receiving the subsidy provided in this chapter.

Sec. 9. 20-A MRSA §4774, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Transcript. A high school shall record the number of credits awarded and the corresponding postsecondary institution granting the credits on a student's high school transcript.

Sec. 10. 20-A MRSA §4774, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Secondary school lifetime credit cap. A secondary school student is eligible to receive state subsidy for postsecondary courses up to a lifetime credit cap of 18 total credits.

This subsection is repealed July 31, 2028.

Sec. 11. 20-A MRSA §4774, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Early college career pathway lifetime credit cap. A career and technical education student in a designated early college career pathway is eligible to receive state subsidy for postsecondary courses up to a lifetime credit cap of 24 total credits.

This subsection is repealed July 31, 2028.

Sec. 12. 20-A MRSA §4775, first ¶, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C, §8, is repealed.

Sec. 13. 20-A MRSA §4775, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C, §8, is further amended by enacting at the end a new paragraph to read:

Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, the department shall reimburse each eligible institution the cost of in-state tuition up to the maximum rate, calculated as follows: 50% of the average in-state tuition rate for the highest and lowest in-state tuition rates established by the University of Maine System for eligible institutions within the system. Funds appropriated to the department to carry out the purposes of this chapter must be in addition to the customary and ongoing amounts appropriated for general purpose aid for local schools.

Sec. 14. 20-A MRSA §4776, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 240, Pt. VVV, §2, is repealed.

Sec. 15. Department of Education report on secondary school students receiving state subsidies for postsecondary courses. The Department of Education, referred to in this section as "the department," in collaboration with eligible institutions under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 208-A, shall provide a report regarding the effect of changes made by this Act to eligibility requirements for a secondary school student to receive a state subsidy for postsecondary courses and regarding the imposition of lifetime credit caps on secondary school students and career and technical education students in a designated early college career pathway. By February 1, 2028, the department shall submit the report, including any recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs, which may report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 632

H.P. 1424 - L.D. 2109

An Act to Define "Public Education" and Clarify That a Private School Receiving Approval for Public Tuition Must Be Located in the State

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1, sub-§23-C is enacted to read:

23-C. Public education. "Public education" means education that:

A. Is provided primarily at public expense;

B. Meets all state and federal requirements for education for enrolled students;

C. Is provided to students for free in every grade level from kindergarten to grade 12; and

D. Is provided in accordance with section 1001, subsection 8.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §2951, sub-§3, as amended by PL 1985, c. 797, §25, is further amended to read:

3. Incorporated; located within State. Is incorporated under the laws of the State of Maine or of the United States and, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, if the instructional facility and administrative offices are located within the State;

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §15689-F, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2013, c. 581, §11, is further amended to read:

3. Casino revenues. If the annual funding for public education instruction for children in public preschool programs and public education for children in kindergarten and grades one to 12 is supported by casino revenues credited to the department pursuant to Title 8, section 1036, the department shall journal expenditures from the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools, General Fund account to the K-12 Essential Programs and Services, Other Special Revenue Funds account to meet financial obligations and for purposes of cash flow.

Sec. 4. Approval for receipt of public funds by private schools not located within State; students currently enrolled. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 2951, subsection 3, a private school that is not located within the State that was approved for tuition purposes pursuant to Title 20-A, section 2951 prior to the effective date of this Act at which a student from the State is enrolled pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5204, subsection 4 as of the effective date of this Act may continue to receive

the tuition rate for that student as calculated pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5806 until the student has completed the student's secondary school education at the private school, as long as the private school continues to meet all requirements for approval under Title 20-A, section 2951 other than the requirements of Title 20-A, section 2951, subsection 3.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 633

H.P. 1429 - L.D. 2114

An Act Regarding Public Preschool Programs Serving Children Who Are 3 Years of Age

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1, sub-§23-A, as amended by PL 2019, c. 241, §1, is further amended to read:

23-A. Public preschool program. "Public preschool program" means a program offered by a public elementary school pursuant to chapter 203 that provides instruction to children who are 3 or 4 years of age, including but not limited to a ~~Head Start~~ program of instruction provided by providers licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services that is approved as a component of the public preschool program.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §405, sub-§3, ¶T, as amended by PL 2013, c. 581, §1, is further amended to read:

T. Establish and maintain a 5-year plan for education that includes goals and policies for the education of children ~~who are 4 years of age~~ in public preschool programs and children in kindergarten and grades one to 12 and that promotes services for public preschool children. The plan must incorporate and build upon the work of the Task Force on Learning Results established in Public Law 1993, chapter 290 and the federal GOALS 2000: Educate America Act;

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §4251, first ¶, as amended by PL 2015, c. 267, Pt. C, §1, is further amended to read:

The intent of this subchapter is to encourage school administrative units to place an increased emphasis on instruction and curriculum for all children ~~beginning at 4 years of age~~ in public preschool programs to grade 2. This subchapter is not intended as a method of financing existing efforts but as a way of encouraging the development of new or expanded programs.

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §4252, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2007, c. 141, §3, is further amended to read:

4. Programs for children 3 years of age, 4 years of age and 5 years of age. Encourage the development of public preschool programs or 2-year kindergartens in conformity with section 5201, subsection 2, paragraph C, ~~D and E~~ and other appropriate programs to address the needs of children 3 years of age, 4 years of age and 5 years of age;

Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA c. 203, sub-c. 3, head-note is amended to read:

SUBCHAPTER 3

PUBLIC PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN 4 YEARS OF AGE

Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §4271, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 581, §3, is amended to read:

2. Allowable costs; children 4 years of age. Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year and for each subsequent school year, the State may provide start-up funding for the allowable costs to operate public preschool programs for children 4 years of age under this subchapter.

Sec. 7. 20-A MRSA §4271, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Allowable costs; children 3 years of age with disabilities. Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year and for each subsequent school year, in addition to the funding permitted pursuant to subsection 2, the State may provide start-up funding for the allowable costs to operate public preschool programs for children who are 3 years of age and have been identified as a child with a disability pursuant to section 7001, subsection 1-B.

Sec. 8. 20-A MRSA §4271, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C, §5, is further amended to read:

3. Grant funds. Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year and for each subsequent school year until the 2026-2027 school year, the commissioner may provide start-up funding to qualified school administrative units to operate public preschool programs for children 4 years of age and, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year and for each subsequent school year, public preschool programs for children 3 or 4 years of age. Grants provided for allowable costs for approved public preschool programs must be provided from state, federal or private funds appropriated, allocated or authorized by the Legislature for that purpose.

Sec. 9. 20-A MRSA §4271, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 581, §3, is amended to read:

4. Qualifications; rules. To qualify for a grant under this section, a school administrative unit must

submit an implementation plan to the department for the operation of a new or expanded public preschool program. The qualifications established for implementation plans must contain standards and best practices for public preschool programs and must encourage a school administrative unit to demonstrate coordination with other early childhood programs in the community to maximize resources and provide comprehensive services to meet the needs of children 3 or 4 years of age in accordance with this subchapter and rules adopted by the commissioner. In awarding grants under this section, the commissioner shall give priority to a qualified school administrative unit that has a greater percentage of economically disadvantaged students as determined pursuant to section 15675, subsection 2 than other qualified school administrative units under this subsection and in accordance with the following order of preference:

- A. The first preference must be to award grant funds to a qualified school administrative unit that does not operate a public preschool program and that submits a plan for the development and operation of a new public preschool program; and
- B. The 2nd preference must be to award grant funds to a qualified school administrative unit that operates a public preschool program and that submits a plan for the development and operation of an expanded public preschool program.

The commissioner shall adopt rules that establish criteria for the approval of implementation plans and for the awarding of start-up funds for the allowable costs of operating public preschool programs. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 10. 20-A MRSA §4271, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 581, §3, is amended to read:

5. Application for federal public preschool funds. The department may apply for assistance from the Federal Government for the development of public preschool programs for children 3 or 4 years of age on behalf of school administrative units in the State. The department shall administer any federal funds received for the benefit of public preschool programs in the State. As the designated state agency authorized to administer federal funds, the department shall develop a state plan and application for funding public preschool programs and shall disburse federal funds as authorized and required by applicable federal law. Beginning in fiscal year 2015-16, the department shall provide any federal funds received to qualified school administrative units as part of the start-up funding provided for the development and operation of public preschool programs under this section. If federal funds are used as part of the start-up funds to operate new or expanded public preschool programs, the students enrolled in these programs must be considered subsidizable pupils for purposes of state subsidy calculations pursuant to chapter 606-B, except

that students who have not attained 4 years of age and have not been identified as a child with a disability pursuant to section 7001, subsection 1-B may not be considered subsidizable pupils for the purposes of state subsidy calculations made pursuant to chapter 606-B.

Sec. 11. 20-A MRSA §4502, sub-§9, as amended by PL 2013, c. 581, §5, is further amended to read:

9. Public preschool programs for children 3 or 4 years of age. To the extent the State provides adequate start-up funding for a public preschool program for children 3 or 4 years of age, a school administrative unit that does not have a public preschool program for children 3 or 4 years of age may develop a public preschool program implementation plan for children 3 or 4 years of age for submission to and approval by the department. Evaluation and approval of the proposal must include consideration of at least the following factors:

- A. Demonstrated coordination with other early childhood programs in the community to maximize resources;
- B. Consideration of the extended child care needs of working parents; and
- C. Provision of public notice regarding the proposal to the community being served, including the extent to which public notice has been disseminated broadly to other early childhood programs in the community.

Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year until the 2026-2027 school year, the commissioner may provide start-up funding as set forth in section 4271 to school administrative units to implement or expand public preschool programs for children 4 years of age as required under this subsection. Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, the commissioner may provide start-up funding as set forth in section 4271 to school administrative units to implement or expand public preschool programs for children 3 or 4 years of age as required under this subsection.

Sec. 12. 20-A MRSA §5201, sub-§2, ¶C, as amended by PL 2007, c. 141, §12, is further amended to read:

- C. A person who will be at least 4 years of age on October 15th of the school year may enroll in a public preschool program prior to kindergarten if it is offered available.

Sec. 13. 20-A MRSA §5201, sub-§2, ¶D is enacted to read:

- D. A person who will be at least 3 years of age on October 15th of the school year and is not identified as a child with a disability pursuant to section 7001, subsection 1-B, may enroll in a public preschool program if it is available and the program provides instruction to children who are 3 years of age and

have not been identified as a child with a disability pursuant to section 7001, subsection 1-B.

Sec. 14. 20-A MRSA §5201, sub-§2, ¶E is enacted to read:

E. A person who is at least 3 years of age and is identified as a child with a disability pursuant to section 7001, subsection 1-B may enroll in an available public preschool program at any time prior to enrolling in kindergarten.

Sec. 15. 20-A MRSA §15688-A, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 581, §10, is amended to read:

4. New or expanded public preschool programs for children 4 years of age. Beginning in fiscal year 2015-16 and for each subsequent fiscal year until the 2026-27 fiscal year, the commissioner may expend and disburse one-time, start-up funds to provide grants for expanded access to public preschool programs for children 4 years of age pursuant to chapter 203, subchapter 3. Beginning in fiscal year 2026-27 and for each subsequent fiscal year, the commissioner may expend and disburse one-time, start-up funds to provide grants for expanded access to public preschool programs for children 3 or 4 years of age pursuant to chapter 203, subchapter 3. The amounts of the grant funding provided to qualified school administrative units pursuant to chapter 203, subchapter 3 are limited to the amounts appropriated, allocated or authorized by the Legislature for the operation of public preschool programs. Any balance of funds appropriated, allocated or authorized by the Legislature remaining at the end of a fiscal year do not lapse and are carried forward to the next fiscal year to carry out the purposes of chapter 203, subchapter 3.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 634

S.P. 823 - L.D. 2130

An Act to Support Employment Opportunities for Military Spouses

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §7054-B, sub-§1, ¶C is enacted to read:

C. "Eligible service member" means a person who is serving on active duty in the United States Armed Forces including the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces and the National Guard and a person actively serving in the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §7054-B, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 438, §2, is amended to read:

2. Interview. In filling any position in the classified service, the employing agency shall offer an interview to any veteran ~~or~~ gold star spouse or spouse of an eligible service member who meets the minimum qualifications established for the position.

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §7054-B, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 438, §2, is amended to read:

3. Retention preference. In any reduction in personnel in the state service, employees who are veterans ~~or~~ gold star spouses or spouses of eligible service members must be retained in preference to all other competing employees in the same classification with equal seniority, status and performance reviews.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 635

S.P. 830 - L.D. 2133

An Act Regarding Licensing of Community Paramedicine Services and Clinicians

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §2147, sub-§15, as corrected by RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. A, §30, is amended to read:

15. ~~Emergency medical services community~~ Community paramedicine services. ~~Ambulance services and nontransporting emergency medical~~ Community paramedicine services as defined in Title 32, section 83, subsection 9-C and licensed under Title 32, chapter 2-B, ~~that are authorized by the Emergency Medical Services' Board to provide community paramedicine services pursuant to Title 32, section 84, subsection 4.~~ This exemption applies for the express and exclusive purpose of delivering community paramedicine services, as long as:

A. The care is episodic. For the purposes of this paragraph, "episodic" means an encounter with a patient focused on presenting concerns and an identified medical condition in which neither the community paramedic nor the patient has the expectation of an ongoing general home care relationship; and

B. The Emergency Medical Services' Board adopts rules requiring authorized community paramedicine services to:

- (1) Comply with the Maine Background Check Center Act requirements as described in chapter 1691;
- (2) Conduct initial and ongoing training of all staff regarding their obligations as mandatory reporters;

(3) Meet licensing standards consistent with those required by section 2145, subsections 3 and 4; and

(4) Coordinate with home health agencies; and

Sec. 2. 24-A MRSA §4303-F, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2025, c. 34, §1 and affected by §2, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

Notwithstanding this subsection, a carrier is not required to reimburse an ambulance service provider at the reimbursement rates required in this subsection for covered services delivered through community paramedicine in accordance with Title 32, section ~~84, sub-section 4~~ 85-D and a carrier may require an ambulance service provider to obtain prior authorization before providing services through community paramedicine.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §82, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2021, c. 220, §1, is further amended to read:

1. Licenses required. An ambulance service, ambulance, nontransporting emergency medical service, emergency medical services person, community paramedicine clinician, community paramedicine service, emergency medical services ambulance operator, emergency medical dispatch center or emergency medical dispatcher may not operate or practice unless duly licensed by the Emergency Medical Services' Board board pursuant to this chapter, except as stated in subsection 2.

Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §83, sub-§9-A is enacted to read:

9-A. Community paramedicine. "Community paramedicine" means the practice by an emergency medical services provider, primarily in an out-of-hospital setting, of providing episodic patient evaluation, advice and treatment directed at preventing or improving a particular medical condition.

Sec. 5. 32 MRSA §83, sub-§9-B is enacted to read:

9-B. Community paramedicine clinician. "Community paramedicine clinician" means an emergency medical services person licensed under this chapter who has completed specialized education and training to operate in an expanded role, providing episodic, proactive and preventive health care services in nonemergency settings.

Sec. 6. 32 MRSA §83, sub-§9-C is enacted to read:

9-C. Community paramedicine service. "Community paramedicine service" means an ambulance service or other nontransporting emergency medical service licensed to provide community paramedicine.

Sec. 7. 32 MRSA §83, sub-§12-B is enacted to read:

12-B. Emergency medical services instructor. "Emergency medical services instructor" means the lead instructor in a Maine Emergency Medical Services licensure program.

Sec. 8. 32 MRSA §84, sub-§4, as repealed and replaced by PL 2023, c. 195, §4, is repealed.

Sec. 9. 32 MRSA §85-C is enacted to read:

§85-C. Community paramedicine clinicians

1. License required. A community paramedicine clinician must be licensed by the board in accordance with rules adopted by the board.

2. Minimum requirements for licensing. In adopting rules for the licensure of community paramedicine clinicians, the board shall ensure that a person is not licensed to provide community paramedicine unless that person's qualifications are at least those specified in this subsection.

A. The person has successfully completed training conducted by an emergency medical services instructor as specified in rules adopted by the board pursuant to the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.

B. The person has successfully demonstrated trustworthiness and competence to engage in the practice of community paramedicine in such a manner as to safeguard the interests of the public.

C. The person holds a separate license as an emergency medical services person.

Initial rules adopted pursuant to this section are major substantive rules and any subsequent amendments to rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 10. 32 MRSA §85-D is enacted to read:

§85-D. Community paramedicine services

1. License required. A community paramedicine service must be licensed and must operate in accordance with rules and protocols adopted for services under this chapter.

2. Mandatory qualifications. The board shall adopt rules governing the qualifications for and standards to be observed by community paramedicine services, including:

A. The identification of a primary care medical director with whom the community paramedicine service works;

B. The identification of an emergency medical services medical director;

C. The qualifications for a primary care medical director or emergency medical services medical director identified under paragraph A or B, except that the board may not restrict eligibility to only licensed physicians and shall permit eligibility for an individual serving as a volunteer or serving in a dual capacity as a community paramedicine service's primary care medical director and emergency medical services medical director;

D. Compliance with the Maine Background Check Center Act requirements as described in Title 22, chapter 1691;

E. Conducting initial and ongoing training of all staff regarding their obligations as mandatory reporters; and

F. Meeting licensing standards that address the following areas:

- (1) General requirements;
- (2) Qualifications for professional personnel;
- (3) Qualifications for paraprofessional personnel;
- (4) Treatment and services and their coordination;
- (5) Organizational structure, including lines of authority;
- (6) Treatment records;
- (7) Business records; and
- (8) Other aspects of community paramedicine that may be necessary to protect the public.

Initial rules adopted pursuant to this section are major substantive rules and any subsequent amendments to rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 636

S.P. 834 - L.D. 2135

An Act to Provide Funding to Keep Maine Veterans Housed

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

Sec. 1. 37-B MRSA §513-B is enacted to read:
§513-B. Veterans' Housing Provider Incentive Program; establishment; report

The Veterans' Housing Provider Incentive Program is established to provide grants to organizations to support permanent housing for veteran populations.

1. Fund established. The Veterans' Housing Provider Incentive Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established under the bureau for the purpose of receiving funds from state, federal and other sources, including donations from private citizens, corporations and entities for the purposes of this section.

2. Grants to support permanent housing. The bureau shall use the fund to award grants to organizations that have been determined by the United States Internal Revenue Service to be exempt from taxation under the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, Section 501(c)(3) and have as a core program supporting permanent housing for veteran populations. An organization awarded a grant under this section may use the funding for housing provider incentives, risk mitigation payments and past rental debt payments for veterans experiencing homelessness.

3. Rules. The bureau may adopt rules necessary to implement this section, including requirements for organizations to report on the use of grant funding received under this section. Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

4. Report. The bureau shall submit a report by February 15, 2027, and by February 15th in any year in which a grant is issued, regarding grants awarded to organizations under this section, including information from the organizations on their use of that funding, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans affairs.

Sec. 2. Transfer; Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Unit, Sports Wagering program, Other Special Revenue Funds account. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$90,000 from the Sports Wagering program, Other Special Revenue Funds account in the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Unit to the Veterans' Housing Provider Incentive Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account in the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services for a grant program to support permanent housing for veteran populations.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Veterans' Housing Provider Incentive Fund N570

Initiative: Provides one-time funds to issue grants to eligible organizations to support permanent housing.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$90,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE \$0 \$90,000
FUNDS TOTAL

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 637

S.P. 884 - L.D. 2179

An Act Regarding the Licensing of Online Used Car Dealers

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

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §958 is enacted to read:

§958. Online used car dealer licensure and regulation

1. Online used car dealer; definition. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "online used car dealer" means a licensed used motor vehicle dealer that conducts sales exclusively through electronic or digital platforms and does not operate a physical retail display location in this State. An online used car dealer may partner with a service center or inspection station licensed in this State as required by law but may not maintain an in-person sales lot.

2. Licensure and regulation. The bureau shall conduct a 2-year pilot program to license and regulate online used car dealers operating under this section. The bureau may license and regulate online used car dealers operating under this section.

3. Eligibility. To qualify for licensure as an online used car dealer, an applicant must:

A. Hold valid authority as a corporation or limited liability entity in good standing with the Secretary of State;

B. Demonstrate motor vehicle sales in multiple jurisdictions within the United States;

C. Provide proof of a minimum of 100 annual motor vehicle sales; and

D. Meet all background check requirements established by the Secretary of State.

4. Application for license. The following provisions govern the application for a license for an online used car dealer.

A. An online used car dealer shall apply for a license in accordance with the requirements under section 901.

B. An online used car dealer is exempt from the established place of business requirements set forth in sections 851 to 952 but may maintain a physical location in this State. If an online used car dealer

elects to establish or operate a physical office, inspection station or repair facility in this State, that location must fully comply with all applicable dealer licensing standards and regulatory requirements in effect for used car dealer licensees.

C. An online used car dealer shall file with the Secretary of State and maintain a surety bond of \$350,000.

D. The annual fee for an online used car dealer license is \$500.

5. License requirements. Unless expressly modified by this section, an online used car dealer is subject to and shall comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations governing the licensing and sale of new and used motor vehicles in this State.

6. Disclosure requirements. The following provisions govern online used car dealer disclosures.

A. An online used car dealer is exempt from the physical display requirements set forth in Title 10, sections 1474 and 1475. At the time of an electronic or digital display on an electronic or digital platform, an online used car dealer shall provide a consumer with a disclosure consistent with the requirements of Title 10, chapter 217 and the Federal Trade Commission's Used Motor Vehicle Trade Regulation Rule in 16 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 455.

B. A disclosure form authorized by this State must be provided to the purchaser at the time of delivery to the purchaser, signed by the purchaser and retained by the online used car dealer in compliance with the record-keeping requirements of Title 10, chapter 217.

7. Inspection requirements. The following provisions govern inspections of motor vehicles under this section.

A. A motor vehicle sold by an online used car dealer must pass an inspection in this State prior to sale. A reconstructable motor vehicle as defined in Title 10, section 1471, subsection 6-A or an unsafe motor vehicle may not be sold by an online used car dealer.

B. A motor vehicle sold to a purchaser in this State must be inspected by an inspection station licensed in this State prior to delivery to the purchaser and must display a valid inspection sticker issued within 60 days of sale.

8. Inspection stations; repair facilities. The following provisions govern inspection stations and repair facilities in relation to online used car dealers.

A. An online used car dealer may obtain a license for an inspection station in this State. All standards governing inspection stations apply to such an inspection station.

B. An online used car dealer may partner with an inspection station in this State. The partner inspection station must be included in the application for licensure and renewal. The partnership must be set out in writing. Any changes to the partnership must be immediately disclosed to the bureau.

C. The failure of an online used car dealer to obtain a license for an inspection station in this State or to have a partner inspection station in this State is grounds for suspension of a license issued pursuant to subsection 4.

D. An online used car dealer that does not maintain a repair facility in this State shall, in writing, disclose to a vehicle purchaser the name, address and contact information of a designated repair facility or a partner location authorized to perform required warranty service. The disclosure must be provided at or before the time of the vehicle sale and included in the online used car dealer's warranty documentation.

9. Records. All sales and transaction records must be maintained in accordance with section 956, may be kept electronically and must be produced within one business day upon request of the Secretary of State, the Attorney General or a law enforcement officer.

10. Plates. An online used car dealer is not eligible for dealer plates. Temporary plates issued by this State may be issued only for sales to purchasers in this State.

11. Contact information. An online used car dealer shall:

A. Provide a direct-access telephone number to a designated corporate representative of the online used car dealer who is authorized to assist the bureau and the Office of the Attorney General in resolving consumer complaints and inquiries and in obtaining required records;

B. Provide written customer support contact information, including a toll-free telephone number and electronic communication address, to each purchaser at the time of sale; and

C. Maintain business hours at reasonable times during which a customer can contact the online used car dealer.

12. Enforcement. The following provisions govern enforcement of this section.

A. An online used car dealer's failure to comply with the provisions of this section, including inspection, disclosure, warranty obligations or record retention, constitutes grounds for license suspension or revocation under section 903.

B. Breach of a consumer sales contract by an online used car dealer is expressly grounds for administrative action, including license suspension or revocation under section 903.

C. An online used car dealer shall designate an agent registered in this State to accept service of process. The name and contact information of the registered agent must be provided to the bureau.

13. Rulemaking. The Secretary of State may adopt rules to implement this section, including licensing procedures, disclosure formats, inspection coordination and reporting requirements. Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

14. Repeal. This section is repealed December 31, 2028.

Sec. 2. Report. The Secretary of State shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters no later than January 15, 2028 evaluating the effectiveness, risks and consumer protection outcomes of online used car dealer licensure and regulation established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 958. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters may report out legislation regarding the Secretary of State's report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 638

H.P. 1472 - L.D. 2191

An Act to Establish a Biennial Inspection System for Vehicle Rental Companies

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

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §1751, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Biennial inspection; rental vehicles. A business that rents noncommercial motor vehicles to the public may receive a 2-year certificate of inspection for each vehicle if the business:

A. Has at least 700 noncommercial motor vehicles registered in the State per year; and

B. Files an affidavit with the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police that includes a statement that the fleet of rental vehicles under paragraph A will meet or exceed the inspection standards set forth in section 1756 and administered by the Chief of the State Police over the 2-year period.

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §1766, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2011, c. 191, §2, is further amended to read:

3. Fee. Except as provided in subsection 3-A and 3-B, stickers are furnished by the Chief of the State Police at \$2.50 each.

Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §1766, sub-§3-B is enacted to read:

3-B. Fee for business that rents noncommercial motor vehicles. Stickers furnished by the Chief of the State Police to a business that rents noncommercial vehicles pursuant to section 1751, subsection 1-A are 2 times the fee for stickers under subsection 3.

Sec. 4. Effective date. This Act takes effect January 1, 2027.

Effective January 1, 2027.

CHAPTER 639 S.P. 896 - L.D. 2195

An Act to Prohibit the Appointment or Assignment of an Attorney to Provide Indigent Legal Services Without That Attorney's Consent

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

Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §1802-A, as repealed and replaced by PL 2025, c. 511, §2, is amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§1802-A. Employed counsel and public defender; ~~direct assignment prohibited~~ court appointment and assignment of counsel

Sec. 2. 4 MRSA §1802-A, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Compensation of attorneys appointed or assigned by court to provide indigent legal services. The commission is not required to reimburse the expenses of or to compensate an attorney appointed or assigned by a court to provide indigent legal services unless the attorney is an assigned counsel; the commission has determined that the attorney is eligible for appointment or assignment in the type of court proceeding to which the attorney has been appointed or assigned; and the attorney consents in advance to the appointment or assignment.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 640 H.P. 1482 - L.D. 2203

An Act to Limit Rates Charged to Low-income Electricity Consumers

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3203, sub-§4-D is enacted to read:

4-D. Low-income assistance program; rate limitation. A competitive electricity provider may not provide to a customer receiving low-income assistance authorized by section 3214, subsection 2 generation service at a rate that is greater than the standard-offer service rate established under section 3212 that would otherwise be applicable to that customer. The commission may adopt rules to implement this subsection, including, but not limited to, rules governing the sharing of low-income assistance customer data by a transmission and distribution utility with a competitive electricity provider. Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 641 S.P. 690 - L.D. 1772

An Act to Establish the Fund for a Healthy Maine Stabilization Fund

Emergency preamble. **Whereas**, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, Fund for a Healthy Maine funds are essential for funding tobacco use prevention and treatment, other chronic disease prevention initiatives and health promotion efforts in the State, particularly for the benefit of children and families in the State; and

Whereas, the disputed payments under the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement pursuant to the lawsuit *State of Maine v. Philip Morris, et al.*, Kennebec County Superior Court, Docket No. CV-97-134 that the State expects to receive as early as April 2026 for fiscal year 2026-27 and fiscal year 2027-28 offer an opportunity to eliminate the need for a working capital advance, but the exact arrival date of those payments is uncertain; and

Whereas, in order to help stabilize the Fund for a Healthy Maine, provide support in public health planning and policy making and eliminate reliance on a

working capital advance, a stabilization fund must be in place by the start of the fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2026; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1511, sub-§6, ¶G, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §71, is further amended to read:

G. Substance use disorder prevention and treatment; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §1511, sub-§6, ¶H, as amended by PL 2007, c. 539, Pt. IIII, §3, is further amended to read:

H. Comprehensive school health and nutrition programs, including school-based health centers; ~~and~~

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §1511, sub-§6, ¶I is enacted to read:

I. Uses described in section 1513, subsection 3.

Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §1513 is enacted to read:

§1513. Fund for a Healthy Maine Stabilization Fund

1. Stabilization fund established. The Fund for a Healthy Maine Stabilization Fund, referred to in this section as "the stabilization fund," is established as a dedicated, nonlapsing subaccount of the Fund for a Healthy Maine special revenue account.

2. Sources of stabilization fund. The State Controller shall credit to the stabilization fund:

A. All nonparticipating manufacturer adjustments disputed in 2026 and 2027 by the State in settlement of or in relation to the lawsuit *State of Maine v. Philip Morris, et al.*, Kennebec County Superior Court, Docket No. CV-97-134. For the purposes of this subsection, "nonparticipating manufacturer" has the same meaning as in section 1580-L, subsection 1, paragraph D;

B. Ten percent of all nonparticipating manufacturer adjustments disputed in 2028 and thereafter by the State in settlement of or in relation to the lawsuit *State of Maine v. Philip Morris, et al.*, Kennebec County Superior Court, Docket No. CV-97-134; and

C. A proportionate share of interest or other investment income on balances in the Fund for a Healthy Maine, as described by section 1511, subsection 2, paragraph C.

3. Use of funds; priority. Allocations from the stabilization fund must be used for the following purposes and in the following order of priority:

A. First, for Fund for a Healthy Maine program allocations beginning July 1, 2027, up to the amount budgeted to be received pursuant to the Master Settlement Agreement as defined in section 1580-H, subsection 5 before April 30, 2028;

B. Second, if the need for a working capital advance or use of settlement payments pursuant to the Master Settlement Agreement as defined in section 1580-H, subsection 5 in the fiscal year in which the settlement payments are received is not eliminated before April 30, 2028 and funds remain in the stabilization fund in subsequent years, to reduce reliance on these sources until all settlement payments can be allocated to the fiscal year following the year in which the settlement payments are received; and

C. Third, if funds remain following the uses described in paragraphs A and B, for any allowable health promotion purpose described in section 1511, subsection 6 or health-related research and planning activities to supplement and connect current efforts among state agencies and stakeholders.

4. Transfer of funds. If the stabilization fund is eliminated or dissolved for any reason, the State Controller shall transfer the balance of funds back to the Fund for a Healthy Maine established in section 1511.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 6, 2026.

CHAPTER 642

S.P. 559 - L.D. 1343

An Act to Protect the Right to Harvest Fish and Wildlife

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10050 is enacted to read:

§10050. Right to harvest fish and wildlife; limitations

1. Right to harvest fish and wildlife. Pursuant to the right to food as declared in the Constitution of Maine, Article I, Section 25, the people of this State have the right to harvest fish and wildlife by hunting, fishing or trapping for their own nourishment, sustenance, bodily health or well-being.

2. Limitation. The exercise of the right to harvest fish and wildlife is expressly limited by all applicable

laws, rules and regulations authorized pursuant to this Title, which the department shall enforce.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 643

S.P. 651 - L.D. 1643

An Act to Establish the Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §15303, sub-§6, ¶D, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 401, Pt. AAA, §3, is amended to read:

D. Shall coordinate its priorities with the applied research and development efforts of the University of Maine System insofar as those efforts are in the targeted technologies and encourage, when possible and appropriate, companies and research laboratories receiving funds from the institute to establish joint ventures with the university system; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §15303, sub-§6, ¶E, as amended by PL 2017, c. 109, §3, is further amended to read:

E. Shall cooperate with the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the University of Maine System and others in their efforts to ensure that a complementary system of support services, including, as needed and appropriate, incubators, business assistance, technology transfer, market research, patent research and similar services, is in place and available to companies and research laboratories receiving funds from the institute; and

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §15303, sub-§6, ¶F is enacted to read:

F. Shall support the Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center pursuant to section 15331.

Sec. 4. 5 MRSA c. 407, sub-c. 4 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 4

MAINE LIFE SCIENCES INNOVATION CENTER

§15331. Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center

1. Establishment; purpose. The Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center, referred to in this subchapter as "the center," is established within the institute to support life sciences innovation, research, entrepreneurship

and workforce development in the State. The center is established to serve the following purposes:

A. To leverage and expand the State's life sciences sector by supporting collaborative research, workforce training and entrepreneurial ventures and seeking capital investment;

B. To advance life sciences innovation and sector research across disciplines, including human and animal health, marine sciences, agriculture, forestry and data science;

C. To coordinate with public and private partners, educational and research institutions, nonprofit organizations and business stakeholders to strengthen the State's innovation efforts;

D. To investigate opportunities for grants, loans and other resources to support life sciences entities;

E. To develop strategies to attract federal, philanthropic and private investment;

F. To advise the Maine Technology Institute Director under section 15310 on matters related to life sciences innovation; and

G. To report regularly to the Legislature regarding the center's operations, activities and recommendations.

2. Membership. The center is composed of 10 members. The members include:

A. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the commissioner's designee, who serves as an ex officio, nonvoting member; and

B. Nine voting members appointed by the Governor, upon the recommendation of the Finance Authority of Maine and the institute, with expertise spanning the life sciences sector and its allied disciplines, including representatives of industry, life sciences entrepreneurs, research institutions, academia, hospitals, nonprofit organizations, investors and counties, including rural counties. Each member under this paragraph is entitled to one vote.

The Governor shall designate a chair from among the center's members to preside at, set the agenda for and schedule center meetings.

Center members shall disclose any direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any matter before the center and recuse themselves from any participation in the consideration of such a matter.

3. Operations. The following provisions govern the operations of the center.

A. The center shall meet as often as it considers necessary for the center to perform its work.

B. To the extent practicable, the center shall conduct its work in a manner that is open and accessible to the public.

C. The center may conduct its work through subcommittees.

4. Staff and administrative support. The institute shall provide staff as may be necessary to fulfill the center's mission and may seek assistance from other state agencies and private entities to accomplish the goals and work of the center.

5. Annual report. The center shall submit annually to the Governor, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters, no later than 120 days after the close of the center's fiscal year, a complete report on the activities of the center. The report must be made available to the public and must include the following for that fiscal year:

A. A description of the center's operations;

B. An accounting of the center's receipts and expenditures, assets and liabilities at the end of its fiscal year;

C. A listing of all investments, grants, loans and incentives provided by the center during the fiscal year;

D. A statement of the center's proposed and projected activities for the ensuing fiscal year; and

E. Recommendations regarding further actions that may be suitable for achieving the purposes of this subchapter.

After reviewing the report under this subsection, the joint standing committee may report out legislation relating to the report.

Sec. 5. Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center; interim report. The Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 15331 shall submit an interim report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters no later than 180 days after all members of the center have been appointed pursuant to Title 5, section 15331, subsection 2. The interim report must include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. A description of the center's operations;

2. Proposed and projected activities for the ensuing fiscal year; and

3. Recommendations for future actions necessary to achieve the center's goals, including a recommendation regarding whether the center should be changed to a quasi-independent state entity.

After reviewing the report under this section, the joint standing committee may report out legislation relating to the report.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 644

S.P. 676 - L.D. 1730

An Act to Make Small Plug-in Solar Generation Devices Accessible for All Maine Residents to Address the Energy Affordability Crisis

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3475 is enacted to read:

§3475. Plug-in photovoltaic and battery systems

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Eligible system" means a plug-in photovoltaic system or plug-in battery system with an export capacity of 1,200 watts or less that is:

(1) Listed or certified in accordance with UL 3700, the Outline of Investigation for Interactive Plug-in Photovoltaic Equipment and Systems, and any other applicable standards developed by UL LLC, formerly known as Underwriters Laboratories, or the National Electrical Code specific to plug-in photovoltaic systems and plug-in battery systems;

(2) Listed or certified in accordance with a standard comparable to UL 3700 from a nationally recognized testing laboratory; or

(3) Configured in accordance with the National Electrical Code that is adopted by rule by the Electricians' Examining Board, established in Title 5, section 12004-A, subsection 13.

B. "Interconnection agreement" means an agreement between a person and a transmission and distribution utility governing the connection of an interconnecting generating facility to the transmission and distribution utility's system and the ongoing operation of the interconnecting generating facility after it is connected to the system.

C. "Plug-in battery system" means an alternating current-coupled energy storage device that:

(1) Connects to a retail electricity customer's electrical system wiring through a standard electrical outlet;

(2) Is capable of charging from or discharging to the electrical system to which it is connected independently of any photovoltaic system; and

(3) Is intended to offset on-site electricity consumption by the retail electricity customer, perform energy arbitrage or participate in grid-support operations.

D. "Plug-in photovoltaic system" means a photovoltaic generation device that:

(1) Connects to a retail customer's electrical system wiring through a standard electrical outlet in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of interconnected electric power sources established in the National Electrical Code that is adopted by rule by the Electricians' Examining Board, established in Title 5, section 12004-A, subsection 13;

(2) Is intended primarily to offset part of the retail electricity customer's electricity consumption; and

(3) Uses inverters that are configured to shut off after 0.2 seconds if power is disrupted.

2. Authorization. Subject to the requirements of this section, a retail electricity customer may install and operate one or more eligible systems at the customer's service address for the purpose of offsetting on-site electricity consumption.

3. Capacity limitations. A retail electricity customer may install and operate one or more eligible systems with a combined inverter output of up to 420 watts, measured in alternating current, per service address. A retail electricity customer may install and operate plug-in photovoltaic systems and plug-in battery systems with combined inverter output exceeding 420 watts, but no more than 1,200 watts, per service address, as long as each system is installed by an electrician licensed in the State and uses a dedicated circuit with a single outlet and the customer complies with the notification requirement in subsection 5.

4. Net energy billing; prohibition. An eligible system installed and operated in accordance with the requirements of this section may not be used for net energy billing pursuant to sections 3209-A and 3209-B.

5. Notification for output exceeding 420 watts. A retail electricity customer that installs an eligible system in accordance with subsection 3 shall provide a notification to the transmission and distribution utility in whose service territory the eligible system is installed in a form prescribed by the commission within 30 days of installation. The notification must include, but is not limited to, the retail customer's service address, the inverter capacity of the eligible system and a statement that the retail electricity customer is in compliance with the requirements of this section. A transmission and dis-

tribution utility may not deny the installation of an eligible system that complies with the requirements of this section.

6. Prohibitions. A transmission and distribution utility may not require a retail electricity customer that installs or operates an eligible system in accordance with the requirements of this section to:

A. Obtain approval from the transmission and distribution utility prior to installation or operation;

B. Submit an interconnection application, execute an interconnection agreement or undergo an interconnection study in connection with the eligible system;

C. Pay any fee or charge to the transmission and distribution utility related to the eligible system; or

D. Install additional controls or equipment beyond what is integrated into the eligible system.

7. Liability. A transmission and distribution utility is not liable for any damage or injury caused by the installation or operation of an eligible system by a retail electricity customer in accordance with this section.

8. Structural and code compliance; installation or removal. A retail electricity customer that installs or operates an eligible system on or in a structure the customer does not own shall ensure that the installation or operation does not compromise the integrity of the structure or violate any state or local building, fire or zoning codes. Upon removal of an eligible system from a structure the customer does not own, the customer shall restore the structure to its condition prior to the installation.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 645

S.P. 825 - L.D. 2007

An Act Regarding the Prohibition of Online Sweepstakes Games

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

Sec. 1. **5 MRSA §20006-B, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. AA, §24, is further amended to read:

1. Fund established. The Gambling Addiction Prevention and Treatment Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established for the purpose of supporting gambling addiction analysis, prevention and treatment to be administered by the department. The fund is a dedicated, nonlapsing fund into which payments are received in accordance with Title 8, section

1036, subsection 2 and Title 8, section 1352, subsection 1.

Sec. 2. 8 MRSA c. 38 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 38

ONLINE SWEEPSTAKES GAMES PROHIBITED

§1351. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Board. "Board" means the Gambling Control Board established under section 1002.

2. Direct consideration. "Direct consideration" means a coin, token or other representation of value that may be purchased by a person or received through a bonus or promotion and that is used for playing or participating in an online sweepstakes game.

3. Dual-currency system of payment. "Dual-currency system of payment" means a system of payment that allows a person to play or participate with direct consideration or indirect consideration or that is otherwise designed in a manner that:

A. Prevents a person from directly purchasing coins, tokens or other representations of value that are redeemable for any cash prize, cash award or cash equivalents or the chance to win any cash prize, cash award or cash equivalents; and

B. Encourages a person to purchase services, products, coins, tokens or other representations of value that are not exchangeable for a prize, award, cash or cash equivalents or a chance to win a prize, award, cash or cash equivalents in order for that person to obtain the coins, tokens or other representations of value that are exchangeable for prizes, awards, cash or cash equivalents or a chance to win a prize, award, cash or cash equivalents.

The unit may adopt rules to further define what constitutes a dual-currency system of payment. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

4. Indirect consideration. "Indirect consideration" means a coin, token or other representation of value that:

A. Is provided for free through a promotion or bonus or with the purchase of a related product, service or activity; and

B. May be exchanged for a prize, award, cash or cash equivalents or a chance to win a prize, award, cash or cash equivalents.

As used in this subsection, "related product, service or activity" includes a coin, token or other representation of value that may be used for direct consideration.

5. Licensee. "Licensee" means a person that holds any one of the following licenses:

A. A license issued under chapter 31;

B. A license issued under chapter 33;

C. A license issued under chapter 35;

D. A license issued under chapter 39; or

E. A license issued under Title 17, chapter 62.

6. Online sweepstakes game. "Online sweepstakes game" means any game, contest or promotion that:

A. Is available on the Internet and accessible on a mobile telephone, computer terminal or similar access device;

B. Uses a dual-currency system of payment; and

C. Simulates casino-style gaming, including, but not limited to, slot machines, poker and other table games, lottery games, bingo or sports wagering.

7. Unit. "Unit" means the Gambling Control Unit established as a bureau within the Department of Public Safety under Title 25, section 2902, subsection 12.

§1352. Online sweepstakes games prohibited; fines; other penalties

A person that operates or promotes an online sweepstakes game or supports the operation or promotion of an online sweepstakes game commits a civil violation.

1. Fine. A person that violates this section is subject to a fine of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000. All fines adjudged pursuant to this section must be collected by the unit and distributed to the Gambling Addiction Prevention and Treatment Fund established in Title 5, section 20006-B.

2. Revocation of license. If a licensee is convicted of unlawful gambling under Title 17-A, section 954, subsection 1-B or is otherwise found to be in violation of this section through the administrative process applicable to the license held by the licensee, the unit or board, whichever is responsible for administering the license, shall revoke the licensee's license.

3. Ineligible for license. A person that is found to be in violation of this section is ineligible to receive a license described in section 1351, subsection 5.

Sec. 3. 17-A MRSA §954, sub-§1-B is enacted to read:

1-B. A person is guilty of unlawful gambling if the person operates or promotes an online sweepstakes game or supports the operation or promotion of an online sweepstakes game. For the purposes of this sub-

section, "online sweepstakes game" has the same meaning as in Title 8, section 1351, subsection 6.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 646

H.P. 1368 - L.D. 2038

An Act to Require Maine Transmission and Distribution Utility Participation in a Regional Transmission Organization

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3133-B is enacted to read:

§3133-B. Mandatory participation in regional transmission organization

1. Regional transmission organization; definition. For the purposes of this section, "regional transmission organization" has the same meaning as in section 10102, subsection 8.

2. Participation mandatory. Except as provided in subsection 3, a transmission and distribution utility may not own or control a transmission and distribution plant located in the State unless the transmission and distribution utility participates in a regional transmission organization.

3. Exceptions. The provisions of this section do not apply to:

A. A consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility as defined in section 3501, subsection 1; or

B. A transmission and distribution utility that owns or controls a transmission and distribution plant located in an area of this State in which the retail electricity market is administered by the independent system administrator for northern Maine.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 647

H.P. 1375 - L.D. 2051

An Act to Ensure Access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in Maine

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3104-A, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. OO, §§1 and 2, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3104-A, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Food assistance. The department shall provide food assistance to households that would be eligible for assistance under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, 7 United States Code, Section 2011 et seq. but for having an immigration status that does not qualify for federal food assistance benefits as follows.

A. An individual who was receiving food assistance under former subsection 1 as of July 1, 2011 may continue to receive assistance, as long as the individual remains eligible without regard to interruptions in coverage or gaps in eligibility for service.

B. A noncitizen who was neither receiving assistance on July 1, 2011 nor had an application pending for assistance on July 1, 2011 who was later approved is not eligible for food assistance through a state-funded program unless that noncitizen has both a qualifying immigration status under subparagraph (1) and at least one of the qualifying conditions under subparagraph (2), as follows:

(1) The individual is lawfully present in the United States but does not have an immigration status that qualifies for federal food assistance benefits and is not lawfully present solely as a temporary worker, student or tourist. Lawfully present individuals include:

(a) Qualified aliens under 8 United States Code, Section 1641;

(b) Lawful permanent residents who do not meet the special conditions for federal assistance under 8 United States Code, Section 1613;

(c) Asylees under Section 208 of the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 United States Code, Section 1158;

(d) Individuals who have a pending application for asylum or withholding of removal with the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of Justice Immigration Court;

(e) Refugees under Section 207 of the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 United States Code, Section 1157;

(f) Individuals with Temporary Protected Status;

(g) Individuals with Special Immigrant Juvenile Status; and

(h) Individuals who received or were eligible to receive federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits on July 3, 2025 but who are no longer eligible pursuant to the federal Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended by Public Law 119-21 (2025); and

(2) The individual is:

(a) Elderly or disabled, as described under the laws governing supplemental security income, 42 United States Code, Sections 1381 to 1383f;

(b) A victim of domestic violence or human trafficking or experiencing the effects of domestic violence or human trafficking;

(c) Unable to work or the dependent child of a parent who is unable to work due to the time necessary to obtain proper work documentation, as defined by the department in rule. Rules adopted by the department under this division are routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A; or

(d) Unemployed or the dependent child of a parent who is unemployed but has obtained proper work documentation, as defined by the department by rule. Rules adopted by the department under this division are routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 648

S.P. 861 - L.D. 2143

An Act Facilitating the Reconstruction or Replacement of Storm-damaged Commercial Fisheries Facilities and Infrastructure

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4353, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2013, c. 186, §1, is further amended to read:

4. Variance. Except as provided in subsections 4-A, 4-B and 4-C and section 4353-A, the board may grant a variance only when strict application of the ordinance to the petitioner and the petitioner's property would cause undue hardship. The term "undue hardship" as used in this subsection means:

A. ~~The~~ Except as provided in subsection 4-D, the land in question ~~can not~~ cannot yield a reasonable return unless a variance is granted;

B. The need for a variance is due to the unique circumstances of the property and not to the general conditions in the neighborhood;

C. The granting of a variance will not alter the essential character of the locality; and

D. The hardship is not the result of action taken by the ~~applicant~~ petitioner or a prior owner.

Under its home rule authority, a municipality may, in a zoning ordinance, adopt additional limitations on the granting of a variance, including, but not limited to, a provision that a variance may be granted only for a use permitted in a particular zone.

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §4353, sub-§4-D is enacted to read:

4-D. Floodplain reasonable return variance for functionally dependent use. The board may grant a variance from a prohibition on construction seaward of mean high tide or requirement to elevate structures above the base flood elevation when placed upon a dock, pier or wharf as prescribed in a municipal floodplain management ordinance that is filed with the municipality's board of appeals if:

A. The petitioner demonstrates to the board that the petitioner suffered substantial damage, as defined in the municipality's floodplain management ordinance, to a dock, pier or wharf or a structure placed thereon;

B. The damaged dock, pier or wharf or structure placed thereon identified pursuant to paragraph A is proposed to be reconstructed or replaced and be permitted for a functionally dependent use as defined in 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 59.1; and

C. The dock, pier or wharf or structure placed thereon under paragraph B is proposed to be elevated or otherwise protected from flood damages to the extent practicable.

A variance granted pursuant to this subsection must be the minimum variance from the municipal floodplain management ordinance necessary to afford relief for the functionally dependent use.

Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §4364-A, sub-§5, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 672, §5, is amended to read:

C. Establish alternative criteria that are less restrictive than the requirements of subsection 4 for the approval of a housing structure only in circumstances in which the municipality would be able to provide a variance under section 4353, subsection 4, 4-A, 4-B ~~or~~ 4-C or 4-D.

Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §4364-B, sub-§8, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 672, §6, is amended to read:

C. Establish alternative criteria that are less restrictive than the requirements of subsections 4, 5, 6 and 7 for the approval of an accessory dwelling unit only in circumstances in which the municipality would be able to provide a variance under section 4353, subsection 4, 4-A, 4-B ~~or~~, 4-C or 4-D.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 649

S.P. 818 - L.D. 2129

An Act to Prohibit Liens on Principal Residences and Wage Garnishments for Medical Debt

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

Sec. 1. 9-A MRSA §5-105, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. A court may not make, execute or enforce an order or process under this section based on medical debt as defined in Title 32, section 11002, subsection 7-A.

Sec. 2. 9-A MRSA §5-116-A, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Prohibition of liens on principal place of residence. An execution against a consumer's principal place of residence may not be filed for a judgment in any action in which the claim against the consumer is based on medical debt. For the purposes of this subsection, "medical debt" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 11002, subsection 7-A.

Sec. 3. 9-A MRSA §5-116-A, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Prohibition of salary or wage garnishment. The garnishment of a consumer's salary or wages may not be issued for a judgment in any action in which the claim against the consumer is based on medical debt. For the purposes of this subsection, "medical debt" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 11002, subsection 7-A.

Sec. 4. 14 MRSA §4422, sub-§1, ¶E, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 382, §2, is amended to read:

E. The amount of any exemption claimed under this subsection is limited to the amount of the exemption in effect on the date of the recording of the lien on the property against which the exemption is claimed.

Sec. 5. 14 MRSA §4422, sub-§1, ¶F is enacted to read:

F. Notwithstanding paragraphs A and B, a debtor's principal place of residence is exempt from attachment and execution based on medical debt as defined in Title 32, section 11002, subsection 7-A;

Sec. 6. 14 MRSA §4655 is amended by enacting at the end a new paragraph to read:

Notwithstanding this section and any other provision of law to the contrary, interest may not be collected upon execution of a judgment related to any disposition of property subject to any lien or attachment of a judgment debtor's principal place of residence based on medical debt as defined in Title 32, section 11002, subsection 7-A for the amount of interest that has accumulated on the medical debt subject to that lien on or after the date on which section 4422, subsection 1, paragraph F takes effect.

Sec. 7. 32 MRSA §11013, sub-§12 is enacted to read:

12. Prohibition of liens on principal place of residence. A debt collector may not initiate an action that attaches a consumer's principal place of residence for a judgment in any action in which the claim against the consumer is based on medical debt.

Sec. 8. 32 MRSA §11013, sub-§13 is enacted to read:

13. Prohibition of wage garnishment. A debt collector may not initiate an action to garnish the salary or wages of a consumer in which the claim against the consumer is based on medical debt.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 650

H.P. 1491 - L.D. 2212

An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027

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

PART A

Sec. A-1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**Adult Use Cannabis Public Health and Safety and Municipal Opt-in Fund Z263**

Initiative: Continues one limited-period Public Service Coordinator II position previously established in Public Law 2023, chapter 683 through June 30, 2028 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$129,510
All Other	\$0	\$9,453
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$138,963

Adult Use Cannabis Public Health and Safety and Municipal Opt-in Fund Z263

Initiative: Reduces funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$546,225)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$546,225)

Adult Use Cannabis Public Health and Safety and Municipal Opt-in Fund Z263

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$64,853)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$64,853)

Bureau of General Services - Capital Construction and Improvement Reserve Fund 0883

Initiative: Provides funding for capital construction and repair for state-owned buildings.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$2,000,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$2,000,000

Central Fleet Management 0703

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Public Service Coordinator I position to a Public Service Manager II position.

CENTRAL MOTOR POOL	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$18,628
CENTRAL MOTOR POOL TOTAL	\$0	\$18,628

Developmental Services Oversight and Advisory Board Z363

Initiative: Provides funding for the Maine Developmental Services Oversight and Advisory Board to meet the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-B, section 1223.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$58,715
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$58,715

Developmental Services Oversight and Advisory Board Z363

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the Maine Developmental Services Oversight and Advisory Board to meet the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-B, section 1223.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$58,715
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$58,715

Financial and Personnel Services - Division of 0713

Initiative: Continues one limited-period Human Resource Assistant position, previously continued by Financial Order 004351 F6, through June 19, 2027.

FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL SERVICES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$102,746
All Other	\$0	\$6,065
FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL SERVICES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$108,811

Financial and Personnel Services - Division of 0713

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Senior Staff Accountant position to a Senior Staff Accountant Supervisory position.

FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL SERVICES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$5,775
FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL SERVICES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$5,775

Financial and Personnel Services - Division of 0713

Initiative: Continues one Accounting Analyst position, previously continued by Financial Order 004369 F6, through June 19, 2027, to assist the Natural Resources Service Center in addressing an increased financial management workload.

FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL SERVICES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$104,780

All Other	\$0	\$6,065
FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL SERVICES	\$0	\$110,845
FUND TOTAL		

Information Services 0155

Initiative: Pursuant to the Governor's Maine Artificial Intelligence Task Force recommendations, provides one-time funding to train state employees to safely, responsibly and effectively use artificial intelligence.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$450,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$450,000

Information Services 0155

Initiative: Pursuant to the Governor's Maine Artificial Intelligence Task Force recommendations, provides one-time funding for data management and governance practice.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$908,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$908,000

Public Improvements - Planning/Construction - Administration 0057

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Public Service Coordinator I position to a Public Service Manager II position.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$11,778
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$11,778

Purchases - Division of 0007

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Management Analyst II position to a Procurement Analyst Manager position.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$8,213
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$8,213

Revenue Services, Bureau of 0002

Initiative: Adjusts funding by increasing General Fund appropriations and decreasing Federal Expenditures Fund - ARP State Fiscal Recovery funds in the All Other line category within the Revenue Services, Bureau of program in order to reverse an increase and reduction in Public Law 2023, chapter 643 for fiscal year 2024-25 that was meant to be one time.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$5,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$5,000,000

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES	2025-26	2026-27
FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY		

All Other	\$0	(\$5,000,000)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES	\$0	(\$5,000,000)
FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY TOTAL		

Revenue Services, Bureau of 0002

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Business Systems Administrator position to a Tax Section Manager position.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$15,384
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$15,384

Revenue Services, Bureau of 0002

Initiative: Reduces allocations for the Bureau of Revenue Services for the Maine Military Family Relief Fund voluntary income tax return checkoff.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$5,500)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$5,500)

Revenue Services, Bureau of 0002

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for administrative expenses to update the State's tax and administration system for a new optional account type for pass-through entities.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$438,771
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$438,771

Risk Management - Claims 0008

Initiative: Establishes one Public Service Coordinator I position to assist with the increased number of claims and insurance services to state agencies and quasi-state agencies.

RISK MANAGEMENT FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$125,102
All Other	\$0	\$6,065

RISK MANAGEMENT FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$131,167

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$6,949,576

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$1,522,385
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND - ARP STATE FISCAL RECOVERY	\$0	(\$5,000,000)
FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL SERVICES FUND	\$0	\$225,431
RISK MANAGEMENT FUND	\$0	\$131,167
CENTRAL MOTOR POOL	\$0	\$18,628
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$3,847,187

Sec. A-2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Continues one limited-period Contract/Grant Manager position previously continued by Financial Order CV0824 F6 to create sustained capacity within the bureau to administer both one-time and ongoing financial assistance programs. This position will end on June 19, 2027.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$67,698
All Other	\$0	\$3,388
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$71,086

Bureau of Agriculture 0393

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved range change of 32 Consumer Protection Inspector positions from range 23 to range 24, retroactive to December 18, 2023.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$338,659
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$338,659
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$57,187
All Other	\$0	\$2,858
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$60,045
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$31,281
All Other	\$0	\$1,563

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$32,844

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved range change of one Natural Resource Marketing and Economic Development Specialist position from range 32 to range 35, retroactive to August 4, 2023.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$45,954
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$45,954

Division of Forest Protection Z232

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of 3 Forest Fire Prevention Specialist positions from range 24 to range 26. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$23,752
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$23,752

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$9,302
All Other	\$0	\$312
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$9,614

Forest Resource Management Z233

Initiative: Transfers one Senior Planner position for landowner outreach from Federal Expenditures Fund to General Fund within the same program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$131,964
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$131,964

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$131,964)
All Other	\$0	(\$6,605)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$138,569)

Forest Resource Management Z233

Initiative: Transfers one Resource Management Coordinator position serving as an urban and community forestry program coordinator from Federal Expenditures Fund to General Fund within the same program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000

Personal Services	\$0	\$134,596
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$134,596
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$134,596)
All Other	\$0	(\$6,737)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$141,333)

Forest Resource Management Z233

Initiative: Reallocates the cost of one Entomologist II position from 50% General Fund and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund to 100% General Fund within the same program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$55,059
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$55,059
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$55,059)
All Other	\$0	(\$2,756)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$57,815)

Forest Resource Management Z233

Initiative: Reallocates the cost of one Natural Resource Pathologist position from 80% General Fund and 20% Federal Expenditures Fund to 100% General Fund within the same program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$26,157
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$26,157
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$26,157)
All Other	\$0	(\$1,310)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$27,467)

Geology and Resource Information Z237

Initiative: Increases Legislative Count for one Senior Planner position.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

Harness Racing Commission 0320

Initiative: Reduces funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$872,337)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$872,337)

Harness Racing Commission 0320

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$616,888)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$616,888)

Land Management and Planning Z239

Initiative: Reallocates the cost of one Director Real Property Management position from 50% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Land Management and Planning program and 50% General Fund in the Parks - General Operations program to 100% General Fund in the Parks - General Operations program.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$61,842)
All Other	\$0	(\$2,754)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$64,596)

Land Management and Planning Z239

Initiative: Reallocates the cost of one Director Bureau of Parks and Lands position from 50% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Land Management and Planning program and 50% General Fund in the Parks - General Operations program to 100% General Fund in the Parks - General Operations program.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$119,000)
All Other	\$0	(\$5,298)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$124,298)

Land Management and Planning Z239

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for public lands operational expenses.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,250,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,250,000

Land Management and Planning Z239

SECOND REGULAR SESSION - 2025

PUBLIC LAW, C. 650

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Senior Technician position to a Lead Technician position. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$11,536
All Other	\$0	\$514
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$12,050

Milk Commission 0188

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$1,654,305)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$1,654,305)

Milk Commission 0188

Initiative: Increases funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,283,036
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$2,283,036

Off-Road Recreational Vehicles Program Z224

Initiative: Provides funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$804,726
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$804,726

Off-Road Recreational Vehicles Program Z224

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$8,241)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$8,241)

Parks - General Operations Z221

Initiative: Reallocates the cost of one Director Real Property Management position from 50% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Land Management and Planning program and 50% General Fund in the Parks - General Operations program to 100% General Fund in the Parks - General Operations program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$61,842
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$61,842

Parks - General Operations Z221

Initiative: Reallocates the cost of one Director Bureau of Parks and Lands position from 50% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Land Management and Planning program and 50% General Fund in the Parks - General Operations program to 100% General Fund in the Parks - General Operations program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$119,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$119,000

Parks - General Operations Z221

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Park Manager II position to a Park Manager III position, retroactive to April 16, 2025.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$18,909
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$18,909

Pesticides Control - Board of 0287

Initiative: Transfers one Environmental Specialist III position and reallocates the cost from 50% Federal Expenditures Fund and 50% Other Special Revenue Funds to 100% Other Special Revenue Funds within the same program.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$60,003)
All Other	\$0	(\$3,004)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$63,007)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$60,003
All Other	\$0	\$3,004
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$63,007

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$3,205,892
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	(\$358,532)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	(\$73,916)
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$2,773,444

Sec. A-3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ARTS COMMISSION, MAINE

Arts - Administration 0178

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Development Program Officer position to a Director Special Projects position.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$16,031
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$16,031

Sec. A-4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE

Administration - Attorney General 0310

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Research Assistant MSEA-B position from range 20 to range 22 retroactive to May 7, 2025 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$16,336
All Other	\$0	\$218
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$16,554

Administration - Attorney General 0310

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved range change of 3 Research Assistant MSEA-B positions from range 22 to range 29, retroactive to September 3, 2024.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$211,394
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$211,394

Administration - Attorney General 0310

Initiative: Reallocates 4 Attorney General Detective positions, 3 Assistant Attorney General positions, one Auditor III position, one Research Assistant MSEA-B position and one Senior Attorney General Detective position from 100% Federal Expenditures Fund to 75% Federal Expenditures Fund and 25% Other Special Revenue Funds within the same program. This initiative also reallocates funding for related All Other costs.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$436,532)
All Other	\$0	(\$12,560)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$449,092)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$436,532
All Other	\$0	\$12,560

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$449,092

Administration - Attorney General 0310

Initiative: Establishes one Research Assistant MSEA-B position to support the criminal division and provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$95,457
All Other	\$0	\$9,500
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$104,957

Administration - Attorney General 0310

Initiative: Establishes one Assistant Attorney General position dedicated to legal issues related to housing and mobile home parks.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$145,962
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$145,962

Chief Medical Examiner - Office of 0412

Initiative: Provides funds for the prospective costs for employees in the employment of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner within the Department of the Attorney General to participate in the 1998 Special Plan effective August 1, 2026.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$34,051
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$34,051

Chief Medical Examiner - Office of 0412

Initiative: Allocates funds for the prospective costs for employees in the employment of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner within the Department of the Attorney General to participate in the 1998 Special Plan effective August 1, 2026.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27

Personal Services	\$0	\$1,064
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES	\$0	\$1,064
FUND TOTAL		

District Attorneys Salaries 0409

Initiative: Eliminates 4 Assistant District Attorney positions.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES	2025-26	2026-27
FUND		
POSITIONS -	0.000	(4.000)
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	(\$573,921)
All Other	\$0	(\$15,852)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES	\$0	(\$589,773)
FUND TOTAL		

District Attorneys Salaries 0409

Initiative: Provides funding for so-called kiosk licenses for all prosecutors required to use the State's new human resources and payroll system and related STA-CAP charges.

OTHER SPECIAL	2025-26	2026-27
REVENUE FUNDS		
All Other	\$0	\$12,745
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	\$12,745
FUNDS TOTAL		

District Attorneys Salaries 0409

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Assistant District Attorney position previously continued by Financial Order 004372 F6 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

OTHER SPECIAL	2025-26	2026-27
REVENUE FUNDS		
POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$220,914
All Other	\$0	\$5,897
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	\$226,811
FUNDS TOTAL		

District Attorneys Salaries 0409

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for so-called kiosk licenses for all prosecutors required to use the State's new human resources and payroll system and related STA-CAP charges.

OTHER SPECIAL	2025-26	2026-27
REVENUE FUNDS		
All Other	\$0	\$12,745
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	\$12,745
FUNDS TOTAL		

Human Services Division 0696

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved range change of one Research Assistant MSEA-B position

from range 20 to range 22 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

OTHER SPECIAL	2025-26	2026-27
REVENUE FUNDS		
Personal Services	\$0	\$7,453
All Other	\$0	\$291
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	\$7,744
FUNDS TOTAL		

Human Services Division 0696

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Research Assistant MSEA-B position to a Research Assistant MSEA-D position retroactive to October 7, 2024 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

OTHER SPECIAL	2025-26	2026-27
REVENUE FUNDS		
Personal Services	\$0	\$23,919
All Other	\$0	\$331
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	\$24,250
FUNDS TOTAL		

**ATTORNEY GENERAL,
DEPARTMENT OF THE
DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$350,402
FEDERAL	\$0	(\$1,021,247)
EXPENDITURES FUND		
OTHER SPECIAL	\$0	\$879,349
REVENUE FUNDS		
DEPARTMENT TOTAL -	\$0	\$208,504
ALL FUNDS		

Sec. A-5. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

AUDITOR, OFFICE OF THE STATE**Audit Bureau 0067**

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Public Service Manager I position from range 25 to range 28.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$8,669
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$8,669

Sec. A-6. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, BOARD OF
TRUSTEES OF THE MAINE****Maine Community College System - Board of
Trustees 0556**

Initiative: Reduces funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$224,076)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$224,076)

Maine Community College System - Board of Trustees 0556

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$25,988)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$25,988)

MCCS Free Community College - Two Enrollment Years Z335

Initiative: Provides funding for the State's 7 community colleges to continue offering student scholarships through the State's free community college tuition program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,500,000

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MAINE DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$2,500,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	(\$250,064)
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$2,249,936

Sec. A-7. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

CORRECTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF

Administration - Corrections 0141

Initiative: Provides funding for management insurance costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$6,899
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$6,899

Administration - Corrections 0141

Initiative: Provides funding for the department's agriculture program to support current growth.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$76,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$76,000

Administration - Corrections 0141

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for management insurance costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$6,899
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$6,899

Adult Community Corrections 0124

Initiative: Provides funding for transitional housing for formerly incarcerated clients to reduce recidivism and help with stability while reintegrating into the community.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$83,820
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$83,820

Adult Community Corrections 0124

Initiative: Provides funding for management insurance costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$10,679
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$10,679

Adult Community Corrections 0124

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for transitional housing for formerly incarcerated clients to reduce recidivism and help with stability while reintegrating into the community.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$83,820
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$83,820

Adult Community Corrections 0124

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for management insurance costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$10,679
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$10,679

Bolduc Correctional Facility Z155

Initiative: Transfers funding for electricity, central fleet and insurance costs from the Bolduc Correctional Facility program to the State Prison program within the same fund due to the merging of appropriations.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$236,106)

GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$0 (\$236,106)

Correctional Center 0162

Initiative: Provides funding for management insurance costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$58,428

GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$0 \$58,428

Correctional Center 0162

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for management insurance costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$58,428

GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$0 \$58,428

Downeast Correctional Facility 0542

Initiative: Provides funding for management insurance costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,768

GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$0 \$1,768

Downeast Correctional Facility 0542

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for management insurance costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,768

GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$0 \$1,768

Juvenile Community Corrections 0892

Initiative: Provides funding for management insurance costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$147

GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$0 \$147

Juvenile Community Corrections 0892

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for management insurance costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$147

GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$0 \$147

Long Creek Youth Development Center 0163

Initiative: Provides funding for management insurance costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$22,600

GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$0 \$22,600

Long Creek Youth Development Center 0163

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for management insurance costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$22,600

GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$0 \$22,600

Mountain View Correctional Facility 0857

Initiative: Provides funding for management insurance costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$24,907

GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$0 \$24,907

Mountain View Correctional Facility 0857

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for management insurance costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$24,907

GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$0 \$24,907

Office of Victim Services 0046

Initiative: Provides funding for management insurance costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$443

GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$0 \$443

Office of Victim Services 0046

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for management insurance costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$443

GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$0 \$443

State Prison 0144

Initiative: Provides funding for management insurance costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$111,085

GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$0 \$111,085

State Prison 0144

Initiative: Transfers funding for electricity, central fleet and insurance costs from the Bolduc Correctional Facility program to the State Prison program within the same fund due to the merging of appropriations.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$236,106

GENERAL FUND TOTAL \$0 \$236,106

State Prison 0144

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for management insurance costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$111,085
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$111,085

**CORRECTIONS,
DEPARTMENT OF
DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$641,552
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$76,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$717,552

Sec. A-8. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Administration - Maine Emergency Management
Agency 0214**

Initiative: Provides funding to align with anticipated resources.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$50,937,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$50,937,000

Military Training and Operations 0108

Initiative: Establishes one Biologist II position effective July 1, 2026 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$125,594
All Other	\$0	\$5,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$130,594

Military Training and Operations 0108

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Business Systems Administrator position to a Business Systems Administrator II position.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$10,168
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$10,168

Military Training and Operations 0108

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Heavy Vehicle and Equipment Technician position to a Supervisor Grounds & Transportation Services position and reallocates the cost from 100% Federal Expenditures Fund to 75% Federal Expenditures Fund and 25% General Fund within the same program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$26,017
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$26,017

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$18,269)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$18,269)

Military Training and Operations 0108

Initiative: Reallocates the cost of one Electronic Security System Technician position from 73% Federal Expenditures Fund and 27% General Fund to 75% Federal Expenditures Fund and 25% General Fund within the same program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$1,876)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$1,876)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$1,876
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,876

Military Training and Operations 0108

Initiative: Reallocates the cost of one Building Maintenance Coordinator position from 73% Federal Expenditures Fund and 27% General Fund to 75% Federal Expenditures Fund and 25% General Fund within the same program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$2,165)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$2,165)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$2,165
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,165

Military Training and Operations 0108

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the cost one Office Specialist II position from 27% General Fund and 73% Federal Expenditures Fund to 100% Federal Expenditures Fund within the same program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27

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POSITIONS -	0.000	(1.000)
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	(\$28,449)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$28,449)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$28,449
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$28,449

Military Training and Operations 0108

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the cost of one Maintenance Mechanic position from 27% General Fund and 73% Federal Expenditures Fund to 100% Federal Expenditures Fund within the same program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	(1.000)
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	(\$22,952)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$22,952)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$22,952
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$22,952

Military Training and Operations 0108

Initiative: Reallocates the cost of one Building Maintenance Coordinator position from 47% Federal Expenditures Fund and 53% General Fund to 50% Federal Expenditures Fund and 50% General Fund within the same program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$2,401)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$2,401)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$2,401
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,401

Military Training and Operations 0108

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the cost of one High Voltage Electrician Supervisor position from 27% General Fund and 73% Federal Expenditures Fund to 75% Federal Expenditures Fund and 25% General Fund within the same program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27

POSITIONS -	0.000	(1.000)
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	(\$2,559)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$2,559)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$2,559
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,559

Military Training and Operations 0108

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the cost of one Maintenance Mechanic position from 27% General Fund and 73% Federal Expenditures Fund to 75% Federal Expenditures Fund and 25% General Fund within the same program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	(1.000)
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	(\$1,429)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$1,429)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$1,429
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,429

Military Training and Operations 0108

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the cost of one Auto Mechanic II position from 27% General Fund and 73% Federal Expenditures Fund to 100% Federal Expenditures Fund within the same program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	(1.000)
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	(\$23,532)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$23,532)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27

POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$23,532
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$23,532

Military Training and Operations 0108

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the cost of one Maintenance Mechanic Supervisor position from 27% General Fund and 73% Federal Expenditures Fund to

75% Federal Expenditures Fund and 25% General Fund within the same program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	(1.000)
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	(\$2,199)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$2,199)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$2,199
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,199

Military Training and Operations 0108

Initiative: Reallocates the cost of one Public Service Manager III position from 73% Federal Expenditures Fund and 27% General Fund to 100% Federal Expenditures Fund within the same program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$51,777)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$51,777)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$51,777
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$51,777

Military Training and Operations 0108

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the cost of one Building Mechanical Systems Specialist position from 27% General Fund and 73% Federal Expenditures Fund to 75% Federal Expenditures Fund and 25% General Fund within the same program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	(1.000)
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	(\$2,074)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$2,074)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$2,074
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,074

Military Training and Operations 0108

Initiative: Reallocates the cost of one Warehouse Superintendent position from 73% Federal Expenditures

Fund and 27% General Fund to 100% Federal Expenditures Fund within the same program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$23,459)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$23,459)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$23,459
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$23,459

Military Training and Operations 0108

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Auto Mechanic II position to an Auto Mechanic III position.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$13,015
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$13,015

Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Partnership Fund Z298

Initiative: Reduces funding in the Veterans Services program, Other Special Revenue Funds and increases funding in the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Partnership Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$500

Veterans Services 0110

Initiative: Provides funding for the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox suicide prevention grant program.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$750,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$750,000

Veterans Services 0110

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Office Specialist I position to an Auditor II position and increases the hours from 60 hours to 80 hours biweekly.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$25,191
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$25,191

Veterans Services 0110

Initiative: Reduces funding in the Veterans Services program, Other Special Revenue Funds and increases funding in the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Partnership Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$500)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$500)

Veterans Services 0110

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$4,120)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$4,120)

DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	(\$138,855)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$52,012,571
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	(\$4,120)
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$51,869,596

Sec. A-9. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

DISABILITY RIGHTS MAINE**Disability Rights Maine 0523**

Initiative: Provides funding for increased costs for inflation, rental and lease agreements, supplies, sign language interpreters, professional insurance, travel, health insurance and cost-of-living wage increases.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$20,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$20,000

Disability Rights Maine 0523

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for increased costs for inflation, rental and lease agreements, supplies, sign language interpreters, professional insurance, travel, health insurance and cost-of-living wage increases.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27

All Other	\$0	\$20,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$20,000

DISABILITY RIGHTS MAINE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$40,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$40,000

Sec. A-10. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Office of Tourism 0577

Initiative: Provides funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$636,532
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$636,532

Office of Tourism 0577

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$254,894)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$254,894)

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$381,638
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$381,638

Sec. A-11. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**Building Assets Reducing Risks Program N582**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the Building Assets, Reducing Risks kindergarten to grade 12 coaching and training program in Maine schools.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27

All Other	\$0	\$2,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,000,000

Child Development Services 0449

Initiative: Provides funding to establish a baseline allocation.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$500

Climate Education Professional Development Pilot Program Fund Z361

Initiative: Continues one State Education Representative position, previously established by Resolve 2021, chapter 178, through June 19, 2027 and provides funding for related All Other costs. This initiative also transfers the position from the Climate Education Professional Development Pilot Program Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds to the Office of Innovation program, General Fund and reduces All Other allocations in the Climate Education Professional Development Pilot Program Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$12,185)
All Other	\$0	(\$8,784)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$20,969)

Early Childhood Nutrition Grant Program N583

Initiative: Provides funding to establish 2 Education Specialist II positions and for related All Other costs to support a grant program to allow school administrative units to enter into agreements with providers of off-site public preschool programs to provide students in those programs with breakfast, lunch and a snack.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$217,430
All Other	\$0	\$18,656
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$236,086

Early Childhood Nutrition Grant Program N583

Initiative: Provides one-time, nonlapsing funding for a grant program to allow school administrative units to enter into agreements with providers of off-site public preschool programs to provide students in those programs with breakfast, lunch and a snack.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$375,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$375,000

Education in Unorganized Territory 0220

Initiative: Transfers one seasonal part-time Teacher Aide position from the Federal Expenditures Fund to the General Fund within the same program and reorganizes the position to a seasonal part-time Education Technician II position. This initiative also provides All Other funding in the Federal Expenditures Fund to maintain the allocation.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	0.000	0.707
Personal Services	\$0	\$42,145
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$42,145

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	0.000	(0.707)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$38,385)
All Other	\$0	\$38,385

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

Education in Unorganized Territory 0220

Initiative: Transfers one Teacher BS position from the Federal Expenditures Fund to the General Fund within the same program and transfers and reallocates the cost of one Teacher MS position from 50% General Fund and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund to 100% General Fund within the same program. This initiative also provides All Other funding in the Federal Expenditures Fund to maintain the allocation.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$126,005
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$126,005

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(2.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$126,005)
All Other	\$0	\$126,005

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

Education in Unorganized Territory 0220

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to update mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems and complete minor renovations at a state-owned building in the unorganized territory.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$145,482
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$145,482

Education in Unorganized Territory 0220

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to update outdoor play areas in 3 state-owned schools in the unorganized territory.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$185,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$185,000

Education in Unorganized Territory 0220

Initiative: Provides funding to establish an allocation to properly record child nutrition expenditures.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$320,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$320,000

Education in Unorganized Territory 0220

Initiative: Provides funding for the annual purchase of one school bus to maintain an updated fleet of school buses.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$130,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$130,000

Education in Unorganized Territory 0220

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the annual purchase of one school bus to maintain an updated fleet of school buses.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$130,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$130,000

Education Stabilization Fund Z339

Initiative: Allocates funding to prevent any reduction in the state share percentage of the statewide adjusted total cost of the components of essential programs and services that would otherwise result from insufficient General Fund appropriations or any other shortage of funds.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$31,250,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$31,250,000

Federal Programs Team Z081

Initiative: Reduces funding for an annual contract with the Maine Education Policy Research Institute.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$250,000)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$250,000)

Federal Programs Team Z081

Initiative: Continues one limited-period State Education Representative position, one limited-period Education Specialist III position and 2 limited-period Education Specialist II positions previously continued by Public Law 2025, chapter 388 through December 30, 2027 and provides funding for related All Other costs and grant activities.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$223,117
All Other	\$0	\$902,688
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,125,805

Federal Programs Team Z081

Initiative: Transfers one Education Specialist III position, related All Other costs and program administration costs from the Federal Expenditures Fund to Other Special Revenue Funds within the same program.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$129,575)
All Other	\$0	(\$42,256)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$171,831)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$129,575
All Other	\$0	\$42,256

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$171,831

Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Educational Services Z005

Initiative: Reduces funding to align allocations with projected resources as funding is no longer available.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$500)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$500)

General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one limited-period Education Specialist II position previously established by Financial Order 004467 F6 and reduces All Other to fund the position.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$109,827

All Other	\$0	(\$109,827)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308

Initiative: Reduces funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$2,011,360)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$2,011,360)

General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one limited-period Agency Procurement and Program Administrator position previously established by Financial Order 004466 F6 and reduces All Other to fund the position.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$128,674
All Other	\$0	(\$128,674)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308

Initiative: Provides funding to maintain the statutory requirement of funding the state share of the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 at 55%.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$45,966,181
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$45,966,181

General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308

Initiative: Provides funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$15,527
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$15,527

General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to school districts to stabilize school budgets for schools with a high proportion of economically disadvantaged students.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$8,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$8,000,000

Innovative Teaching and Learning Z394

Initiative: Pursuant to the Governor's Maine Artificial Intelligence Task Force recommendations, provides

one-time funding to expand the department's artificial intelligence guidance toolkit and to provide grants to school administrative units, nonprofits, universities and professional organizations that provide professional development or planning to educators related to artificial intelligence.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$212,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$212,000

Innovative Teaching and Learning Z394

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one limited-period State Education Representative position previously continued by Financial Order 004383 F6 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$152,199
All Other	\$0	\$9,328
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$161,527

Learning Through Technology Z029

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for school administrative units to support costs associated with prohibiting the use of personal electronic devices during the school day.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$350,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$350,000

Maine School Safety Center Z293

Initiative: Establishes one limited-period Public Service Coordinator I position through June 19, 2027 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$129,995
All Other	\$0	\$9,328
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$139,323

Office of Innovation Z333

Initiative: Continues one State Education Representative position, previously established by Resolve 2021, chapter 178, through June 19, 2027 and provides funding for related All Other costs. This initiative also transfers the position from the Climate Education Professional Development Pilot Program Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds to the Office of Innovation program, General Fund and reduces All Other allocations in the Climate Education Professional Development Pilot Program Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$152,199
All Other	\$0	\$9,328

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$161,527

Office of Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways Z334

Initiative: Provides funding for the Maine Career Pathways program to provide participants with opportunities to complete certifications and credentials to meet the workforce needs of employers and their local and regional economies.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$250,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$250,000

Office of Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways Z334

Initiative: Adjusts funding for debt service costs associated with the bonding authority granted in Public Law 2021, chapter 635, Part X for career and technical education centers and regions. This initiative also provides one-time funding for the overhead costs of 2 limited-period positions supporting career and technical education bonds.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$992,995)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$992,995)

School and Student Supports Z270

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Public Service Manager II position from range 30 to range 32 retroactive to December 29, 2023.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$48,699
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$48,699

School Facilities Z271

Initiative: Establishes one Public Service Coordinator II position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$146,119
All Other	\$0	\$13,565
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$159,684

Special Services Team Z080

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Education Specialist III position to a State

Education Representative position retroactive to September 19, 2024 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$22,481
All Other	\$0	\$242
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$22,723

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$57,165,980
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$976,697
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$30,134,713

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$88,277,390

Sec. A-12. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, STATE BOARD OF**State Board of Education 0614**

Initiative: Provides a baseline allocation to allow for the expenditure of funds in the event private grant funding is received.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$500

Sec. A-13. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ENERGY RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF**Department of Energy Resources Z424**

Initiative: Continues and makes permanent one Public Service Coordinator II position, previously continued by Public Law 2025, chapter 388 under the former Governor's Energy Office program within the Executive Department, to support energy program management initiatives and related grant management, programming, communications and external engagement. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$120,138
All Other	\$0	\$8,568

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES	\$0	\$128,706
FUND TOTAL		

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$9,531
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$9,531

Department of Energy Resources Z424

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding provided in Public Law 2025, chapter 388 for various initiatives from the former Governor's Energy Office program, General Fund within the Executive Department to the Department of Energy Resources program, General Fund within the Department of Energy Resources.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,500,000

Department of Energy Resources Z424

Initiative: Transfers one Commissioner of The Department of Energy Resources from the Federal Expenditures Fund to the General Fund within the same program and transfers and reallocates one Deputy Commissioner of The Department of Energy Resources from Other Special Revenue Funds to the General Fund within the same program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$449,682
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$449,682

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$428,514)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$428,514)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$21,185)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$21,185)

Department of Energy Resources Z424

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Public Service Manager II position from range 32 to range 33.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27

Personal Services	\$0	\$6,758
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$6,758

Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program Z453

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the former Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program, Other Special Revenue Funds within the Executive Department to the Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program, Other Special Revenue Funds within the Department of Energy Resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$500

Maine Offshore Wind Renewable Energy & Econ Development Prog Z454

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the former Maine Offshore Wind Renewable Energy and Economic Development Program, Other Special Revenue Funds within the Executive Department to the Maine Offshore Wind Renewable Energy & Econ Development Prog program, Other Special Revenue Funds within the Department of Energy Resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$500

Offshore Wind Research Consortium Fund Z452

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the former Offshore Wind Research Consortium Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds within the Executive Department to the Offshore Wind Research Consortium Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds within the Department of Energy Resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$500

ENERGY RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$1,956,440
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	(\$299,808)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	(\$10,154)

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$1,646,478

Sec. A-14. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,
DEPARTMENT OF**

Administration - Environmental Protection 0251

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Policy Development Specialist position to a Public Service Coordinator II position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS		
Personal Services	\$0	\$10,680
All Other	\$0	\$483
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$11,163

Air Quality 0250

Initiative: Provides funding in the Air Quality program and in the Performance Partnership Grant program for the approved reclassification of one Environmental Specialist IV position to a Policy Development Specialist position retroactive to March 2024 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND		
Personal Services	\$0	\$24,171
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$24,171

Land Resources Z188

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Biologist I position to an Environmental Specialist III position.

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND		
Personal Services	\$0	(\$5,169)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$5,169)

Maine Environmental Protection Fund 0421

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Public Service Coordinator I position to a Public Service Manager II position retroactive to September 2024.

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND		
Personal Services	\$0	\$28,874
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$28,874

Performance Partnership Grant 0851

Initiative: Provides funding in the Air Quality program and in the Performance Partnership Grant program for the approved reclassification of one Environmental Specialist IV position to a Policy Development Specialist position retroactive to March 2024 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND		
Personal Services	\$0	\$24,172
All Other	\$0	\$297

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$24,469

Water Quality 0248

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Environmental Engineer position to an Environmental Engineer Specialist position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS		
Personal Services	\$0	\$9,923
All Other	\$0	\$449

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$10,372

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,
DEPARTMENT OF**

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$47,876
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$24,469
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$21,535

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$93,880

Sec. A-15. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program Z388

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the former Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program, Other Special Revenue Funds within the Executive Department to the Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program, Other Special Revenue Funds within the Department of Energy Resources.

	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS		
All Other	\$0	(\$500)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$500)

Governor's Energy Office Z122

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding provided in Public Law 2025, chapter 388 for various initiatives from the former Governor's Energy Office program, General

Fund within the Executive Department to the Department of Energy Resources program, General Fund within the Department of Energy Resources.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$1,500,000)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$1,500,000)

Maine Offshore Wind Renewable Energy and Economic Development Program Z389

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the former Maine Offshore Wind Renewable Energy and Economic Development Program, Other Special Revenue Funds within the Executive Department to the Maine Offshore Wind Renewable Energy & Econ Development Prog program, Other Special Revenue Funds within the Department of Energy Resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$500)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$500)

Office of Policy Innovation and the Future Z135

Initiative: Transfers one limited-period Public Service Coordinator II position and related All Other costs from the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future program within the Executive Department to the State Resilience Fund program within the Maine Office of Community Affairs, within the same fund, and continues this position through September 30, 2029.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$162,086)
All Other	\$0	(\$8,762)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$170,848)

Office of Policy Innovation and the Future Z135

Initiative: Pursuant to the Governor's Maine Artificial Intelligence Task Force recommendations, establishes one Public Service Coordinator II position to coordinate development and implementation of state policies, practices and partnerships related to artificial intelligence.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$151,465
All Other	\$0	\$16,335
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$167,800

Offshore Wind Research Consortium Fund Z314

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the former Offshore Wind Research Consortium Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds within the Executive Department to the Offshore Wind Research Consortium

Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds within the Department of Energy Resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$500)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$500)

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	(\$1,332,200)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	(\$170,848)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	(\$1,500)

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	(\$1,504,548)

Sec. A-16. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE

Dairy Improvement Fund Z143

Initiative: Reduces funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$31,944)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$31,944)

Dairy Improvement Fund Z143

Initiative: Provides funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$593
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$593

Maine Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program Fund Z330

Initiative: Eliminates allocations in the Maine Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program Fund program.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$500)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$500)

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OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$500)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$500)
FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE		
DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	(\$500)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	(\$31,851)
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	(\$32,351)

Sec. A-17. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Additional Support for People in Retraining and Employment 0146

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Public Service Coordinator II position to a Public Service Manager II position in the Additional Support for People in Retraining and Employment program, Federal Block Grant Fund and also provides funding for related All Other costs.

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$11,581
All Other	\$0	\$362
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$11,943

Child Care Services 0563

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Social Services Manager I position to a Social Services Program Manager position in the Child Care Services program, retroactive to February 27, 2024. This initiative also provides funding for a one-time retroactive payment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$16,043
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$16,043

Child Care Services 0563

Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for the Maine Child Care Affordability Program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$10,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$10,000,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$500

Child Support 0100

Initiative: Eliminates 5 Human Services Enforcement Agent positions in the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Family Independence, funded 34% General Fund and 66% Federal Expenditures Fund.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(5.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$168,789)
All Other	\$0	(\$12,335)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$181,124)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$327,579)
All Other	\$0	(\$23,945)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$351,524)

Consent Decree Z204

Initiative: Provides funding to achieve parity with MaineCare cost-of-living adjustments for certain community behavioral health-related services.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$44,460
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$44,460

Crisis Outreach Program Z216

Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for the increase in the employer retirement contribution costs created as a result of allowing employees of the Department of Health and Human Services who provide crisis outreach and crisis services to adults with developmental disabilities or intellectual disabilities in a community-based or residential setting to participate in the 1998 Special Plan.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$26,125
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$26,125

Department of Health and Human Services Central Operations 0142

Initiative: Reallocates the cost of one Social Services Manager I position from 100% General Fund to 60% General Fund and 40% Other Special Revenue Funds within the same program and adjusts funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$49,133)
All Other	\$0	(\$2,902)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$52,035)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$49,133
All Other	\$0	\$4,529
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$53,662

Department of Health and Human Services Central Operations 0142

Initiative: Reduces funding for the approved reorganization of one Public Service Manager III position to a Public Service Coordinator I position, transfers and re-allocates the cost of the position from 60% General Fund and 40% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Department of Health and Human Services Central Operations program to 50% General Fund and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Office of MaineCare Services program and adjusts funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$101,653)
All Other	\$0	(\$4,354)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$106,007)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$67,768)
All Other	\$0	(\$5,111)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$72,879)

Developmental Services Waiver - MaineCare Z211

Initiative: Provides funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations across programs to reflect trends in health care costs and enrollment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$12,877,204
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$12,877,204

Developmental Services Waiver - MaineCare Z211

Initiative: Adjusts funding as a result of the increase in the state share of the blended Federal Medical Assistance Percentage for fiscal year 2027.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$3,506,525
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$3,506,525

Developmental Services Waiver - MaineCare Z211

Initiative: Provides funding to replenish 15 reserve slots for individuals who have been determined Priority 1 waiver program candidates under the department's rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 21, Home and Community Benefits for Members with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$942,205
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$942,205

Developmental Services Waiver - MaineCare Z211

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations across programs to reflect trends in health care costs and enrollment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$12,880,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$12,880,000

Developmental Services Waiver - MaineCare Z211

Initiative: Provides funding to the department to implement a cost-of-living adjustment for direct care services under several MaineCare policy sections and state-funded home and community-based services.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$3,601,826
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$3,601,826

Developmental Services Waiver - Supports Z212

Initiative: Provides funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations across programs to reflect trends in health care costs and enrollment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,879,375
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,879,375

Developmental Services Waiver - Supports Z212

Initiative: Adjusts funding as a result of the increase in the state share of the blended Federal Medical Assistance Percentage for fiscal year 2027.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$782,710
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$782,710

Developmental Services Waiver - Supports Z212

Initiative: Provides funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$4,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE \$0 \$4,000
FUNDS TOTAL

Developmental Services Waiver - Supports Z212

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations across programs to reflect trends in health care costs and enrollment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,880,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,880,000

Developmental Services Waiver - Supports Z212

Initiative: Provides funding to the department to implement a cost-of-living adjustment for direct care services under several MaineCare policy sections and state-funded home and community-based services.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$295,468
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$295,468

Disproportionate Share - Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center Z225

Initiative: Adjusts funding for positions in the Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center as a result of the decrease in the 2027 Federal Medical Assistance Percentage. The new blended rate for fiscal year 2026-27 is 60.7875%.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$154,206
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$154,206

Disproportionate Share - Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center Z225

Initiative: Adjusts funding for positions in the Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center as a result of the decrease in the 2027 Federal Medical Assistance Percentage. The new blended rate for fiscal year 2026-27 is 60.7875%.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$851
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$851

Disproportionate Share - Riverview Psychiatric Center Z220

Initiative: Adjusts funding for positions in the Riverview Psychiatric Center as a result of the decrease in the 2027 Federal Medical Assistance Percentage. The new blended rate for fiscal year 2026-27 is 60.7875%.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$266
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$266

Disproportionate Share - Riverview Psychiatric Center Z220

Initiative: Adjusts funding for positions in the Riverview Psychiatric Center as a result of the decrease in the 2027 Federal Medical Assistance Percentage. The new blended rate for fiscal year 2026-27 is 60.7875%.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$202,847
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$202,847

Disproportionate Share - Riverview Psychiatric Center Z220

Initiative: Reduces funding in the Riverview Psychiatric Center program, General Fund and the Disproportionate Share - Riverview Psychiatric Center program, General Fund due to facility security's being moved to the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Capitol Police.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$100,232)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$100,232)

Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center Z222

Initiative: Adjusts funding for positions in the Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center as a result of the decrease in the 2027 Federal Medical Assistance Percentage. The new blended rate for fiscal year 2026-27 is 60.7875%.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$154,206)
All Other	\$0	(\$3,558)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	(\$157,764)
FUNDS TOTAL		

Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center Z222

Initiative: Adjusts funding for positions in the Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center as a result of the decrease in the 2027 Federal Medical Assistance Percentage. The new blended rate for fiscal year 2026-27 is 60.7875%.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$851)
All Other	\$0	(\$20)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	(\$871)
FUNDS TOTAL		

Early Childhood Consultation Program Z280

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates one Agency Procurement & Program Administrator position from 100% in the Early Childhood Consultation Program, General Fund to 72% General Fund and 28% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Office of Child and Family Services - Central program and adjusts funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)

Personal Services	\$0	(\$143,967)
All Other	\$0	(\$7,256)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$151,223)

Early Childhood Consultation Program Z280

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates one Social Services Program Specialist II position from 72% General Fund and 28% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Office of Child and Family Services - Central program to 50% General Fund and 50% Federal Block Grant Fund in the Early Childhood Consultation Program and adjusts funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$56,687
All Other	\$0	\$3,628
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$60,315
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$56,684
All Other	\$0	\$6,259
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$62,943

Food Supplement Administration Z019

Initiative: Adjusts funding between General Fund and Other Special Revenue Funds in both the Office for Family Independence program and the Office for Family Independence - District program and between General Fund and Federal Expenditures Fund in the Food Supplement Administration program as a result of the decrease in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program federal financial participation rate from 50% to 25% by October 1, 2026 pursuant to federal Public Law 119-21.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$187,853
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$187,853
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$193,651)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$193,651)

Food Supplement Administration Z019

Initiative: Provides funding for heating assistance benefits for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program participants to improve the payment error rate.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,486,103
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,486,103

Fund to Maintain Access to Statewide Family Planning Services N339

Initiative: Provides ongoing funding to provide for management and oversight of the delivery of family planning services.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$5,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$5,000,000

Housing First Program Z374

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates one Social Services Program Manager position and one Public Service Manager III position from General Fund to Other Special Revenue Funds in the Housing First Program and adjusts funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	(2.000)
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	(\$300,346)
All Other	\$0	(\$12,574)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$312,920)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	2.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$300,346
All Other	\$0	\$24,354
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$324,700

IV-E Foster Care/Adoption Assistance 0137

Initiative: Establishes 2 Management Analyst II positions funded 72% General Fund and 28% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Office of Child and Family Services - Central program and provides funding for related All Other costs. This initiative also provides funding across programs to support requirements related to offsetting the reimbursement of federal income benefits to pay for a child's care.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,479,064
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,479,064
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,481,409
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,481,409

Lifespan Waiver Z370

Initiative: Provides funding to increase the number of lifespan waiver slots during and beyond the implementation of the new federal home and community-based services lifespan waiver program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,446,950
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,446,950

Lifespan Waiver Z370

Initiative: Adjusts funding as a result of the increase in the state share of the blended Federal Medical Assistance Percentage for fiscal year 2027.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$10,953
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$10,953

Long Term Care - Office of Aging and Disability Services 0420

Initiative: Provides funding for a cost-of-living increase for state-funded home and community-based services related to the department's Office of Aging and Disability Services, Part 1 rule Chapter 5, Office of Aging and Disability Services Policy Manual, Sections 61, 63, 68 and 69 to maintain parity with similar MaineCare programs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$941,453
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$941,453

Long Term Care - Office of Aging and Disability Services 0420

Initiative: Provides funding to the department to implement a cost-of-living adjustment for direct care services under several MaineCare policy sections and state-funded home and community-based services.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$253,130
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$253,130

Low-cost Drugs To Maine's Elderly 0202

Initiative: Provides funding for the annual Medicare Part D rate increase.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$201,749
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$201,749

Low-cost Drugs To Maine's Elderly 0202

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the annual Medicare Part D rate increase.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$74,959
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$74,959

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention 0143

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Public Health Educator III position to a

Comprehensive Health Planner II position, retroactive to February 11, 2025, and provides funding for related All Other costs. This initiative also provides funding for a one-time retroactive payment.

FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$16,343
All Other	\$0	\$154

FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE TOTAL	\$0	\$16,497

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention 0143

Initiative: Establishes one Health Program Manager position funded 50% General Fund and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention program to oversee investigations, outbreaks, surveillance and disease prevention for sexually transmitted infections and human immunodeficiency virus cases and provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$59,882
All Other	\$0	\$3,628

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$63,510

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$59,875
All Other	\$0	\$5,613

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$65,488

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention 0143

Initiative: Establishes one Public Health Educator III position funded 100% Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention program, General Fund to support disease prevention and surveillance for sexually transmitted infections, including congenital syphilis and human immunodeficiency virus, and provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$103,615
All Other	\$0	\$7,256

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$110,871

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention 0143

Initiative: Provides funding to increase the hours of one part-time Chemist II position in the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory seized drug unit from 32

to 80 hours biweekly funded 62% General Fund and 38% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention program and transfers All Other to Personal Services to cover the cost of the increase.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$41,995
All Other	\$0	(\$41,995)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	(0.500)
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$25,738
All Other	\$0	(\$25,738)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$0

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention 0143

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to support federally qualified health centers in developing and expanding pharmacy services and access to affordably priced prescription drugs for the patients of such health centers.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$4,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$4,000,000

MaineCare Stabilization Fund Z018

Initiative: Allocates funding to prevent any loss of services or increased cost of services to a MaineCare member that would otherwise result from insufficient General Fund appropriations, insufficient federal matching funds or any other shortage of funds or changes in federal or state law, rule or policy.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$31,250,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$31,250,000

Medicaid Services - Developmental Services Z210

Initiative: Provides funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations across programs to reflect trends in health care costs and enrollment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,159,531
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,159,531

Medicaid Services - Developmental Services Z210

Initiative: Adjusts funding as a result of the increase in the state share of the blended Federal Medical Assistance Percentage for fiscal year 2027.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$526,909
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$526,909

Medicaid Services - Developmental Services Z210

Initiative: Provides funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$3,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$3,000

Medicaid Services - Developmental Services Z210

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations across programs to reflect trends in health care costs and enrollment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,160,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,160,000

Medicaid Services - Developmental Services Z210

Initiative: Provides funding to the department to implement a cost-of-living adjustment for direct care services under several MaineCare policy sections and state-funded home and community-based services.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$270,572
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$270,572

Medicaid Waiver for Brain Injury Residential /Community Serv Z218

Initiative: Provides funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations across programs to reflect trends in health care costs and enrollment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$559,878
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$559,878

Medicaid Waiver for Brain Injury Residential /Community Serv Z218

Initiative: Adjusts funding as a result of the increase in the state share of the blended Federal Medical Assistance Percentage for fiscal year 2027.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$139,613
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$139,613

Medicaid Waiver for Brain Injury Residential /Community Serv Z218

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations across programs to reflect trends in health care costs and enrollment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$560,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$560,000

Medicaid Waiver for Other Related Conditions Z217

Initiative: Provides funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations across programs to reflect trends in health care costs and enrollment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$159,965
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$159,965

Medicaid Waiver for Other Related Conditions Z217

Initiative: Adjusts funding as a result of the increase in the state share of the blended Federal Medical Assistance Percentage for fiscal year 2027.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$58,422
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$58,422

Medicaid Waiver for Other Related Conditions Z217

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations across programs to reflect trends in health care costs and enrollment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$160,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$160,000

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides funding to increase the number of lifespan waiver slots during and beyond the implementation of the new federal home and community-based services lifespan waiver program.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$3,757,290
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$3,757,290

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations across programs to reflect trends in health care costs and enrollment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$28,518,106
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$28,518,106

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$161,500,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$161,500,000

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$3,722,198
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$3,722,198

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides funding in response to a reduction in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage-affected rate for emergency services for nonqualified immigrants who would have otherwise qualified for Medicaid expansion from 90% to the base Federal Medical Assistance Percentage-affected rate under federal Public Law 119-21.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$524,639
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$524,639

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Adjusts funding as a result of the increase in the state share of the blended Federal Medical Assistance Percentage for fiscal year 2027.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$13,389,785
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$13,389,785

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$20,587,755)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$20,587,755)

FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$471,555
FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE TOTAL	\$0	\$471,555

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$3,386)
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$3,386)

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides funding for the annual Medicare Part D rate increase.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$6,285,364
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$6,285,364

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for a 2.5% temporary rate increase to the Medicare physician fee schedule pursuant to federal Public Law 119-21.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,659,858
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,659,858

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$3,588,741
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$3,588,741

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$144,535
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$144,535

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Adjusts funding in the Medical Care - Payments to Providers program between the General Fund and Other Special Revenue Funds related to rebasing the hospital tax year from fiscal year 2021-22 to fiscal year 2023-24.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$28,905,898)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$28,905,898)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$28,905,898
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$28,905,898

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides additional funding to increase supplemental payments to private psychiatric hospitals.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$313,665
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$313,665

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$482,843

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$482,843

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides additional funding to cover increased hospital costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$23,773,758
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$23,773,758

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$54,086,558
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$54,086,558

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to offset the provider impact of the federal budget reconciliation law in federal Public Law 119-21, Section 71113, which prohibits federal payments to prohibited entities, as defined in federal Public Law 119-21, Section 71113, for items and services for a 1-year period beginning July 4, 2025.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,249,459
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,249,459

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for a supplemental payment to the Maine Veterans' Homes for MaineCare residents.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,192,705
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,192,705

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,836,002
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,836,002

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides funding to replenish 15 reserve slots for individuals who have been determined Priority 1 waiver program candidates under the department's rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 21, Home and Community Benefits for Members with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,450,383

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES \$0 \$1,450,383
FUND TOTAL

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Reduces funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$1,351,252)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$1,351,252)

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the annual Medicare Part D rate increase.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,335,301

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,335,301

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Adjusts one-time funding in the Medical Care - Payments to Providers program between the General Fund and Other Special Revenue Funds related to re-basing the hospital tax year from fiscal year 2021-22 to fiscal year 2023-24.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$13,495,835)

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$13,495,835)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$13,495,835

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$13,495,835

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations across programs to reflect trends in health care costs and enrollment.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$100,000,000

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$100,000,000

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$3,789,294

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$3,789,294

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides additional one-time funding to increase supplemental payments to private psychiatric hospitals.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$156,832

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$156,832

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$248,315

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$248,315

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides additional one-time funding to cover increased hospital costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$16,419,784

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$16,419,784

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$33,723,975

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$33,723,975

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides funding to the department to implement a cost-of-living adjustment for direct care services under several MaineCare policy sections and state-funded home and community-based services.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,954,257

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,954,257

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$11,488,930

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$11,488,930

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$75,046

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$75,046

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for a supplemental payment to acute care hospitals.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,500,000

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,500,000

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$5,000,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$5,000,000

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides funding to implement a cost-of-living adjustment for acute care hospitals.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$5,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$5,000,000

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$10,000,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$10,000,000

Mental Health Services - Child Medicaid Z207

Initiative: Provides funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations across programs to reflect trends in health care costs and enrollment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,079,549
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,079,549

Mental Health Services - Child Medicaid Z207

Initiative: Adjusts funding as a result of the increase in the state share of the blended Federal Medical Assistance Percentage for fiscal year 2027.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$629,451
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$629,451

Mental Health Services - Child Medicaid Z207

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations across programs to reflect trends in health care costs and enrollment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,080,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,080,000

Mental Health Services - Children Z206

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates one Social Services Program Specialist II position from 81% General Fund and 19% Federal Block Grant Fund in the Mental Health Services - Children program to 72% General Fund and 28% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Office of Child and Family Services - Central program and adjusts funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27

POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$110,902)
All Other	\$0	(\$5,877)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$116,779)

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$26,013)
All Other	\$0	(\$2,235)
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$28,248)

Mental Health Services - Children Z206

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Nurse III position to a Child Protective Services Nurse Consultant position and transfers and reallocates the position from 100% General Fund in the Mental Health Services - Children program to 72% General Fund and 28% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Office of Child and Family Services - Central program. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$118,680)
All Other	\$0	(\$7,256)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$125,936)

Mental Health Services - Children Z206

Initiative: Reallocates one Social Services Program Manager position from 76% General Fund and 24% Federal Block Grant Fund in the Mental Health Services - Children program to 50% General Fund in the Mental Health Services - Children program and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Office of MaineCare Services program and adjusts funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$36,666)
All Other	\$0	(\$1,886)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$38,552)

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$33,848)
All Other	\$0	(\$3,294)
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$37,142)

Mental Health Services - Children Z206

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates one Social Services Program Specialist II position from 72% General Fund and 28% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Office of

Child and Family Services - Central program to 50% General Fund in the Mental Health Services - Children program and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Office of MaineCare Services program and adjusts funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$61,657
All Other	\$0	\$3,628
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$65,285

Mental Health Services - Children Z206

Initiative: Provides funding to achieve parity with MaineCare cost-of-living adjustments for certain community behavioral health-related services.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$17,803
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$17,803

Mental Health Services - Community Z198

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates one Social Services Manager I position from the Mental Health Services - Community program, General Fund to the Office of Behavioral Health program, Federal Block Grant Fund and adjusts funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	(1.000)
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	(\$141,519)
All Other	\$0	(\$7,256)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$148,775)

Mental Health Services - Community Z198

Initiative: Provides funding to achieve parity with MaineCare cost-of-living adjustments for certain community behavioral health-related services.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$40,972
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$40,972

Mental Health Services - Community Medicaid Z201

Initiative: Provides funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations across programs to reflect trends in health care costs and enrollment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,799,392
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,799,392

Mental Health Services - Community Medicaid Z201

Initiative: Adjusts funding as a result of the increase in the state share of the blended Federal Medical Assistance Percentage for fiscal year 2027.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$848,691
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$848,691

Mental Health Services - Community Medicaid Z201

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations across programs to reflect trends in health care costs and enrollment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,800,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,800,000

Nursing Facilities 0148

Initiative: Provides funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations across programs to reflect trends in health care costs and enrollment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$7,316,300
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$7,316,300

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$13,392,288
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$13,392,288

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,321,825
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$1,321,825

Nursing Facilities 0148

Initiative: Adjusts funding as a result of the increase in the state share of the blended Federal Medical Assistance Percentage for fiscal year 2027.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$3,469,613
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$3,469,613

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$3,469,613)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$3,469,613)

Nursing Facilities 0148

Initiative: Provides funding to address cost differences affecting Maine Veterans' Homes nursing facilities in per diem rates for services provided to MaineCare members.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$505,794
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$505,794
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$861,554
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$861,554
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$87,367
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$87,367

Nursing Facilities 0148

Initiative: Provides funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$3,512,110
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$3,512,110

Nursing Facilities 0148

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations across programs to reflect trends in health care costs and enrollment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$7,300,811
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$7,300,811
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$13,679,814
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$13,679,814
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,339,189
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$1,339,189

Nursing Facilities 0148

Initiative: Provides funding to the department to implement a cost-of-living adjustment for direct care services

under several MaineCare policy sections and state-funded home and community-based services.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,099,642
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,099,642
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$3,843,337
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$3,843,337
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$379,339
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$379,339

Office for Family Independence 2020

Initiative: Reallocates positions within the Office for Family Independence program and the Office for Family Independence - District program as a result of the decrease in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program federal financial participation rate from 50% to 25% by October 1, 2026 pursuant to federal Public Law 119-21.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	12.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$544,946
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$544,946
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(12.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$513,072)
All Other	\$0	(\$16,039)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$529,111)

Office for Family Independence 2020

Initiative: Adjusts funding between General Fund and Other Special Revenue Funds in both the Office for Family Independence program and the Office for Family Independence - District program and between General Fund and Federal Expenditures Fund in the Food Supplement Administration program as a result of the decrease in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program federal financial participation rate from 50% to 25% by October 1, 2026 pursuant to federal Public Law 119-21.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$884,150
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$884,150

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$911,789)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$911,789)

Office for Family Independence Z020

Initiative: Establishes 35 Eligibility Specialist I positions, 4 Family Independence Unit Supervisor positions and one Program Administrator - Family Independence position within the Office for Family Independence - District program and establishes one Management Analyst II position, one Senior Planner position, 3 Eligibility Specialist II positions and one Business Systems Administrator position within the Office for Family Independence program funded 25% General Fund and 75% Other Special Revenue Funds to implement MaineCare work requirements pursuant to federal Public Law 119-21. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$155,873
All Other	\$0	\$10,884
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$166,757
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	6.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$467,662
All Other	\$0	\$48,292
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$515,954

Office for Family Independence Z020

Initiative: Provides funding in the Office for Family Independence program for the projected increase in income verification services pursuant to federal Public Law 119-21.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$901,314
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$901,314
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,884,403
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$1,884,403

Office for Family Independence Z020

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Public Service Manager II position from range 30 to range 32, funded 55.2% Other Special Revenue Funds and 44.8% General Fund in the Office for Family Independence program, and also provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$5,190
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$5,190

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$6,391
All Other	\$0	\$225
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$6,616

Office for Family Independence Z020

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Public Service Coordinator II position to a Public Service Manager II position, funded 75% General Fund and 25% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Office for Family Independence program, and also provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$8,684
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$8,684
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$2,895
All Other	\$0	\$181
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$3,076

Office for Family Independence Z020

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Public Service Coordinator II position to a Public Service Manager II position, funded 50% General Fund and 50% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Office for Family Independence program and also provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$5,740
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$5,740
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$5,741
All Other	\$0	\$179
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$5,920

Office for Family Independence Z020

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Public Service Manager II position to a Public Service Manager III position, funded 55.2% Other Special Revenue Funds and 44.8% General Fund in the Office for Family Independence program, and also provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$7,050
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$7,050
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$8,685
All Other	\$0	\$181
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$8,866

Office for Family Independence Z020

Initiative: Provides one-time funding in the Office for Family Independence program for the projected increase in income verification services pursuant to federal Public Law 119-21.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$249,051
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$249,051
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$256,835
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$256,835

Office for Family Independence - District 0453

Initiative: Reallocates positions within the Office for Family Independence program and the Office for Family Independence - District program as a result of the decrease in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program federal financial participation rate from 50% to 25% by October 1, 2026 pursuant to federal Public Law 119-21.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(2.000)
Personal Services	\$0	\$2,552,613
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,552,613
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$0	(\$2,552,618)
All Other	\$0	(\$79,795)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$2,632,413)

Office for Family Independence - District 0453

Initiative: Adjusts funding between General Fund and Other Special Revenue Funds in both the Office for Family Independence program and the Office for Family Independence - District program and between General Fund and Federal Expenditures Fund in the Food

Supplement Administration program as a result of the decrease in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program federal financial participation rate from 50% to 25% by October 1, 2026 pursuant to federal Public Law 119-21.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$417,518
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$417,518
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$430,570)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$430,570)

Office for Family Independence - District 0453

Initiative: Establishes 40 Eligibility Specialist II positions and 4 Family Independence Unit Supervisor positions in the Office for Family Independence - District program, funded 44.8% General Fund and 55.2% Other Special Revenue Funds, to improve the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program payment error rate pursuant to federal Public Law 119-21. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$1,931,482
All Other	\$0	\$137,506
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,068,988
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	44.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$2,394,726
All Other	\$0	\$262,299
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$2,657,025

Office for Family Independence - District 0453

Initiative: Establishes 35 Eligibility Specialist I positions, 4 Family Independence Unit Supervisor positions and one Program Administrator - Family Independence position within the Office for Family Independence - District program and establishes one Management Analyst II position, one Senior Planner position, 3 Eligibility Specialist II positions and one Business Systems Administrator position within the Office for Family Independence program funded 25% General Fund and 75% Other Special Revenue Funds to implement MaineCare work requirements pursuant to federal Public Law 119-21. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$923,747
All Other	\$0	\$72,560

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$996,307
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	40.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$2,771,533
All Other	\$0	\$311,123
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$3,082,656

Office for Family Independence - District 0453

Initiative: Provides funding in the Office for Family Independence - District program for the projected increase in postage pursuant to federal Public Law 119-21.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$148,640
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$148,640
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$394,570
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$394,570

Office for Family Independence - District 0453

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Public Service Coordinator II position to a Public Service Coordinator III position within the Office for Family Independence - District program to align with similar positions within the department. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$5,099
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$5,099
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$8,347
All Other	\$0	\$261
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$8,608

Office for Family Independence - District 0453

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Family Independence Program Manager position to a Public Service Manager II position, funded 55.2% Other Special Revenue Funds and 44.8% General Fund in the Office for Family Independence - District program, and also provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$5,328

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$5,328
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$6,564
All Other	\$0	\$223
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$6,787

Office for Family Independence - District 0453

Initiative: Provides one-time funding in the Office for Family Independence - District program for the projected increase in postage pursuant to federal Public Law 119-21.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$15,625
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$15,625
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$16,113
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$16,113

Office of Aging and Disability Services Central Office 0140

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to address unmet needs of older adults through community-based services and programs delivered by the area agency in each of the State's coordinated community program areas.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$3,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$3,000,000

Office of Behavioral Health Z199

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates one Social Services Manager I position from the Mental Health Services - Community program, General Fund to the Office of Behavioral Health program, Federal Block Grant Fund and adjusts funding for related All Other costs.

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$141,519
All Other	\$0	\$11,907
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$153,426

Office of Behavioral Health Z199

Initiative: Provides funding to achieve parity with MaineCare cost-of-living adjustments for certain community behavioral health-related services.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$78,842

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$78,842

Office of Behavioral Health Z199

Initiative: Provides funding for ongoing support to adult treatment recovery courts within the judicial branch in Oxford County and Region 6.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$342,760

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$342,760

Office of Behavioral Health Z199

Initiative: Provides funding to establish a youth psychiatric residential treatment facility in the State pursuant to Public Law 2023, chapter 643.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$3,399,680

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$3,399,680

Office of Behavioral Health-Medicaid Seed Z202

Initiative: Provides funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations across programs to reflect trends in health care costs and enrollment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$319,931

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$319,931

Office of Behavioral Health-Medicaid Seed Z202

Initiative: Adjusts funding as a result of the increase in the state share of the blended Federal Medical Assistance Percentage for fiscal year 2027.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$204,810

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$204,810

FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$19,844

FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE TOTAL	\$0	\$19,844

Office of Behavioral Health-Medicaid Seed Z202

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations across programs to reflect trends in health care costs and enrollment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$320,000

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$320,000

Office of Child and Family Services - Central 0307

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates one Social Services Program Specialist II position from 81% General Fund

and 19% Federal Block Grant Fund in the Mental Health Services - Children program to 72% General Fund and 28% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Office of Child and Family Services - Central program and adjusts funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$98,580
All Other	\$0	\$5,225

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$103,805

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$38,335
All Other	\$0	\$3,293

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$41,628

Office of Child and Family Services - Central 0307

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Nurse III position to a Child Protective Services Nurse Consultant position and transfers and reallocates the position from 100% General Fund in the Mental Health Services - Children program to 72% General Fund and 28% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Office of Child and Family Services - Central program. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$93,067
All Other	\$0	\$5,225

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$98,292

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$36,193
All Other	\$0	\$3,698

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$39,891

Office of Child and Family Services - Central 0307

Initiative: Establishes one Management Analyst II position funded 72% General Fund and 28% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Office of Child and Family Services - Central program to support reporting requirements related to the psychotropic medication settlement. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$77,269
All Other	\$0	\$5,225

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$82,494
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$30,050
All Other	\$0	\$3,034
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$33,084

Office of Child and Family Services - Central 0307

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates one Agency Procurement & Program Administrator position from 100% in the Early Childhood Consultation Program, General Fund to 72% General Fund and 28% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Office of Child and Family Services - Central program and adjusts funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$103,657
All Other	\$0	\$5,225
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$108,882
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$40,310
All Other	\$0	\$3,878
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$44,188

Office of Child and Family Services - Central 0307

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates one Social Services Program Specialist II position from 72% General Fund and 28% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Office of Child and Family Services - Central program to 50% General Fund and 50% Federal Block Grant Fund in the Early Childhood Consultation Program and adjusts funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	(1.000)
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	(\$81,627)
All Other	\$0	(\$5,225)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$86,852)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$31,744)
All Other	\$0	(\$3,504)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$35,248)

Office of Child and Family Services - Central 0307

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates one Social Services Program Specialist II position from 72% General Fund and 28% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Office of Child and Family Services - Central program to 50% General Fund in the Mental Health Services - Children program and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Office of MaineCare Services program and adjusts funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	(1.000)
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	(\$88,782)
All Other	\$0	(\$5,225)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$94,007)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$34,526)
All Other	\$0	(\$3,626)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$38,152)

Office of Child and Family Services - Central 0307

Initiative: Establishes 2 Management Analyst II positions funded 72% General Fund and 28% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Office of Child and Family Services - Central program and provides funding for related All Other costs. This initiative also provides funding across programs to support requirements related to offsetting the reimbursement of federal income benefits to pay for a child's care.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	2.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$155,638
All Other	\$0	\$10,449
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$166,087

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$60,528
All Other	\$0	\$6,881
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$67,409

Office of Child and Family Services - District 0452

Initiative: Establishes one Child Protective Services Case Aide position funded 79% General Fund and 21% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Office of Child and Family Services - District program to support requirements related to the psychotropic medication settlement. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		

Personal Services	\$0	\$69,819
All Other	\$0	\$5,732
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$75,551
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$18,560
All Other	\$0	\$2,152
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$20,712

Office of Child and Family Services - District 0452

Initiative: Establishes 2 Child Protective Services Nurse Consultant positions funded 79% General Fund and 21% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Office of Child and Family Services - District program to support reporting requirements related to the psychotropic medication settlement. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	2.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$201,002
All Other	\$0	\$11,464
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$212,466
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$53,434
All Other	\$0	\$4,813
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$58,247

Office of Child and Family Services - District 0452

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of 3 Social Services Supervisor positions funded 79% General Fund and 21% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Office of Child and Family Services - District program and 6 Social Services Supervisor positions funded 70% General Fund and 30% Other Special Revenue Funds in the State-funded Foster Care/Adoption Assistance program to Social Services Program Specialist II positions, retroactive to February 23, 2024, and provides funding for related All Other costs. This initiative also provides funding for one-time retroactive payments.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$40,915
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$40,915
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$3,417
All Other	\$0	\$107

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	\$3,524
FUNDS TOTAL		

Office of Child and Family Services - District 0452

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved range change of 9 Child Protective Services Program Administrator positions from range 28 to range 30 confidential funded 79% General Fund and 21% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Office of Child and Family Services - District program and provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$137,425
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$137,425
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$36,516
All Other	\$0	\$424
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$36,940

Office of MaineCare Services 0129

Initiative: Adjusts funding in the Office of MaineCare Services, Federal Expenditures Fund between All Other and Personal Services to correct the allocation of the funding approved in Public Law 2025, chapter 388 to establish positions for the federal home and community-based services lifespan waiver.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$439,919
All Other	\$0	(\$439,919)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

Office of MaineCare Services 0129

Initiative: Provides funding for an increase in MaineCare disability determination services funded 50% General Fund and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund within the Office of MaineCare Services program pursuant to federal Public Law 119-21.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$295,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$295,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$304,222
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$304,222

Office of MaineCare Services 0129

Initiative: Reallocates one Social Services Program Manager position from 76% General Fund and 24%

Federal Block Grant Fund in the Mental Health Services - Children program to 50% General Fund in the Mental Health Services - Children program and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Office of MaineCare Services program and adjusts funding for related All Other costs.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$70,514
All Other	\$0	\$5,946
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$76,460

Office of MaineCare Services 0129

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates one Social Services Program Specialist II position from 72% General Fund and 28% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Office of Child and Family Services - Central program to 50% General Fund in the Mental Health Services - Children program and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Office of MaineCare Services program and adjusts funding for related All Other costs.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$61,651
All Other	\$0	\$5,669
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$67,320

Office of MaineCare Services 0129

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Reimbursement Specialist position to a Management Analyst I position funded 50% General Fund and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Office of MaineCare Services program and provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$2,365
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,365

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$2,364
All Other	\$0	\$53
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,417

Office of MaineCare Services 0129

Initiative: Provides funding for contracted actuarial services funded 50% General Fund and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Office of MaineCare Services program to assist with forecasting and fiscal management related to federal Public Law 119-21.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,000,000

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,000,000

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,031,260
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,031,260

Office of MaineCare Services 0129

Initiative: Establishes 2 Public Service Coordinator 1 positions and one Management Analyst II position funded 50% General Fund and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Office of MaineCare Services program pursuant to federal Public Law 119-21. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$181,780
All Other	\$0	\$10,884
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$192,664

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	0.000	3.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$181,791
All Other	\$0	\$16,907

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$198,698

Office of MaineCare Services 0129

Initiative: Establishes one limited-period Comprehensive Health Planner II position funded 50% General Fund and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Office of MaineCare Services program through June 12, 2027 to assist with increased eligibility under MaineCare and rulemaking associated with federal Public Law 119-21.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$57,122
All Other	\$0	\$3,628

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$60,750

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$57,127
All Other	\$0	\$5,527

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$62,654

Office of MaineCare Services 0129

Initiative: Reduces funding for the approved reorganization of one Public Service Manager III position to a Public Service Coordinator I position, transfers and reallocates the cost of the position from 60% General Fund and 40% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Department of Health and Human Services Central Operations program to 50% General Fund and 50% Federal

Expenditures Fund in the Office of MaineCare Services program and adjusts funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$67,220
All Other	\$0	(\$19,626)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$47,594
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$67,224
All Other	\$0	(\$24,991)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$42,233

Office of MaineCare Services 0129

Initiative: Establishes one Provider Relations Specialist position and 2 Eligibility Specialist II positions funded 50% General Fund and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Office of MaineCare Services program to support provider and staff training pursuant to federal Public Law 119-21. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$143,742
All Other	\$0	\$10,884
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$154,626
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	3.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$143,757
All Other	\$0	\$15,718
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$159,475

Office of MaineCare Services 0129

Initiative: Provides funding for staff augmentation funded 50% General Fund and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Office of MaineCare Services program to enable response to forthcoming additional guidance and rules regarding federal Public Law 119-21.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$150,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$150,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$154,689
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$154,689

Office of MaineCare Services 0129

Initiative: Establishes one Comprehensive Health Planner II position funded 50% General Fund and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Office of MaineCare Services program to handle representation of program integrity appeals. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$57,122
All Other	\$0	\$3,628
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$60,750
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$57,127
All Other	\$0	\$5,527
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$62,654

Office of MaineCare Services 0129

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for contracted actuarial services funded 50% General Fund and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Office of MaineCare Services program to assist with forecasting and fiscal management related to federal Public Law 119-21.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,000,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,031,260
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,031,260

Office of MaineCare Services 0129

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for staff augmentation funded 50% General Fund and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund in the Office of MaineCare Services program to enable response to forthcoming additional guidance and rules regarding federal Public Law 119-21.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$75,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$75,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$77,345
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$77,345

Office of MaineCare Services 0129

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for an increase in MaineCare disability determination services funded 50% General Fund and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund within the Office of MaineCare Services program pursuant to federal Public Law 119-21.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$295,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$295,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$304,222
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$304,222

Office of MaineCare Services 0129

Initiative: Provides funding to the department to implement a cost-of-living adjustment for direct care services under several MaineCare policy sections and state-funded home and community-based services.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$42,194
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$42,194
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$130,538
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$130,538

PNMI Room and Board Z009

Initiative: Provides funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations across programs to reflect trends in health care costs and enrollment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,079,549
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,079,549

PNMI Room and Board Z009

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for a supplemental payment to the Maine Veterans' Homes for MaineCare residents.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,386,060
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,386,060

PNMI Room and Board Z009

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to increase MaineCare appropriations and allocations across programs to reflect trends in health care costs and enrollment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,080,000

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,080,000

PNMI Room and Board Z009

Initiative: Provides funding to the department to implement a cost-of-living adjustment for direct care services under several MaineCare policy sections and state-funded home and community-based services.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$534,775
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$534,775

Purchased Social Services 0228

Initiative: Provides ongoing funding to replace current and anticipated reductions in grants to the department under the federal victim assistance formula grant program administered by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime pursuant to the federal Victims of Crime Act of 1984. Any amount of the funding not needed for the federal victim assistance formula grant program must be disbursed in equal amounts to a statewide coalition of domestic violence resource centers and to a statewide coalition of sexual assault support centers to support community-based services.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$3,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$3,000,000

Purchased Social Services 0228

Initiative: Reduces funding one time for current and anticipated reductions in grants to the department under the federal victim assistance formula grant program administered by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime pursuant to the federal Victims of Crime Act of 1984.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$3,000,000)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$3,000,000)

Purchased Social Services 0228

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for services for victims of domestic violence.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,000,000

Purchased Social Services 0228

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for services for victims of sexual assault.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,000,000

Residential Treatment Facilities Assessment Z197

Initiative: Reduces funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$150,000)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	(\$150,000)
FUNDS TOTAL		

Riverview Psychiatric Center Z219

Initiative: Adjusts funding for positions in the Riverview Psychiatric Center as a result of the decrease in the 2027 Federal Medical Assistance Percentage. The new blended rate for fiscal year 2026-27 is 60.7875%.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$266)
All Other	\$0	(\$6)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	(\$272)
FUNDS TOTAL		

Riverview Psychiatric Center Z219

Initiative: Adjusts funding for positions in the Riverview Psychiatric Center as a result of the decrease in the 2027 Federal Medical Assistance Percentage. The new blended rate for fiscal year 2026-27 is 60.7875%.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$202,847)
All Other	\$0	(\$4,631)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	(\$207,478)
FUNDS TOTAL		

Riverview Psychiatric Center Z219

Initiative: Reduces funding in the Riverview Psychiatric Center program, General Fund and the Disproportionate Share - Riverview Psychiatric Center program, General Fund due to facility security's being moved to the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Capitol Police.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$403,323)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$403,323)

State-funded Foster Care/Adoption Assistance 0139

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of 3 Social Services Supervisor positions funded 79% General Fund and 21% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Office of Child and Family Services - District program and 6 Social Services Supervisor positions funded 70% General Fund and 30% Other Special Revenue Funds in the State-funded Foster Care/Adoption Assistance program to Social Services Program Specialist II positions, retroactive to February 23, 2024, and

provides funding for related All Other costs. This initiative also provides funding for one-time retroactive payments.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$70,226
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$70,226

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$8,567
All Other	\$0	\$268
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	\$8,835
FUNDS TOTAL		

State-funded Foster Care/Adoption Assistance 0139

Initiative: Establishes 2 Management Analyst II positions funded 72% General Fund and 28% Other Special Revenue Funds in the Office of Child and Family Services - Central program and provides funding for related All Other costs. This initiative also provides funding across programs to support requirements related to offsetting the reimbursement of federal income benefits to pay for a child's care.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,236,188
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,236,188

Traumatic Brain Injury Seed Z214

Initiative: Adjusts funding as a result of the increase in the state share of the blended Federal Medical Assistance Percentage for fiscal year 2027.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,873
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,873

Universal Immunization Program Z121

Initiative: Provides funding in the Universal Immunization Program, Other Special Revenue Funds to align with available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$10,000,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	\$10,000,000
FUNDS TOTAL		

**HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES, DEPARTMENT
OF
DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$200,608,783
FEDERAL	\$0	\$399,589,831
EXPENDITURES FUND		
FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE	\$0	\$507,896

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$93,361,513
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	\$0	\$7,890,609
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$701,958,632

Sec. A-18. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE

Low-income Home Energy Assistance - MSHA 0708

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for low-income electric ratepayer assistance.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$7,500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$7,500,000

Shelter Operating Subsidy 0661

Initiative: Provides funding for emergency homeless shelters in the State to be allocated as part of the operations share of the shelter operating subsidy through the Maine State Housing Authority's emergency shelter and housing assistance program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,500,000

Shelter Operating Subsidy 0661

Initiative: Appropriates one-time funding for emergency homeless shelters in the State to be allocated as part of the operations share of the shelter operating subsidy through the Maine State Housing Authority's emergency shelter and housing assistance program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,000,000

Shelter Operating Subsidy 0661

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for emergency homeless shelters in the State to be allocated as part of the operations share of the shelter operating subsidy through the Maine State Housing Authority's emergency shelter and housing assistance program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,250,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,250,000

Stable Home Fund Z405

Initiative: Provides one-time funds to continue the Maine Eviction Prevention Program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27

All Other	\$0	\$11,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$11,000,000

HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE DEPARTMENT TOTALS

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
	\$0	\$23,250,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$23,250,000

Sec. A-19. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, MAINE

Human Rights Commission - Regulation 0150

Initiative: Transfers one Secretary Associate Legal position from 60% General Fund and 40% Federal Expenditures Fund to 100% General Fund to align the funding with the appropriate source and transfers funding for the associated All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$42,954
All Other	\$0	\$2,426
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$45,380

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	0.000	(1.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$42,954)
All Other	\$0	(\$2,426)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$45,380)

Human Rights Commission - Regulation 0150

Initiative: Transfers one Maine Human Rights Investigator position from 75% General Fund and 25% Federal Expenditures Fund to 100% General Fund to align the funding with the appropriate source and transfers funding for the associated All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$34,010
All Other	\$0	\$1,516
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$35,526

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$34,010)
All Other	\$0	(\$1,516)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$35,526)

Human Rights Commission - Regulation 0150

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates one Public Service Manager II position from 66% General Fund and 34% Federal Expenditures Fund to 100% General Fund to align the funding with the appropriate source and transfers funding for the associated All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$56,996
All Other	\$0	\$2,062
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$59,058

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	(1.000)
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	(\$56,996)
All Other	\$0	(\$2,062)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$59,058)

Human Rights Commission - Regulation 0150

Initiative: Reallocates one Maine Human Rights Investigator position from 75% General Fund and 25% Federal Expenditures Fund to 100% General Fund to align the funding with the appropriate source and transfers funding for the associated All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$30,743
All Other	\$0	\$1,516
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$32,259

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$30,743)
All Other	\$0	(\$1,516)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$32,259)

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, MAINE DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$172,223
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	(\$172,223)
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$0

Sec. A-20. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE, DEPARTMENT OF**ATV Safety and Educational Program 0559**

Initiative: Reduces funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$706)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$706)

ATV Safety and Educational Program 0559

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$268)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$268)

Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0537

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program to the Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program within the same fund for wildlife conflict management.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$163,446)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$163,446)

Fisheries and Hatcheries Operations 0535

Initiative: Provides funding for fish hatchery improvements.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$250,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$250,000

Landowner Relations Z140

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of 3 Deputy Game Warden positions to 3 Game Warden positions.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$74,655
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$74,655

Public Information and Education, Division of 0729

Initiative: Provides funding across programs for the approved reorganization of one Public Relations Specialist position to a Marketing Specialist position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$3,157

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GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$3,157
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$1,576
All Other	\$0	\$50
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$1,626

Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0534

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Enforcement Operations - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program to the Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program within the same fund for wildlife conflict management.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$163,446
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$163,446

Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0534

Initiative: Provides funding across programs for the approved reorganization of one Public Relations Specialist position to a Marketing Specialist position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$3,157
All Other	\$0	\$100
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$3,257

Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0534

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one IF&W Resource Technician position to an IF&W Resource Biologist position and one IF&W Senior Resource Biologist position to an IF&W Resource Supervisor position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$4,187
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$4,187

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$12,673
All Other	\$0	\$402
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$13,075

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$2,132

All Other	\$0	\$68
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$2,200

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$81,999
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$13,075
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$256,109
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$351,183

Sec. A-21. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**Courts - Supreme, Superior and District 0063**

Initiative: Provides funding for increased insurance costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$91,000

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$91,000

Courts - Supreme, Superior and District 0063

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to pay counsel fees related to weapons restriction orders and civil commitment cases.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,990,000

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,990,000

Courts - Supreme, Superior and District 0063

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of 2 Accounting Clerk I positions from range 9 to range 10.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$8,992

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$8,992

Courts - Supreme, Superior and District 0063

Initiative: Establishes 5 Electronic Filing Specialist positions and one Electronic Filing Supervisor position. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	6.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$639,257
All Other	\$0	\$28,380

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$667,637

Courts - Supreme, Superior and District 0063

Initiative: Establishes 3 Assistant Clerk positions and 2 Associate Clerk positions. This initiative also provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	5.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$499,236
All Other	\$0	\$33,650

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$532,886

Courts - Supreme, Superior and District 0063

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Director of State Judicial Marshals from range 22 to range 23, retroactive to May 14, 2025.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$40,731

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$40,731

Courts - Supreme, Superior and District 0063

Initiative: Establishes one IT Security Analyst position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$154,896
All Other	\$0	\$5,050

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$159,946

Courts - Supreme, Superior and District 0063

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Supervisor Law Clerk position at range 6 to a Trial Chief position at range 7.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$12,139

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$12,139

Courts - Supreme, Superior and District 0063

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Division Supervisor I position to a Division Supervisor II position.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$7,341

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$7,341

Courts - Supreme, Superior and District 0063

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Internal Case Processing Lead position from range 10 to range 11.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$4,846

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$4,846

Courts - Supreme, Superior and District 0063

Initiative: Establishes 2 District Court Judge positions, 2 Deputy Marshal positions and 2 Assistant Clerk positions and provides funding to implement the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	6.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$896,951
All Other	\$0	\$81,860

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$978,811

Courts - Supreme, Superior and District 0063

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for increased insurance costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$91,000

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$91,000

Judicial - Debt Service Z097

Initiative: Provides funding for debt service costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$4,098,013

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$4,098,013

Judicial - Debt Service Z097

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for debt service costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,944,265

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,944,265

Maine Civil Legal Services Fund Z367

Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for civil legal services for persons unable to afford a lawyer by increasing funds available for distribution by the Civil Legal Services Fund Commission pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 4, section 18-A, subsection 1.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,000,000

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,000,000

Maine Civil Legal Services Fund Z367

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for civil legal services for persons unable to afford a lawyer by increasing funds available for distribution by the Civil Legal Services Fund Commission pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 4, section 18-A, subsection 1.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27

All Other	\$0	\$3,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$3,000,000
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$15,627,607
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$15,627,607

Sec. A-22. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF

Employment Security Services 0245

Initiative: Transfers one Principal Economic Research Analyst position from the Employment Security Services program, Federal Expenditures Fund to the Workforce Research program, Federal Expenditures Fund.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$166,066)
All Other	\$0	(\$2,489)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$168,555)

Employment Services Activity 0852

Initiative: Transfers one Office Specialist I position from the Workforce Research program to the Employment Services Activity program to align the funding with the work being performed.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$88,323
All Other	\$0	\$4,490
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$92,813

Employment Services Activity 0852

Initiative: Provides funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,000,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,000,000

Employment Services Activity 0852

Initiative: Continues one limited-period CareerCenter Consultant position previously established by financial

order in fiscal year 2025-26 through June 19, 2027 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$93,510
All Other	\$0	\$19,214
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$112,724

Maine Apprenticeship Program Z375

Initiative: Continues one limited-period CareerCenter Consultant position previously established by Public Law 2023, chapter 683 through June 17, 2028.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$80,242
All Other	\$0	\$8,840
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$89,082

Rehabilitation Services 0799

Initiative: Continues 3 limited-period Rehabilitation Counselor II positions previously established by financial order in fiscal year 2025-26 through June 19, 2027 and provides funding for related All Other costs.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$307,914
All Other	\$0	\$6,143
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$314,057

State Workforce Investment Board Z158

Initiative: Provides funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$10,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$10,000

Workforce Research Z164

Initiative: Transfers one Office Specialist I position from the Workforce Research program to the Employment Services Activity program to align the funding with the work being performed.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$88,323)
All Other	\$0	(\$4,640)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$92,963)

Workforce Research Z164

Initiative: Transfers one Principal Economic Research Analyst position from the Employment Security Services program, Federal Expenditures Fund to the Workforce Research program, Federal Expenditures Fund.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$166,066
All Other	\$0	\$5,214
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$171,280
LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$2,439,356
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$89,082
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$2,528,438

Sec. A-23. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

LIBRARY, MAINE STATE**Maine State Library 0217**

Initiative: Transfers funding for a contract for the Executive Director of Maine InfoNet's salary from the Maine State Library program, Federal Expenditures Fund to the Statewide Library Information System program, General Fund.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$118,559)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$118,559)

Maine State Library 0217

Initiative: Transfers one Library Section Supervisor position and related All Other costs from Federal Expenditures Fund to General Fund within the same program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$146,035
All Other	\$0	\$6,065
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$152,100
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)

Personal Services	\$0	(\$146,035)
All Other	\$0	(\$6,065)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$152,100)

Maine State Library 0217

Initiative: Transfers one Librarian - Specialized Services position and related All Other costs from Federal Expenditures Fund to General Fund within the same program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$133,598
All Other	\$0	\$6,065
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$139,663

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$133,598)
All Other	\$0	(\$6,065)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$139,663)

Maine State Library 0217

Initiative: Transfers one Interlibrary Loan Coordinator position from 70% Federal Expenditures Fund and 30% General Fund to 100% General Fund, one part-time Customer Representative Assistant II position from General Fund to Federal Expenditures Fund and one Librarian - Specialized Services position from 50% General Fund and 50% Federal Expenditures Fund to 100% Federal Expenditures Fund. All transfers are within the same program. This initiative also transfers funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$27,893)
All Other	\$0	(\$4,853)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$32,746)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$27,893
All Other	\$0	\$4,853
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$32,746

Maine State Library 0217

Initiative: Transfers funding from the Statewide Library Information System program to the Maine State Library program within the same fund.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$35,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$35,000

Maine State Library 0217

Initiative: Pursuant to the Governor's Maine Artificial Intelligence Task Force recommendations, provides one-time funding to design a program to promote a public literacy and safety program related to artificial intelligence.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$250,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$250,000

Maine State Library 0217

Initiative: Pursuant to the Governor's Maine Artificial Intelligence Task Force recommendations, provides one-time funding for media and outreach to promote a public literacy and safety program related to artificial intelligence.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$250,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$250,000

Maine State Library 0217

Initiative: Pursuant to the Governor's Maine Artificial Intelligence Task Force recommendations, provides one-time funding for competitive grants to deploy and implement a public literacy and safety program related to artificial intelligence.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$250,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$250,000

Maine State Library 0217

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Librarian-Generalist position to a Librarian-Core Services position and one Office Associate II position to a Public Relations Specialist position.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$13,776
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$13,776

Statewide Library Information System 0185

Initiative: Transfers funding for a contract for the Executive Director of Maine InfoNet's salary from the Maine State Library program, Federal Expenditures Fund to the Statewide Library Information System program, General Fund.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$118,559
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$118,559

Statewide Library Information System 0185

Initiative: Transfers funding from the Statewide Library Information System program to the Maine State Library program within the same fund.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$35,000)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$35,000)

LIBRARY, MAINE STATE DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$1,141,352
FEDERAL	\$0	(\$377,576)
EXPENDITURES FUND		

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$763,776

Sec. A-24. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

MAINE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Community Resilience Partnership Z412

Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Coordinator II position and All Other costs from the Community Resilience Partnership program to the State Resilience Fund program within the same fund.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	(1.000)
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	(\$156,306)
All Other	\$0	(\$3,003,660)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$3,159,966)

Division of Building Codes and Standards Z419

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Public Safety Inspector III position to a Public Safety Inspector Supervisor position retroactive to August 21, 2024 and transfers All Other to Personal Services one time to fund the retroactive portion of the reclassification. This initiative also provides funding for authorized overtime.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$94,594
All Other	\$0	(\$9,282)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$85,312

Division of Building Codes and Standards Z419

Initiative: Transfers one Senior Manufactured Housing Inspector position and one Manufactured Housing Inspector position from the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation program within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to the Division of Building Codes and Standards program within the Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund. These transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, are classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit is based on the classification of the position. These employees retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$255,443
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$255,443

Division of Building Codes and Standards Z419

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Manufactured Housing Board program within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to the Division of Building Codes and Standards program within the Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$22,486
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$22,486

Division of Building Codes and Standards Z419

Initiative: Provides funding for an attorney position under the Department of the Attorney General.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$145,962
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$145,962

Division of Building Codes and Standards Z419

Initiative: Establishes one Resource Management Coordinator position and provides funding for training and support for local code enforcement officers.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$122,761
All Other	\$0	\$13,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$135,761

Division of Building Codes and Standards Z419

Initiative: Provides funding for changes in retirement plans.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$2,137
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$2,137

Division of Building Codes and Standards Z419

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for changes in retirement plans.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$1,576
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$1,576

Division of Building Codes and Standards Z419

Initiative: Provides funding for the proposed reorganization of one Public Safety Inspector Supervisor position to a Public Service Manager II position.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$16,340
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$16,340

Division of Building Codes and Standards Z419

Initiative: Establishes one Resource Management Coordinator position for coordination of the training and certification program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$122,761
All Other	\$0	\$10,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$132,761

Division of Building Codes and Standards Z419

Initiative: Transfers funding from the All Other line category to the Personal Services line category to fund the proposed reorganization of one Public Service Coordinator II position to one Public Service Manager II position.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$12,037
All Other	\$0	(\$12,037)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

Division of Building Codes and Standards Z419

Initiative: Provides funding for the proposed reorganization of one Senior Manufactured Housing Inspector position to a Public Service Manager I position and one

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Manufactured Housing Inspector position to a Senior Manufactured Housing Inspector position.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$18,535
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$18,535

Housing Opportunity Program Z418

Initiative: Transfers one Executive Director Manufactured Housing Board position and one Secretary Specialist position from the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation program within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to the Housing Opportunity Program within the Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund. These transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, are classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit is based on the classification of the position. These employees retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$244,057
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$244,057

Maine Climate Corps Program Z416

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to support the Maine Climate Corps Program.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$500

Maine Climate Corps Program Z416

Initiative: Reduces Legislative Count for one Senior Planner position that was continued as limited-period through June 19, 2027 in the Department of Education in Public Law 2025, chapter 388, Part A.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

Maine Floodplain Program Z420

Initiative: Transfers one Senior Planner position, one Planner II position and All Other costs from the Maine Floodplain Program to the State Resilience Fund program within the same respective funds.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27

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POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$104,710)
All Other	\$0	(\$14,190)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$118,900)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$134,251)
All Other	\$0	(\$49,909)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$184,160)

Maine Office of Community Affairs Z396

Initiative: Provides funding for the office's share of the cost for the financial and human resources service centers within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$47,500
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$47,500

Maine Office of Community Affairs Z396

Initiative: Provides funding for DICAP costs.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$243,296
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$243,296

Maine Office of Community Affairs Z396

Initiative: Transfers one limited-period Public Service Executive II position, 3 limited-period Public Service Manager II positions and related All Other costs from the Maine Office of Community Affairs program to the State Resilience Fund program within the same fund and changes the end date of the positions to September 30, 2029. This initiative also provides funding for All Other costs for a 5-year grant received from the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$598,336)
All Other	\$0	(\$35,652)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$633,988)

Maine Office of Community Affairs Z396

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the office's share of the cost for the financial and human resources service centers within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$47,500
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$47,500

Maine Service Fellows Program Z417

Initiative: Provides funding for All Other costs for a 5-year grant received from the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$226,110
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$226,110

Maine Service Fellows Program Z417

Initiative: Provides funding to align allocations with projected available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$10,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$10,000

Municipal Planning Assistance Z414

Initiative: Reduces Legislative Count to correct an error for one Senior Planner position that was continued as a limited-period position through June 19, 2027 in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry in Public Law 2025, chapter 388, Part A.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

State Resilience Fund Z430

Initiative: Transfers one limited-period Public Service Coordinator II position and related All Other costs from the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future program within the Executive Department to the State Resilience Fund program within the Maine Office of Community Affairs, within the same fund, and continues this position through September 30, 2029.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$156,630
All Other	\$0	\$8,762
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$165,392

State Resilience Fund Z430

Initiative: Transfers one Senior Planner position, one Planner II position and All Other costs from the Maine Floodplain Program to the State Resilience Fund program within the same respective funds.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$104,710
All Other	\$0	\$14,190
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$118,900

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$134,251
All Other	\$0	\$49,909
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$184,160

State Resilience Fund Z430

Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Coordinator II position and All Other costs from the Community Resilience Partnership program to the State Resilience Fund program within the same fund.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$156,306
All Other	\$0	\$3,003,660
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$3,159,966

State Resilience Fund Z430

Initiative: Transfers one limited-period Public Service Executive II position, 3 limited-period Public Service Manager II positions and related All Other costs from the Maine Office of Community Affairs program to the State Resilience Fund program within the same fund and changes the end date of the positions to September 30, 2029. This initiative also provides funding for All Other costs for a 5-year grant received from the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$598,336
All Other	\$0	\$4,832,943
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$5,431,279

MAINE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$227,761
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$5,211,279
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$1,158,919
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$6,597,959

Sec. A-25. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Transfers one limited-period Marine Resource Scientist I position from the Bureau of Policy and Management program, General Fund to the Bureau of Marine Science program, Federal Expenditures Fund.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$118,684
All Other	\$0	\$5,454
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$124,138

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Transfers one limited-period Marine Resource Scientist I position, 2 limited-period Marine Resource Scientist II positions, one limited-period Marine Resource Scientist III position and 2 limited-period Marine Resource Specialist positions and all related All Other costs from the Bureau of Policy and Management program to the Bureau of Marine Science program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$741,293
All Other	\$0	\$82,927
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$824,220

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Reallocates the cost of one Marine Resource Scientist III position from another Other Special Revenue Funds account within the same program.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$45,577
All Other	\$0	\$2,095
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$47,672

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Establishes a baseline allocation in the Marine Science Research and Boat Operations Fund.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$500

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Provides funding to align allocations with projected available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$202,559

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$202,559

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Transfers one limited-period Management Analyst I position and one limited-period Public Service Coordinator I position from the Bureau of Marine Science program, Federal Expenditures Fund to the Bureau of Policy and Management program, Other Special Revenue Funds.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$307,409)
All Other	\$0	(\$14,126)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$321,535)

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Provides funding for contractual services and other operational support in order to effectively execute a more limited offshore wind monitoring program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$222,091

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$222,091

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Reallocates the cost of one Marine Resource Scientist III position to another Other Special Revenue Funds account within the same program.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$45,577)
All Other	\$0	(\$2,095)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$47,672)

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Marine Resource Specialist position to a Marine Resource Scientist I position, retroactive to May 27, 2025.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$3,928

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$3,928

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27

Personal Services	\$0	\$3,926
All Other	\$0	\$180

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$4,106

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$7,853
All Other	\$0	\$361
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$8,214

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Marine Resource Scientist III position to a Marine Resource Scientist IV position, retroactive to May 22, 2025.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$28,284
All Other	\$0	\$1,300
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$29,584

Bureau of Policy and Management 0258

Initiative: Transfers one limited-period Marine Resource Scientist I position from the Bureau of Policy and Management program, General Fund to the Bureau of Marine Science program, Federal Expenditures Fund.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$118,684)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$118,684)

Bureau of Policy and Management 0258

Initiative: Transfers one limited-period Marine Resource Scientist I position, 2 limited-period Marine Resource Scientist II positions, one limited-period Marine Resource Scientist III position and 2 limited-period Marine Resource Specialist positions and all related All Other costs from the Bureau of Policy and Management program to the Bureau of Marine Science program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$741,293)
All Other	\$0	(\$82,927)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$824,220)

Bureau of Policy and Management 0258

Initiative: Eliminates one limited-period Marine Resource Specialist position inadvertently continued in Public Law 2025, chapter 388.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$103,407)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$103,407)

Bureau of Policy and Management 0258

Initiative: Transfers one limited-period Management Analyst I position and one limited-period Public Service Coordinator I position from the Bureau of Marine

Science program, Federal Expenditures Fund to the Bureau of Policy and Management program, Other Special Revenue Funds.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$248,279
All Other	\$0	\$11,409
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$259,688

Bureau of Policy and Management 0258

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Public Service Executive II position from range 34 to range 36, retroactive to September 10, 2024.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$37,239
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$37,239

Bureau of Policy and Management 0258

Initiative: Provides funding to align allocations with projected available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$15,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$15,000

Bureau of Policy and Management 0258

Initiative: Establishes a baseline allocation in the Division of Administrative Services Federal Expenditures Fund account.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$500

Bureau of Public Health and Aquaculture Z154

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Planning and Research Associate II position to a Marine Resource Management Coordinator position, retroactive to December 17, 2024.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$23,190
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$23,190

Bureau of Public Health and Aquaculture Z154

Initiative: Provides allocations to align with available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$74,404

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	\$74,404
FUNDS TOTAL		

Marine Patrol - Bureau of 0029

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Planning and Research Associate I position to one Management Analyst II position, retroactive to April 18, 2025, and provides funding for related All Other costs.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$13,558
All Other	\$0	\$329

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	\$13,887
FUNDS TOTAL		

Sea Run Fisheries and Habitat Z295

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Public Service Executive II position from range 34 to range 36, retroactive to August 20, 2024, and provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$9,459

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$9,459

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$28,382
All Other	\$0	\$550

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$28,932

MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27

GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$73,816
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	(\$163,859)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$603,836

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$513,793

Sec. A-26. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

MARITIME ACADEMY, MAINE**Maine Maritime Academy Scholarship Fund - Casino Z167**

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$2,163)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	(\$2,163)
FUNDS TOTAL		

Maine Maritime Academy Scholarship Fund - Casino Z167

Initiative: Reduces funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$13,454)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	(\$13,454)
FUNDS TOTAL		

MARITIME ACADEMY, MAINE DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	(\$15,617)

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	(\$15,617)

Sec. A-27. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION, DEPARTMENT OF**Manufactured Housing Board 0351**

Initiative: Transfers All Other funding from the Manufactured Housing Board program within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to the Division of Building Codes and Standards program within the Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$22,486)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$22,486)

Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation 0352

Initiative: Transfers one Senior Manufactured Housing Inspector position and one Manufactured Housing Inspector position from the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation program within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to the Division of Building Codes and Standards program within the Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund. These transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, are classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit is

based on the classification of the position. These employees retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	(2.000)
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	(\$255,823)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$255,823)

Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation 0352

Initiative: Transfers one Executive Director Manufactured Housing Board position and one Secretary Specialist position from the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation program within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to the Housing Opportunity Program within the Maine Office of Community Affairs within the same fund. These transferred positions, including those currently unclassified, are classified positions at the Maine Office of Community Affairs. The designation of each position as either confidential or bargaining unit is based on the classification of the position. These employees retain their accrued vacation and sick leave balances.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	(2.000)
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	(\$244,437)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$244,437)

PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	(\$22,486)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	(\$500,260)
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	(\$522,746)

Sec. A-28. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING CORPORATION, MAINE

Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation 0033

Initiative: Provides funding for the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation in delivering broadcast and emergency alert services on the State's public television and radio network.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$200,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$200,000

Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation 0033

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation in delivering broadcast and emergency alert services on the State's public television and radio network.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$200,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$200,000

PUBLIC BROADCASTING CORPORATION, MAINE DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$400,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$400,000

Sec. A-29. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES, MAINE COMMISSION ON

Maine Commission on Public Defense Services Z112

Initiative: Establishes one District Defender position, 2 Assistant Defender II positions, one Paralegal position and one Field Investigator position to provide indigent legal services in areas of the State with the greatest need and provides funding for office rent and related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	5.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$673,913
All Other	\$0	\$99,477
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$773,390

Maine Commission on Public Defense Services Z112

Initiative: Establishes 2 Assistant Defender I positions and one Paralegal position to support the establishment of the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services, parents counsel division and provides funding for office rent and related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	3.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$487,668
All Other	\$0	\$134,580
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$622,248

**Maine Commission on Public Defense Services
Z112**

Initiative: Provides allocations to align with projected resources.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$210,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$210,000

**PUBLIC DEFENSE
SERVICES, MAINE
COMMISSION ON
DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$1,395,638
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$210,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$1,605,638

Sec. A-30. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF
Administration - Public Safety 0088**

Initiative: Establishes one Public Service Coordinator I position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$139,498
All Other	\$0	\$8,150
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$147,648

Capitol Police - Bureau of 0101

Initiative: Transfers 4 Capitol Police Officer positions and one Capitol Police Sergeant position from Other Special Revenue Funds to General Fund within the same program and provides funding that was not provided in a previous initiative for the positions and related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	5.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$725,206
All Other	\$0	\$59,696
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$784,902

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27

POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(5.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$725,206)
All Other	\$0	(\$59,696)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$784,902)

Computer Crimes 0048

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of 2 Supervisor Computer Forensic Lab positions from range 29 to range 31.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$19,433
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$19,433

Criminal Justice Academy 0290

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one MCJA Assistant Director position to a Public Service Manager II position, retroactive to May 29, 2025.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$16,158
All Other	\$0	\$4,757

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$20,915

**EMS Stabilization and Sustainability Program
Z382**

Initiative: Provides baseline allocation in the EMS Stabilization and Sustainability Program.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$500

Fire Marshal - Office of 0327

Initiative: Establishes one Fire Investigation Sergeant position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$163,076
All Other	\$0	\$13,616

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$176,692

Fire Marshal - Office of 0327

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Public Service Manager II position from range 29 to range 32.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27

Personal Services	\$0	\$19,031
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$19,031

Fire Marshal - Office of 0327

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of 3 Public Safety Inspector III positions to 3 Public Safety Inspector Supervisor positions, retroactive to August 21, 2024, and related All Other costs.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$233,141
All Other	\$0	\$754
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$233,895

Gambling Control Board Z002

Initiative: Reduces funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$758,533)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$758,533)

Gambling Control Board Z002

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$44,589)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$44,589)

Highway Safety DPS 0457

Initiative: Provides funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$4,100,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$4,100,000

State Police 0291

Initiative: Establishes 4 State Police Detective positions and provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2025-26	2026-27
	0.000	4.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$498,456
All Other	\$0	\$30,052
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$528,508

State Police 0291

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of 5 Senior Laboratory Scientist positions from range 29 to range 31 and related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$38,933
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$38,933

State Police 0291

Initiative: Provides funding for an increase in rent for the northern field troop barracks.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$65,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$65,000

State Police 0291

Initiative: Establishes one State Police Lieutenant position and provides funding for related All Other costs for additional staffing related to the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act. This initiative also provides funding for one Ford Police Interceptor Utility Hybrid vehicle for this position.

GENERAL FUND POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2025-26	2026-27
	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$118,257
All Other	\$0	\$37,164
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$31,200
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$186,621

State Police 0291

Initiative: Establishes one Forensic Chemist II position and one DNA Forensic Analyst position and provides funding for related All Other costs, a mobile office unit and a contracted trainer for the tracking system.

GENERAL FUND POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	2025-26	2026-27
	0.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$173,658
All Other	\$0	\$93,389
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$267,047

State Police 0291

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of 8 Public Safety Mechanic positions to 8 Auto Mechanic III positions.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$20,216
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$20,216

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$6,831

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$6,831

Turnpike Enforcement 0547

Initiative: Establishes one State Police Sergeant position, 2 State Police Corporal positions and 4 State Police Trooper positions and provides funding for related All Other costs to increase coverage on the Maine Turnpike. This initiative also provides funding for 7 vehicles for those 7 positions.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	7.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$1,040,648
All Other	\$0	\$190,958
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$385,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$1,616,606

Turnpike Enforcement 0547

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of 8 Public Safety Mechanic positions to 8 Auto Mechanic III positions.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$8,356
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$8,356

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$1,929,691
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$4,100,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$623,419
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$6,653,110

Sec. A-31. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF**Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions 0692**

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Office Specialist I position to an Office Specialist II position, retroactive to July 2024, and provides one-time funding for the retroactive costs associated with the reclassification.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$15,539
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$15,539

Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions 0692

Initiative: Provides funding for the lease of new voter tabulation machines.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$792,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$792,000

Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions 0692

Initiative: Provides funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$314,167
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$314,167

Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions 0692

Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Coordinator I position and All Other costs from the Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions program to the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women program within the same funds to align funding with actual operations.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$143,493)
All Other	\$0	(\$27,196)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$170,689)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$8,290)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$8,290)

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women Z455

Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Coordinator I position and All Other costs from the Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions program to the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women program within the same funds to align funding with actual operations.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$143,493
All Other	\$0	\$27,196
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$170,689

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$8,290
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$8,290
SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$792,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$329,706
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$1,121,706

Sec. A-32. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

TREASURER OF STATE, OFFICE OF Debt Service - Treasury 0021

Initiative: Reduces funding one time based on anticipated authorized general obligation bonds.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$14,752,057)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$14,752,057)

Disproportionate Tax Burden Fund 0472

Initiative: Increases funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$741,723
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$741,723

Disproportionate Tax Burden Fund 0472

Initiative: Provides funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,115,378
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$1,115,378

State - Municipal Revenue Sharing 0020

Initiative: Increases funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,966,891
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$2,966,891

State - Municipal Revenue Sharing 0020

Initiative: Provides funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$4,461,512
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$4,461,512

TREASURER OF STATE, OFFICE OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	(\$14,752,057)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$9,285,504
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	(\$5,466,553)

Sec. A-33. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE

Educational and General Activities - UMS 0031

Initiative: Provides funding for an annual contract with the Maine Education Policy Research Institute.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$250,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$250,000

Educational and General Activities - UMS 0031

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to support commercially promising faculty, staff and student research at the University of Maine System in emerging areas of state and national interest and economic opportunity.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,000,000

University of Maine Scholarship Fund 2011

Initiative: Reduces funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$306,923)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$306,923)

University of Maine Scholarship Fund 2011

Initiative: Adjusts funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$52,185)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$52,185)

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$2,250,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	(\$359,108)
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$1,890,892

Sec. A-34. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HEALTH DATA ORGANIZATION, MAINE

Maine Health Data Organization 0848

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to the Maine Health Data Organization for data collection and initial implementation of a reporting dashboard to calculate the care gap for Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Aging and Disability Services services.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$133,768
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$133,768

Sec. A-35. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

RETIREMENT SYSTEM, MAINE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Retirement System - Retirement Allowance Fund 0085

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the increase in the unfunded actuarial liability created as a result of allowing employees of the Department of Health and Human Services who provide crisis outreach and crisis services to adults with developmental disabilities or intellectual disabilities in a community-based or residential setting to participate in the 1998 Special Plan.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,876,610
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,876,610

Retirement System - Retirement Allowance Fund 0085

Initiative: Provides one-time funds for the increase in the unfunded actuarial liability as a result of allowing

service retirement benefits for employees employed in the Office of Chief Medical Examiner within the Department of the Attorney General earned under the regular state employee and teacher plan to be calculated under the 1998 Special Plan.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$483,270
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$483,270

RETIREMENT SYSTEM, MAINE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$2,359,880
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$2,359,880

PART B

Sec. B-1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

DACF Administration 0401

Initiative: RECLASSIFICATIONS

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$42,487
All Other	\$0	(\$42,487)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

Sec. B-2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF

Administration - Environmental Protection 0251

Initiative: RECLASSIFICATIONS

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$19,848
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$19,848

Maine Environmental Protection Fund 0421

Initiative: RECLASSIFICATIONS

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$74,877
All Other	\$0	\$1,964
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$76,841

Remediation and Waste Management 0247**Initiative: RECLASSIFICATIONS**

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$23,675
All Other	\$0	\$343
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$24,018
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$66,432
All Other	\$0	\$845
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$67,277
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$24,018
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$163,966
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$187,984

PART C

Sec. C-1. Mill expectation. The mill expectation pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15671-A for fiscal year 2026-27 is 5.645.

Sec. C-2. Total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12. The total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 for fiscal year 2026-27 is as follows:

	2026-27 TOTAL
Total Operating Allocation	
Total operating allocation pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15683	\$1,687,739,449
Total operating allocation for public charter schools pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15683-B	\$40,404,647
Total adjustments to state subsidy pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689 included in subsidizable costs and total other subsidizable costs pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15681-A	\$770,551,816
Total Operating Allocation and Subsidizable Costs	

Total operating allocation pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15683 and total other subsidizable costs pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15681-A

\$2,498,695,912

Total Debt Service Allocation

Total debt service allocation pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15683-A

\$4,479,686

Total Adjustments and Targeted Education Funds

Adjustments pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689

Audit adjustments pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 4

\$0

Educating students in long-term drug treatment center adjustments pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 5

\$249,607

Minimum teacher salary adjustment pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 7-A

\$0

Regionalization, consolidation and efficiency assistance adjustments pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 9

\$6,506,869

Maine Care seed payments adjustments pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 14

\$3,000,000

Special education budgetary hardship adjustment pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 15

\$100,000

English learner budgetary hardship adjustment pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689, subsection 16

\$500,000

Total adjustments to the state share of total allocation pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689

\$10,356,476

Targeted education funds pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A

Special education costs for state agency clients pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 1

\$26,250,000

Essential programs and services components contract pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 3

\$300,000

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Data management and support services for essential programs and services pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 10	\$10,750,000	Enhancing student performance and opportunity pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688-A	
Postsecondary course payments pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 11	\$5,500,000	Career and technical education costs pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688-A, subsection 1	\$82,351,963
National board certification salary supplement pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 12	\$0	College transitions programs through adult education programs pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688-A, subsection 2	\$450,000
Learning through technology program pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 12-A	\$14,000,000	National industry standards for career and technical education pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688-A, subsection 6	\$2,000,000
Jobs for Maine's Graduates, including costs for postsecondary education, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 13	\$3,881,379	Career and technical education middle school grant program pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688-A, subsection 8	\$500,000
Maine School of Science and Mathematics, pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 14	\$3,615,347	Career and technical education early childhood education program expansion support pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688-A, subsection 10	\$100,000
Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 15	\$9,758,979	Total enhancing student performance and opportunity pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15688-A	\$85,401,963
Transportation administration pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 16	\$300,000	Total Cost of Funding Public Education from Kindergarten to Grade 12	
Special education for juvenile offenders pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 17	\$420,326	Total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 for the fiscal year pursuant to Title 20-A, chapter 606-B, not including normal retirement costs	\$2,801,609,920
Comprehensive early college programs funding (bridge year program) pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 23	\$1,000,000	Total normal cost of teacher retirement	\$69,763,590
Community schools pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 25	\$250,000	Total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 for the fiscal year pursuant to Title 20-A, chapter 606-B, including normal retirement costs	\$2,871,373,510
Musical instruments and professional development in rural schools pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 28	\$50,000	Total cost of state contribution to unfunded actuarial liabilities of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System that are attributable to teachers, retired teachers' health insurance and retired teachers' life insurance for fiscal year 2026-27 pursuant to Title 5, chapters 421 and 423, excluding the normal cost of teacher retirement	\$292,083,135
Major capital projects principal payments pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 29	\$91,916,877		
Major capital projects interest payments pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 29	\$30,682,975		
Adult education pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A, subsection 30	\$4,000,000		
Total targeted education funds pursuant to Title 20-A, section 15689-A	\$202,675,883		

Total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12, plus state contributions to the unfunded actuarial liabilities of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System that are attributable to teachers, retired teachers' health insurance and retired teachers' life insurance for fiscal year 2026-27 pursuant to Title 5, chapters 421 and 423

\$3,163,456,645

Sec. C-3. Local and state contributions to total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12. The local contribution and the state contribution appropriation provided for general purpose aid for local schools for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 is calculated as follows:

	2026-27 LOCAL	2026-27 STATE
Local and State Contributions to the Total Cost of Funding Public Education from Kindergarten to Grade 12		
Local and state contributions to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15683, subject to statewide distributions required by law	\$1,292,118,080	\$1,579,255,430
State contribution to the total cost of unfunded actuarial liabilities of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System that are attributable to teachers, retired teachers' health insurance and retired teachers' life insurance for fiscal year 2026-27 pursuant to Title 5, chapters 421 and 423 excluding the normal cost of teacher retirement		\$292,083,135

State contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 plus state contribution to the total cost of unfunded actuarial liabilities of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System that are attributable to teachers, retired teachers' health insurance and retired teachers' life insurance pursuant to Title 5, chapters 421 and 423

\$1,871,338,565

Sec. C-4. Authorization of payments. If the State's continued obligation for any individual component contained in those sections of this Part that set the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 and the local and state contributions for that purpose exceeds the level of funding provided for that component, any unexpended balances occurring in other programs may be applied to avoid proration of payments for any individual component. Any unexpended balances from this Part may not lapse but must be carried forward for the same purpose.

Sec. C-5. Limit of State's obligation. Those sections of this Part that set the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 and the local and state contributions for that purpose may not be construed to require the State to provide payments that exceed the appropriation of funds for general purpose aid for local schools for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

PART D

Sec. D-1. PL 2023, c. 3, Pt. C, §5, as amended by PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. D, §1, is further amended to read:

Sec. C-5. Continuation of limited-period positions. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, limited-period positions funded with the Federal Expenditures Fund - ARP State Fiscal Recovery funds authorized in Public Law 2021, chapter 483, "An Act To Provide Allocations for the Distribution of State Fiscal Recovery Funds," may be extended beyond 2 years by financial order but not later than ~~December 31, 2026~~ May 31, 2027.

Sec. D-2. PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. D, §2 is amended to read:

Sec. D-2. Adjustments to allocations. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 37-B, section 746 or any other provision of law to the contrary, Federal Expenditures Fund - ARP State Fiscal Recovery funds allocated to departments, agencies and programs may be adjusted in fiscal years 2023-24, 2024-25 ~~and~~, 2025-26 ~~and~~ 2026-27 either within the same department or agency or between departments or

agencies on recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. The Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services shall report any adjustments to allocations made pursuant to this section to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs at least quarterly.

Sec. D-3. PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. D, §4 is amended to read:

Sec. D-4. Calculation and transfer. The State Budget Officer shall calculate the cost of extending positions necessary to complete authorized projects initially funded with funds received through the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The State Budget Officer shall transfer the amounts by financial order upon the approval of the Governor. These transfers are considered adjustments to allocations in fiscal year 2023-24, 2024-25 ~~or~~ 2025-26 or 2026-27.

PART E

Sec. E-1. 5 MRSA §286, 3rd ¶, as amended by PL 2025, c. 48, Pt. B, §3, is repealed.

Sec. E-2. 5 MRSA §286, 6th ¶, as amended by PL 2025, c. 48, Pt. B, §3, is further amended to read:

A reserve fund, administered by the Executive Director of Employee Health, Wellness and Workers' Compensation and the State Human Resources Officer with approval of the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services, is created within the Accident, Sickness and Health Insurance Internal Service Fund to protect the program from unexpected losses and self-insured losses and related expenses incurred in the provision of health and dental benefits for the eligible participants. The fund is a continuing fund and may not lapse. The Treasurer of State shall invest the fund. All proceeds of these investments accrue to the fund.

Sec. E-3. 5 MRSA §286-A, as corrected by RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. B, §2 and affected by §50, is repealed.

Sec. E-4. 5 MRSA §957, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2005, c. 683, Pt. A, §5 and PL 2023, c. 412, §3, is further amended to read:

4. Funds. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services shall receive and disburse funds made available to the program through the ~~provisions of section 286-A~~ state employee health insurance program under section 286. The State Human Resources Officer shall oversee the implementation and administration of the program. Funds made available to the department for the purposes of this section, from any source, may not lapse, but must be carried forward to the next fiscal year to be expended for the same purpose.

Sec. E-5. 5 MRSA §1731, first ¶, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. O, §4, is further amended to read:

A reserve fund, referred to in this chapter as the "self-insurance fund," is created to indemnify the State or the State's designated payee for self-insured retention losses and related loss adjustment expenses from those perils insured against under a deductible or self-insured retention program, as recommended by the State Controller and approved by the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services. With the approval of the commissioner, the self-insurance fund may be used for loss prevention programs administered by either the risk management division within the Office of the State Controller or the Bureau of Human Resources. The total amount of the self-insurance fund provided for loss prevention programs in any given year may not exceed 5% of the self-insurance fund as of July 1st of that fiscal year. The self-insurance fund is a continuing fund and does not lapse. Funds provided from the self-insurance fund to the Bureau of Human Resources are similarly nonlapsing and are carried forward through the ~~Bureau of Human Resources' Dedicated Revenue Account~~ reserve fund established within the Accident, Sickness and Health Insurance Internal Service Fund under section 286.

Sec. E-6. 5 MRSA §7034, sub-§9, as amended by PL 1991, c. 780, Pt. Y, §93, is further amended to read:

9. Administer state employee health insurance program. Administer a health insurance program that is consistent with the rules adopted by the State Employee Health Commission and the requirements of sections 285 ~~to 286-A~~, 285-A and 286;

Sec. E-7. 5 MRSA §7036, sub-§24, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 528, Pt. III, §18 and affected by Pt. RRR and amended by c. 591, Pt. III, §18, is further amended to read:

24. Administer state employee health insurance program for state employees. Administer the ~~Employee Health Insurance Program~~ state employee health insurance program and the fund accounts established for this purpose by sections 286, ~~286-A~~ and 1731;

PART F

Sec. F-1. 5 MRSA §1532, sub-§9, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 424, §1, is amended to read:

9. Emergency funding for nonprofit food banks. During a state of emergency declared in accordance with Title 37-B, section 742, subsection 1 that exceeds 10 days, the Governor, in accordance with rules adopted by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, may distribute up to ~~\$400,000~~ \$4,000,000 from the stabilization fund to nonprofit entities, including food banks, food pantries and soup kitchens, that provide or distribute food to low-income, indigent or unemployed individuals or households without charge. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall adopt rules to prescribe the manner in which the funds distributed under this subsection must

be disbursed. The commissioner may leverage funds distributed under this subsection to match any relevant federal funding available for qualifying food programs in the State. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as described in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. The Governor may not suspend under Title 37-B, section 742, subsection 1, paragraph C, subparagraph (1) rules adopted under this subsection.

Sec. F-2. 5 MRSA §1532, sub-§10 is enacted to read:

10. Emergency heating assistance. During a state of emergency declared in accordance with Title 37-B, section 742, subsection 1 that exceeds 10 days, the Governor, in coordination with the Maine State Housing Authority, may distribute up to \$1,500,000 from the stabilization fund to the Maine State Housing Authority without charge to be used for the administration of benefit payments for emergency heating assistance. The Maine State Housing Authority shall return any of the funds distributed pursuant to this subsection if federal funding becomes available at a later time. Any funds returned by the Maine State Housing Authority must be deposited to the stabilization fund.

Sec. F-3. 5 MRSA §1532, sub-§11 is enacted to read:

11. Emergency nutrition assistance. During a state of emergency declared in accordance with Title 37-B, section 742, subsection 1 that exceeds 10 days, the Governor, in coordination with the Department of Health and Human Services, may distribute up to \$30,000,000 from the stabilization fund to the Department of Health and Human Services without charge to be used for the administration of benefit payments for the Women, Infants and Children Special Supplemental Food Program of the federal Child Nutrition Act of 1966 and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The Department of Health and Human Services shall return any of the funds distributed pursuant to this subsection if federal funding becomes available at a later time. Any funds returned by the Department of Health and Human Services must be deposited to the stabilization fund.

PART G

Sec. G-1. 5 MRSA §1591, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. N, §1, is further amended to read:

1. Department of Administrative and Financial Services. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services must apply:

A. Any balance remaining in the Salary Plan program in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services at the end of any fiscal year to be carried forward for the next fiscal year;

B. Any balance remaining in the General Fund Capital, Construction, Repairs, Improvements -

Administrative program in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services at the end of any fiscal year to be carried forward for the next fiscal year;

C. Any balance remaining in the Debt Service - Government Facilities Authority program, General Fund account in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services at the end of any fiscal year to be carried forward for the next fiscal year; ~~and~~

D. Any balance remaining in the Central Administrative Applications program, General Fund account in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services at the end of any fiscal year to be carried forward for the next fiscal year;

E. Any balance remaining in the Information Services program, General Fund account in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services at the end of any fiscal year to be carried forward for the next fiscal year; and

F. Any balance remaining in the Developmental Services Oversight and Advisory Board program, General Fund account in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services at the end of any fiscal year to be carried forward for the next fiscal year.

PART H

Sec. H-1. 5 MRSA §135, first ¶, as amended by PL 2005, c. 386, Pt. CC, §2, is further amended to read:

The Treasurer of State may deposit the money, including trust funds of the State, in any national bank or in any banking institution, trust company, state or federal savings and loan association or mutual savings bank organized under the laws of this State or having a location in the State except as provided in chapter 161. Before making a deposit, the Treasurer of State must consider the rating of the banking institution, trust company, state or federal savings and loan association or mutual savings bank on its most recent assessment conducted pursuant to the federal Community Reinvestment Act, 12 United States Code, Section 2901. The Treasurer of State may transfer funds into and out of the respective funds in the cash pool as circumstances may require to meet current obligations and shall request the State Controller to effect such transfers by journal entry as set forth in section 131-B. When there is excess money in the State Treasury that is not needed to meet current obligations, the Treasurer of State may invest, with the concurrence of the State Controller or the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services and with the consent of the Governor, those amounts in bonds, notes, certificates of indebtedness or other obligations of the United States and its agencies and instrumentalities that mature not more than 36 months from the date of investment or in repurchase agreements that

mature within the succeeding 12 months that are secured by obligations of the United States and its agencies and instrumentalities, prime commercial paper, tax-exempt obligations and corporate bonds rated "AAA" that mature not more than 36 months from the date of investment, banker's acceptances or so-called "no-load" shares of any investment company registered under the federal Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, that complies with Rule 2a-7 guidelines and maintains a constant share price. The Treasurer of State may participate in the securities loan market by loaning state-owned bonds, notes or certificates of indebtedness of the Federal Government, only if loans are fully collateralized by treasury bills or cash. The Treasurer of State shall seek competitive bids for investments except when, after a reasonable investigation, it appears that an investment of the desired maturity is procurable by the State from only one source. Interest earned on those investments of money must be credited to the respective funds, except that interest earned on investments of special revenue funds and internal service funds, unless otherwise specified, must be credited to the General Fund of the State. Effective July 1, 1995, interest earned on investments of the Highway Fund must be credited to the Highway Fund. Interest earned on funds of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife must be credited to the General Fund. Interest earned on funds of the Baxter State Park Authority must be credited to the Baxter State Park Fund. This section does not prevent the deposit for safekeeping or custodial care of the securities of the several funds of the State in banks or safe deposit companies in this State or any other state, nor the deposit of state funds required by the terms of custodial contracts or agreements negotiated in accordance with the laws of this State. All custodial contracts and agreements are subject to the approval of the Governor.

Sec. H-2. 5 MRSA §1827, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 386, Pt. H, §10, is amended to read:

6. Internal service fund accounts. Maintain or establish, through the Office of the State Controller, an internal service fund account for each of the central services described in subsections 1 to 5. The funds deposited in the account must include, but are not limited to, appropriations made to the account, funds transferred to the account from within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services; and funds received from state departments and agencies using the services provided by the central services and earnings by the fund from the Treasurer of State's pool.

Each of the central services described in subsections 1 to 5 may levy charges according to a rate schedule recommended by the Director of the Bureau of General Services and approved by the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services against all departments and agencies using their services.

PART I

Sec. I-1. 5 MRSA §1827, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 386, Pt. H, §10, is amended to read:

1. Postal service. Purchase or contract for all postal service required for the use of State Government or any department or agency ~~thereof of State Government.~~ Such services must be available to all departments and agencies of State Government and may be available to the University of Maine System or any political subdivision, educational institution or qualifying nonprofit organization in the State;

Sec. I-2. 5 MRSA §1827, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 386, Pt. H, §10, is amended to read:

3. Central warehouse; procurement services. Establish and operate, with the approval of the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services, a warehouse that, in the judgment of the Director of the Bureau of General Services, is determined necessary for the storage and distribution of supplies, materials and equipment by resale, rental or other method, required for use by State Government or any department or agency, or any political subdivision or school administrative unit. The Director of the Bureau of General Services may establish, administer and oversee a state purchasing card program for the purpose of facilitating the efficient acquisition and payment of goods and services by departments and agencies of State Government in accordance with applicable procurement laws, rules and policies. Participation in the state purchasing card program by departments and agencies must be in accordance with guidelines approved by the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services. In accordance with section 1587, the Director of the Bureau of General Services may purchase, lease, lease-purchase or enter into other financing agreements for the acquisition of equipment in accordance with this subsection when it can be demonstrated that any such action or agreement provides a clear cost advantage to the State;

PART J

Sec. J-1. 5 MRSA §13080-Q, sub-§2, ¶D, as amended by PL 2013, c. 413, §1, is further amended to read:

D. Payments made to the fund may not be made for tax years beginning on or after July 1, ~~2026~~ 2031.

Sec. J-2. 5 MRSA §13080-S, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2021, c. 18, §1, is further amended to read:

3. Deposit and payment of revenue. On or before July 15th of each year prior to 2026, the assessor shall deposit an amount equal to 50% of the employment tax increment for the preceding year into a contingent account established, maintained and administered by the State Controller. On or before July 15th of each year beginning after 2025, the assessor shall deposit an amount equal to 100% of the employment tax increment

for the preceding year into a contingent account established, maintained and administered by the State Controller. On or before July 31st of each year, the assessor shall pay that amount to the fund.

PART K

Sec. K-1. 36 MRSA §111, sub-§1-A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 432, §1 and affected by §2, is further amended to read:

1-A. Code. "Code" means the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and amendments to that Code as of December 31, 2024 2025.

Sec. K-2. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§1, ¶QQ is enacted to read:

QQ. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025 and before January 1, 2030, an amount equal to the deduction for domestic research or experimental expenditures claimed by the taxpayer under the Code, Section 174A(a) or pursuant to federal Public Law 119-21, Section 70302(f)(2) multiplied by the applicable percentage. Except for a tax shelter prohibited from using the cash receipts and disbursements method of accounting under the Code, Section 448(a)(3), this paragraph does not apply to a taxpayer that meets the gross receipts test of the Code, Section 448(c) for the taxable year.

For purposes of this paragraph, "applicable percentage" means:

- (1) For tax years beginning in 2025, 100%;
- (2) For tax years beginning in 2026, 70%, except that "applicable percentage" means, for the same period, 100% for deductions claimed pursuant to federal Public Law 119-21, Section 70302(f)(2);
- (3) For tax years beginning in 2027, 50%;
- (4) For tax years beginning in 2028, 30%; and
- (5) For tax years beginning in 2029, 10%.

Sec. K-3. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§1, ¶RR is enacted to read:

RR. An amount equal to the net increase in depreciation attributable to the depreciation deduction claimed by the taxpayer under the Code, Section 168(n).

Sec. K-4. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§1, ¶SS is enacted to read:

SS. An amount equal to the amount of gain excluded from federal gross income by the taxpayer under the Code, Section 1400Z-2(a) with respect to amounts invested in a qualified opportunity zone after December 31, 2026.

Sec. K-5. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§1, ¶TT is enacted to read:

TT. Upon the sale of any property acquired after December 31, 2026, an amount equal to an increase in basis made by the taxpayer pursuant to the Code, Section 1400Z-2(b)(2)(B)(iii) or Section 1400Z-2(c).

Sec. K-6. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§1, ¶UU is enacted to read:

UU. An amount equal to the amount of gain excluded from federal gross income by the taxpayer under the Code, Section 1202(a)(1) with respect to sales of qualified small business stock first acquired after July 3, 2025.

Sec. K-7. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§2, ¶BBB is enacted to read:

BBB. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025 and before January 1, 2031, an amount equal to the sum of the following:

- (1) An amount equal to the amortization deductions allowable for domestic research or experimental expenditures under former Section 174 of the Code, prior to the enactment of the federal Public Law 119-21, with respect to expenditures that are paid or incurred in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2021 and before January 1, 2026 for which an addition was required under subsection 1, paragraph QQ; and
- (2) An amortization deduction for domestic research or experimental expenditures, except those described in subparagraph (1), for which an addition was required under subsection 1, paragraph QQ in a prior tax year. The amortization deduction is equal to the amount of the addition modification attributable to such expenditures allowed to be ratably apportioned under federal Public Law 119-21, Section 70302 over a period beginning with the taxable year immediately following the taxable year in which the addition modification was required and ending in the taxable year beginning in 2030.

Sec. K-8. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§2, ¶CCC is enacted to read:

CCC. An amount equal to the net increase in depreciation attributable to the depreciation deductions allowable under Sections 167 and 168 of the Code that would have been applicable to that property had the depreciation deduction under the Code, Section 168(n) not been claimed with respect to such property for which an addition was required under subsection 1, paragraph RR in a prior year.

Upon the taxable disposition of property to which this paragraph applies, the amount of any gain or loss includable in federal taxable income must be adjusted for Maine income tax purposes by an

amount equal to the difference between the addition modification for such property under subsection 1, paragraph RR and the subtraction modification allowed pursuant to this paragraph.

The total amount of subtraction claimed for property under this paragraph for all tax years may not exceed the addition modifications under subsection 1, paragraph RR for the same property.

Sec. K-9. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§2, ¶DDD is enacted to read:

DDD. To the extent included in federal adjusted gross income pursuant to the Code, Section 1400Z-2(b) the amount of gain for which an addition was required under subsection 1, paragraph SS in a prior tax year.

Sec. K-10. 36 MRSA §5124-C, as amended by PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. ZZZ, §§4 and 5, is further amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§5124-C. Standard deduction; resident on or after January 1, ~~2018~~ 2020

Sec. K-11. 36 MRSA §5124-C, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2019, c. 616, Pt. X, §2, is repealed.

Sec. K-12. 36 MRSA §5124-C, sub-§1-A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. ZZZ, §4, is further amended to read:

1-A. Amount; before January 1, ~~2026~~ 2025. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2020 and before January 1, ~~2026~~ 2025, the standard deduction of a resident individual is equal to the federal standard deduction, subject to the phase-out under subsection 2.

Sec. K-13. 36 MRSA §5124-C, sub-§1-B, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. ZZZ, §5, is amended to read:

1-B. Amount; ~~on or after~~ before January 1, 2026. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, ~~2026~~ 2025 and before January 1, 2026, the standard deduction of a resident individual is equal to the sum of the basic standard deduction and the additional standard deduction, subject to the phase-out under subsection 2.

A. The basic standard deduction is:

- (1) For single individuals and married persons filing separate returns, \$12,000;
- (2) For individuals filing as heads of households, the amount allowed under subparagraph (1) multiplied by 1.5; and
- (3) For individuals filing married joint returns or surviving spouses, the amount allowed under subparagraph (1) multiplied by 2.

B. The additional standard deduction is the amount allowed under the Code, Section 63(c)(3).

Sec. K-14. 36 MRSA §5124-C, sub-§1-C is enacted to read:

1-C. Amount; before January 1, 2027. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026 and before January 1, 2027, the standard deduction of a resident individual is equal to the sum of the basic standard deduction and the additional standard deduction, subject to the phase-out under subsection 2.

A. The basic standard deduction is:

- (1) For single individuals and married persons filing separate returns, \$15,700;
- (2) For individuals filing as heads of households, the amount allowed under subparagraph (1) multiplied by 1.5; and
- (3) For individuals filing married joint returns or surviving spouses, the amount allowed under subparagraph (1) multiplied by 2.

B. The additional standard deduction is the amount allowed under the Code, Section 63(c)(3).

Sec. K-15. 36 MRSA §5124-C, sub-§1-D is enacted to read:

1-D. Amount; on or after January 1, 2027. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2027, the standard deduction of a resident individual is equal to the federal standard deduction, subject to the phase-out under subsection 2.

Sec. K-16. 36 MRSA §5126, as amended by PL 2017, c. 474, Pt. B, §6, is repealed.

Sec. K-17. 36 MRSA §5200-A, sub-§1, ¶LL is enacted to read:

LL. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025 and before January 1, 2030, an amount equal to the deduction for domestic research or experimental expenditures claimed by the taxpayer under the Code, Section 174A(a) or pursuant to federal Public Law 119-21, Section 70302(f)(2) multiplied by the applicable percentage. Except for a tax shelter prohibited from using the cash receipts and disbursements method of accounting under the Code, Section 448(a)(3), this paragraph does not apply to any taxpayer that meets the gross receipts test of the Code, Section 448(c) for the taxable year.

For purposes of this paragraph, "applicable percentage" means:

- (1) For tax years beginning in 2025, 100%;
- (2) For tax years beginning in 2026, 70%, except that "applicable percentage" means, for the same period, 100% for deductions claimed pursuant to federal Public Law 119-21, Section 70302(f)(2);
- (3) For tax years beginning in 2027, 50%;

(4) For tax years beginning in 2028, 30%; and

(5) For tax years beginning in 2029, 10%.

Sec. K-18. 36 MRSA §5200-A, sub-§1, ¶MM is enacted to read:

MM. An amount equal to the net increase in depreciation attributable to the depreciation deduction claimed by the taxpayer under the Code, Section 168(n).

Sec. K-19. 36 MRSA §5200-A, sub-§1, ¶NN is enacted to read:

NN. An amount equal to the amount of gain excluded from federal gross income by the taxpayer under the Code, Section 1400Z-2(a) with respect to the amount invested in a qualified opportunity zone after December 31, 2026.

Sec. K-20. 36 MRSA §5200-A, sub-§1, ¶OO is enacted to read:

OO. Upon the sale of any property acquired after December 31, 2026, an amount equal to any increase in basis made by the taxpayer pursuant to the Code, Section 1400Z-2(b)(2)(B)(iii) or Section 1400Z-2(c).

Sec. K-21. 36 MRSA §5200-A, sub-§2, ¶EE, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 474, Pt. D, §3 and affected by §4, is amended to read:

EE. An amount equal to 50% of the apportionable ~~global intangible low-taxed~~ net CFC tested income that the taxpayer included in federal gross income during the taxable year in accordance with the Code, Section 951A, net of related expenses and other related deductions deducted in computing federal taxable income. The amount included in the sales factor of any apportionment formula employed to attribute apportionable income to this State the taxpayer included in federal gross income during the taxable year in accordance with the Code, Section 951A is 50% of the amount included in federal gross income.

Sec. K-22. 36 MRSA §5200-A, sub-§2, ¶KK is enacted to read:

KK. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025 and before January 1, 2031, an amount equal to the sum of the following:

(1) An amount equal to the amortization deductions allowable for domestic research or experimental expenditures under former Section 174 of the Code, prior to the enactment of the federal Public Law 119-21, with respect to expenditures that are paid or incurred in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2021 and before January 1, 2026 for which an addition was required under subsection 1, paragraph LL; and

(2) An amortization deduction for domestic research or experimental expenditures, except those described in subparagraph (1), for which an addition was required under subsection 1, paragraph LL in a prior tax year. The amortization deduction is equal to the amount of the addition modification attributable to such expenditures allowed to be ratably apportioned under federal Public Law 119-21, Section 70302 over a period beginning with the taxable year immediately following the taxable year in which the addition modification was required and ending in the taxable year beginning in 2030.

Sec. K-23. 36 MRSA §5200-A, sub-§2, ¶LL is enacted to read:

LL. An amount equal to the net increase in depreciation attributable to the depreciation deductions allowable under Sections 167 and 168 of the Code that would have been applicable to that property had the depreciation deduction under the Code, Section 168(n) not been claimed with respect to such property for which an addition was required under subsection 1, paragraph MM in a prior year.

Upon the taxable disposition of property to which this paragraph applies, the amount of any gain or loss includable in federal taxable income must be adjusted for Maine income tax purposes by an amount equal to the difference between the addition modification for such property under subsection 1, paragraph MM and the subtraction modification allowed pursuant to this paragraph.

The total amount of subtraction claimed for property under this paragraph for all tax years may not exceed the addition modifications under subsection 1, paragraph MM for the same property.

Sec. K-24. 36 MRSA §5200-A, sub-§2, ¶MM is enacted to read:

MM. To the extent included in federal taxable income pursuant to the Code, Section 1400Z-2(b), the amount of gain for which an addition was required under subsection 1, paragraph NN in a prior tax year.

Sec. K-25. 36 MRSA §5219-SS, as amended by PL 2025, c. 113, Pt. C, §§6 to 11 and c. 388, Pt. Q, §§1 and 2, is further amended to read:

§5219-SS. Dependent exemption tax credit

1. Resident taxpayer; tax years beginning before 2026. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2018 and before January 1, 2026, a resident individual is allowed a credit against the tax otherwise due under this Part equal to \$300 for each qualifying child and dependent of the taxpayer for whom the taxpayer was eligible to claim the federal child tax credit pursuant to

the Code, Section 24 for the same taxable year, subject to the phase-out provisions under subsection 4.

1-A. Resident taxpayer; tax years beginning 2026 or after. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, a resident individual is allowed a credit against the tax otherwise due under this Part equal to \$300 for each dependent of the taxpayer for whom the taxpayer was eligible to claim the federal personal exemption pursuant to the Code, Section 151 in an amount greater than \$0 for the same taxable year, subject to the phase-out provisions under subsection 4.

2. Nonresident taxpayer; tax years beginning before 2026. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2018 and before January 1, 2026, a nonresident individual is allowed a credit against the tax otherwise due under this Part equal to \$300 for each qualifying child and dependent of the taxpayer for whom the taxpayer was eligible to claim the federal child tax credit pursuant to the Code, Section 24 for the same taxable year, subject to the phase-out provisions under subsection 4, multiplied by the ratio of the individual's Maine adjusted gross income, as defined in section 5102, subsection 1-C, paragraph B, to the individual's entire federal adjusted gross income as modified by section 5122.

2-A. Nonresident taxpayer; tax years beginning 2026 or after. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, a nonresident individual is allowed a credit against the tax otherwise due under this Part equal to \$300 for each dependent of the taxpayer for whom the taxpayer was eligible to claim the federal personal exemption pursuant to the Code, Section 151 in an amount greater than \$0 for the same taxable year, subject to the phase-out provisions under subsection 4, multiplied by the ratio of the individual's Maine adjusted gross income, as defined in section 5102, subsection 1-C, paragraph B, to the individual's entire federal adjusted gross income as modified by section 5122.

3. Part-year resident taxpayer; tax years beginning before 2026. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2018 and before January 1, 2026, an individual who files a return as a part-year resident in accordance with section 5224-A is allowed a credit against the tax otherwise due under this Part equal to \$300 for each qualifying child and dependent of the taxpayer for whom the taxpayer was eligible to claim the federal child tax credit pursuant to the Code, Section 24 for the same taxable year, subject to the phase-out provisions under subsection 4, multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the individual's Maine adjusted gross income, as defined in section 5102, subsection 1-C, paragraph A, for that portion of the taxable year during which the individual was a resident plus the individual's Maine adjusted gross income, as defined in section 5102, subsection 1-C, paragraph B, for that portion of the taxable year during which the individual was a non-

resident and the denominator of which is the individual's entire federal adjusted gross income as modified by section 5122.

3-A. Part year resident taxpayer; tax years beginning 2026 or after. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, an individual who files a return as a part year resident in accordance with section 5224-A is allowed a credit against the tax otherwise due under this Part equal to \$300 for each dependent of the taxpayer for whom the taxpayer was eligible to claim the federal personal exemption pursuant to the Code, Section 151 in an amount greater than \$0 for the same taxable year, subject to the phase-out provisions under subsection 4, multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the individual's Maine adjusted gross income, as defined in section 5102, subsection 1-C, paragraph A, for that portion of the taxable year during which the individual was a resident plus the individual's Maine adjusted gross income, as defined in section 5102, subsection 1-C, paragraph B, for that portion of the taxable year during which the individual was a nonresident and the denominator of which is the individual's entire federal adjusted gross income as modified by section 5122.

4. Refundability; phase-out. For tax years beginning before January 1, 2024, the credit allowed by this section may not reduce the tax otherwise due under this Part to less than zero. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, the credit allowed under subsections 1, 1-A, and 3 and 3-A, as increased by subsection 5 for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, is refundable.

For tax years beginning before January 1, 2025, the amount of the credit allowed by this section must be reduced, but not below zero, by \$7.50 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof by which the taxpayer's Maine adjusted gross income exceeds \$400,000 in the case of a joint return and \$200,000 in any other case.

For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, the amount of the credit allowed by this section, as increased by subsection 5, must be reduced, but not below zero, by \$20 for each \$500 or fraction thereof by which the taxpayer's Maine adjusted gross income exceeds:

- A. For a single individual, \$100,000;
- B. For an individual filing as a head of household, \$125,000;
- C. For individuals filing married joint returns or surviving spouses, \$150,000; and
- D. For a married individual filing a separate return, 1/2 of the applicable amount under paragraph C.

5. Increased credit for qualifying children and dependents under 6 years of age. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, the credit amount allowed in subsections 1, 1-A, 2, 2-A, and 3 and 3-A for

each qualifying child and dependent who has not attained 6 years of age before the end of the taxable year is multiplied by 2.

Sec. K-26. 36 MRSA §5219-UU, as amended by PL 2021, c. 253, Pt. A, §6 and affected by §10, is repealed.

Sec. K-27. Application. This Part applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025 and to any prior tax year as specifically provided by the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, amendments to that Code as of December 31, 2025, and as provided by federal Public Law 119-21, Section 70302(f), except that the section of this Part that repeals the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 5219-UU applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

PART L

Sec. L-1. 36 MRSA §2892, 10th ¶, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. JJ, §4, is amended to read:

For state fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2025, the hospital's taxable year is ~~the hospital's fiscal year that ended during calendar year 2022 as required in section 2893, subsection 2-B.~~

Sec. L-2. 36 MRSA §2892, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. II, §1 and affected by §6, is further amended by enacting at the end a new paragraph to read:

For state fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2026, the hospital's taxable year is the hospital's fiscal year that ended during calendar year 2024.

Sec. L-3. 36 MRSA §2893, sub-§2-B is enacted to read:

2-B. Return required in state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025. For tax due for the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, a person subject to the tax imposed by section 2892 shall submit to the assessor a return on a form prescribed by the assessor and pay:

A. An amount equal to 3.25% of the hospital's net operating revenue as identified in the hospital's audited financial statement for the hospital's fiscal year that ended during calendar year 2022 multiplied by one-half on or before November 15, 2025; and

B. An amount equal to 3.25% of the hospital's net operating revenue as identified in the hospital's audited financial statement for the hospital's fiscal year that ended during calendar year 2024 multiplied by one-half.

Sec. L-4. Form and timing of payments. A hospital subject to the tax imposed by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, chapter 377 shall submit to the State Tax Assessor a return on a form prescribed and furnished by the assessor and pay the tax by the 30th day following the effective date of this Part.

Any amounts paid to the assessor for the 2nd half-payment of the total tax due for the state fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2025, pursuant to Title 36, section 2893, subsection 2, must be deducted from the total amount owed by the hospital pursuant to Title 36, section 2893, subsection 2-B, paragraph B.

Sec. L-5. Retroactivity. Those sections of this Part that amend the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, sections 2892 and 2893 apply retroactively to tax due for the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025.

PART M

Sec. M-1. 36 MRSA §383, sub-§4, as repealed and replaced by PL 2001, c. 32, §1, is amended to read:

4. Penalty for late filing. If the complete return and lists required by this section are not filed on time, the State Tax Assessor shall impose a penalty to be deducted from state reimbursement due to the municipality or primary assessing area pursuant to the following programs in the following order of priority:

- A. Maine Tree Growth Tax Law, ~~section 578; and~~
- ~~B. Veterans' property tax exemptions, section 653; and~~
- C. Maine resident homestead property tax exemption, ~~section 685 chapter 105, subchapter 4-B.~~

For a municipality or primary assessing area with a population of 2,000 or less, the penalty is \$50 for the first late day plus \$10 for each late day thereafter. For a municipality or primary assessing area with a population of more than 2,000, the penalty is \$100 for the first late day plus \$20 for each late day thereafter.

Sec. M-2. 36 MRSA §653, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Discontinuance of exemptions. The exemptions provided in this section are discontinued beginning with property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2027.

Sec. M-3. 36 MRSA §654-A, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Discontinuance of exemption. The exemption provided by subsection 1 is discontinued beginning with property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2027.

Sec. M-4. 36 MRSA §681, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2005, c. 647, §2 and affected by §5, is further amended to read:

2. Homestead. "Homestead" means any residential property, ~~including cooperative property,~~ in this State assessed as real property owned by an applicant ~~or held in a revocable living trust for the benefit of the applicant~~ and occupied by the applicant as the applicant's permanent residence ~~or owned by a cooperative housing corporation and occupied as a permanent residence by~~

a resident who is a qualifying shareholder. A "homestead" "Homestead" does not include any real property used solely for commercial purposes.

For purposes of this subsection, "owned by an applicant" includes:

- A. Real property held in a revocable living trust for the benefit of an applicant;
- B. Real property in which an applicant has a deeded life estate; and
- C. Real property owned by a cooperative housing corporation to the extent that property is occupied as a permanent residence by an applicant who is a qualifying shareholder.

Sec. M-5. 36 MRSA §681, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Veteran. "Veteran" means an individual who was on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States and who, if discharged, retired or separated from the Armed Forces of the United States, was discharged, retired or separated under conditions other than dishonorable. "Veteran" also includes:

- A. The unmarried surviving spouse or minor child of a deceased veteran who would be entitled to an exemption under this subchapter if living, or who is in receipt of a pension or compensation from the Federal Government as the unmarried surviving spouse or minor child of a deceased veteran; and
- B. The parent of a deceased veteran who is 62 years of age or older and is an unmarried surviving spouse who is in receipt of a pension or compensation from the Federal Government based upon the service-connected death of that parent's child.

Sec. M-6. 36 MRSA §682, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 643, Pt. HHH, §3 and affected by §10, is amended to read:

The assessor shall determine whether an applicant has a permanent residence in this State for the purpose of this subchapter. In making a determination as to the intent of an individual to establish a permanent residence in this State, the assessor may consider the following:

Sec. M-7. 36 MRSA §683, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Discontinuance of exemptions. The exemptions provided in this section are discontinued beginning with property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2027.

Sec. M-8. 36 MRSA §683-A is enacted to read:
§683-A. Homestead exemption

1. Homestead property tax exemption; generally. For property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2027, up to \$25,000 of the just value of a homestead owned by an applicant for the preceding 12 months is exempt from taxation.

2. Homestead property tax exemption; veterans. A homestead eligible for exemption under subsection 1 is eligible for an additional exemption if the permanent resident is a veteran, as follows.

A. If the veteran does not have a service-connected disability rating or has a service-connected disability rating of less than 60% as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the homestead is eligible for an additional exemption of \$5,000 of just value if the veteran is under 62 years of age.

B. If the veteran does not have a service-connected disability rating or has a service-connected disability rating of less than 60% as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the homestead is eligible for an additional exemption of \$6,000 of just value if the veteran is 62 years of age or older.

C. If the veteran does not have a service-connected disability rating or has a service-connected disability rating of less than 60% as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the homestead is eligible for an additional exemption of \$7,000 of just value if the veteran served during or before World War I.

D. If the veteran has a service-connected disability rating of 60% or greater, as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs:

(1) For a veteran with a service-connected disability rating of 60%, the homestead is eligible for an additional exemption of up to \$10,000 of just value;

(2) For a veteran with a service-connected disability rating of 70%, the homestead is eligible for an additional exemption of up to \$20,000 of just value;

(3) For a veteran with a service-connected disability rating of 80%, the homestead is eligible for an additional exemption of up to \$30,000 of just value;

(4) For a veteran with a service-connected disability rating of 90%, the homestead is eligible for an additional exemption of up to \$40,000 of just value; and

(5) For a veteran with a service-connected disability rating of 100%, the homestead is eligible for an additional exemption of up to \$50,000 of just value.

E. If the veteran has received a grant from the United States Government for a specially adapted housing unit under 38 United States Code, Section 2101, the homestead is eligible for an additional exemption of \$50,000 of just value.

A homestead eligible for exemption under this subsection is not entitled to exemption under more than one paragraph of this subsection. An applicant seeking an additional exemption under this subsection as the unmarried surviving spouse, minor child or parent of a deceased veteran is eligible for the additional exemption that the deceased veteran would be eligible for pursuant to this subsection if living.

3. Homestead property tax exemption; individual who is legally blind. If the permanent resident of a homestead is an individual who is legally blind as determined by a properly licensed doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathy or doctor of optometry, the homestead is eligible for an additional exemption of up to \$5,000 of just value.

4. Cooperative housing corporations. A cooperative housing corporation is eligible for an exemption under this section to be applied against the valuation of property of the cooperative housing corporation that is occupied by certain cooperative housing shareholders. The exemption for a cooperative housing corporation is equal to the total of all the exemptions that each shareholder would be entitled to under subsection 1 if the shareholder were the owner of the property. A cooperative housing corporation that receives an exemption pursuant to this section must apportion the property tax reduction resulting from the exemption among the cooperative housing shareholders who qualify for the exemption according to the proportion of the total exemption that each shareholder would be entitled to if the shareholder were the owner of the property. A supplemental assessment resulting from disqualification for exemption must be applied in the same manner against the qualifying shareholders for whom the disqualification applies.

5. Calculation of exemption. In determining the local assessed value of the exemption provided in this section, the assessor must multiply the amount of the exemption by the assessment ratio certified by the assessor pursuant to section 383, subsection 2. If the title to the homestead is held by the applicant jointly or in common with others, the exemption may not exceed the amounts provided for in this section but may be apportioned among the owners who reside on the property to the extent of their respective interests. A municipality responsible for administering the homestead exemption is not obligated to create separate accounts for each partial interest in a homestead owned jointly or in common.

Sec. M-9. 36 MRSA §684, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2025, c. 113, Pt. A, §2, is further amended to read:

1. Generally. The bureau shall provide to the assessor of each municipality access to forms to be filed by applicants for an exemption under this subchapter and shall determine the content of the forms. A municipality shall provide to its inhabitants reasonable notice of the availability of application forms. An individual claiming an exemption under this subchapter for the first time shall file the application form and proof of entitlement with the assessor or the assessor's representative. The application and proof of entitlement must be filed on or before April 1st of the year on which the taxes are based.

Sec. M-10. 36 MRSA §684, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Cooperative housing corporations. An application for exemption under this subchapter filed by a cooperative housing corporation must include a list of all eligible shareholders and any information required by the assessor to verify the eligibility of those shareholders and the applicable exemption amount. The application must be updated annually to reflect changes in eligibility.

Sec. M-11. 36 MRSA §684, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Fraudulent conveyance. Property conveyed to a person for the purpose of obtaining an exemption under this subchapter is not entitled to the exemption, except for property conveyed between spouses. An applicant who obtains the exemption provided under this subchapter by means of fraudulent conveyance is subject to a fine of \$100 or up to 2 times the amount of the taxes evaded by the fraudulent conveyance, whichever amount is greater.

Sec. M-12. 36 MRSA §684, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2003, c. 13, §1, is further amended to read:

3. Continuation of eligibility. The assessor shall evaluate annually the ongoing eligibility of property for which a homestead exemption has been approved under this subchapter. The evaluation must be based on the status of the property on April 1st of the year on which the homestead exemption is based. The evaluation must include, but is not limited to, a review of whether the ownership of the property has changed in any manner that would disqualify the property for an exemption under this subchapter or whether the owner has ceased to use the property as a homestead. Unless the assessor determines that the property is no longer entitled to an exemption under this subchapter, the owner is entitled to receive the exemption without having to reapply. If the assessor determines that the property is no longer entitled to an exemption under this subchapter, the assessor shall notify the owner as provided in section 686 that the property is no longer entitled to an exemption under this subchapter. Notwithstanding section 683-A, subsection 1, a permanent resident of this State who

loses ownership of a homestead in this State due to a tax lien foreclosure and subsequently regains ownership of the homestead from the municipality that foreclosed on the tax lien is deemed to have continuously owned the homestead and may not be determined ineligible for the exemption provided under this subchapter due to the ownership of the homestead by the municipality.

If the assessor determines that the property is no longer entitled to an exemption under this subchapter, the assessor shall notify the owner of that determination as provided in section 686.

Sec. M-13. 36 MRSA §684, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 643, Pt. HHH, §3 and affected by §10, is amended to read:

4. Owner notification. An owner of property receiving an exemption under this subchapter shall notify the assessor promptly when the ownership or use of the property or status of the owner changes so as to ~~change the qualification~~ update the eligibility of the property for an exemption under this subchapter.

Sec. M-14. 36 MRSA §684, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Application and proof of entitlement. An individual who desires to secure an exemption under this section shall, on or before the first day of April in the year in which such an exemption is first requested, make written application and, for an individual seeking an additional exemption for veterans under section 683-A, subsection 2, file written proof of entitlement with the assessors of the place in which the individual resides.

Sec. M-15. 36 MRSA §684, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Confidentiality. Notwithstanding Title 1, chapter 13, an application and proof of entitlement filed pursuant to subsection 5 are confidential and may not be made available for public inspection. The application and proof of entitlement must be made available to the bureau by the municipality upon request.

Sec. M-16. 36 MRSA §685, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Effect of reimbursement. A percentage of the just value of all the homestead exemptions granted under this subchapter in each municipality must be included in the total municipal valuation used to determine the municipal tax rate and must be included in the annual determination of state valuation under section 208 and section 305, subsection 1. The percentage for each property tax year is the same as the percentage of state reimbursement under subsection 2.

Sec. M-17. 36 MRSA §841, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2025, c. 113, Pt. D, §38, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

4. Surviving relatives of deceased veterans. Notwithstanding failure to comply with section 706-A, the assessors, on written application within one year from the date of commitment, may make such abatement as they think proper for the surviving relative of a veteran who died during the 12-month period preceding the April 1st for which the tax was committed, if the surviving relative would be entitled to the additional exemption under section 683-A, subsection 2, except for the failure of the surviving relative to file a timely application and proof of entitlement as required by section 684. For purposes of this subsection, "surviving relative" is limited to those persons described in section 681, subsection 6, paragraphs A and B.

Sec. M-18. 36 MRSA §5219-KK, sub-§2-E, as amended by PL 2023, c. 360, Pt. B, §14, is further amended to read:

2-E. Permanently and totally disabled veterans; additional credit. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2023, in addition to the credit under subsection 2-D, a resident individual who is a veteran who is 100% permanently and totally disabled is allowed an additional credit against the taxes imposed under this Part in an amount equal to the amount calculated under subsection 2-D. The combined credit under subsection 2-D and this subsection may not exceed the property taxes paid by the resident individual or the bureau pursuant to chapter 908 on behalf of the resident individual during the tax year on the resident individual's homestead in this State and rent constituting property taxes paid by the resident individual during the tax year on a homestead in the State, combined. In the case of married individuals filing a joint return, only one spouse is required to be a veteran who is 100% permanently and totally disabled to qualify for the additional credit allowed under this subsection. For the purposes of this subsection, "100% permanently and totally disabled" means having a rating by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs at 100% for one or more service-connected disabilities that are rated permanent and "veteran" ~~has the same meaning as in section 653, subsection 1, paragraph E~~ means an individual who was on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States and who, if discharged, retired or separated from the Armed Forces of the United States, was discharged, retired or separated under conditions other than dishonorable.

Sec. M-19. 36 MRSA §6234, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 69, §1, is amended to read:

B. "Veteran" has the same meaning as in section ~~653~~ 681, subsection 1, paragraph E and includes ~~any family members eligible for an exemption under that subsection 6.~~

Sec. M-20. Transition of property tax exemptions for homesteads, veterans and individuals who are legally blind. Notwithstanding the

Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 684, subsection 1, property that received one of the following property tax exemptions or additional property tax exemptions in the property tax year beginning April 1, 2026 is presumed to be eligible for that equivalent property tax exemption or additional property tax exemption for the property tax year beginning April 1, 2027 unless the State Tax Assessor determines that property is no longer eligible for that exemption under Title 36, chapter 105, subchapter 4-B:

1. The Maine resident homestead property tax exemption pursuant to Title 36, section 683;
2. The additional property tax exemption pursuant to Title 36, section 653 for veterans; or
3. An additional property tax exemption pursuant to Title 36, section 654-A for persons who are legally blind.

Sec. M-21. Guidance regarding consolidation of property tax exemptions for homesteads, veterans and individuals who are legally blind. The State Tax Assessor shall develop and make publicly available guidance regarding the consolidation of the Maine resident homestead property tax exemption and the property tax exemptions for veterans and individuals who are legally blind in accordance with this Part. The guidance must describe the transition and continuing eligibility for these property tax exemptions.

PART N

Sec. N-1. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§1, ¶QQ is enacted to read:

QQ. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, the amount equal to the taxpayer's distributive share of the tax imposed by chapter 815, subchapter 3 and the taxpayer's distributive share of the tax imposed by another state of the United States, a political subdivision of any such state or the District of Columbia that is substantially the same as the tax imposed under chapter 815, subchapter 3.

Sec. N-2. 36 MRSA §5190, first ¶, as amended by PL 2019, c. 380, §1 and affected by §5, is further amended to read:

A partnership is not subject to the tax imposed by this Part. Persons carrying on business as partners are liable for the tax imposed by this Part only in their separate or individual capacities. This section does not apply to the taxes imposed by chapters 819 and 827 or the tax imposed on partnership audit adjustments pursuant to subchapter 2 or the tax imposed on pass-through entities pursuant to subchapter 3.

Sec. N-3. 36 MRSA c. 815, sub-c. 3 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 3

PASS-THROUGH ENTITY TAX

§5199-A. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Allowable credits. "Allowable credits" means the total amount of any payments with regard to a taxpayer that have been or will be paid to the bureau prior to the date the payment against which the total amount of any payments is to be used as a credit is due and that are available to offset any estimated tax liability under section 5199-H.

2. Distributive share of income. "Distributive share of income" means, with regard to a qualified member that is a resident individual or resident estate or trust, the net of the portion of income, gain, loss and deduction for the taxable year from the pass-through entity, including guaranteed payments, entering into the qualified member's federal adjusted gross income in the case of a resident individual or federal taxable income in the case of a resident estate or trust. "Distributive share of income" means, with regard to a qualified member that is a nonresident individual or nonresident estate or trust, the net of the portion of income, gain, loss and deduction derived from or connected with sources in this State, as provided by section 5142, for the taxable year from the pass-through entity, including guaranteed payments, entering into the qualified member's federal adjusted gross income in the case of a nonresident individual or federal taxable income in the case of a nonresident estate or trust. If the qualified member is a trust, residency is determined by the residency status of the trust and not by the residency status of the beneficiaries of the trust. For purposes of this subchapter, the distributive share of income for a qualified member is zero if the amount determined in accordance with this subsection is zero or less.

3. Distributive share of tax. "Distributive share of tax" means the tax paid by an electing pass-through entity pursuant to section 5199-C multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is equal to the qualified member's distributive share of income and the denominator of which is equal to the pass-through entity taxable income.

4. Electing pass-through entity. "Electing pass-through entity" means a pass-through entity that has elected for the taxable year to be subject to the tax imposed by this subchapter.

5. Estimated tax. "Estimated tax" means the total amount of tax that an electing pass-through entity estimates will be due for a taxable year under this subchapter, excluding the estimated tax liability under section 5199-D, less any allowable credits for that taxable year.

6. Pass-through entity. "Pass-through entity" means:

A. A partnership as defined in the Code, Section 7701(a)(2), excluding a publicly traded partnership as defined in the Code, Section 7704(b); and

B. An entity classified as an S corporation under the Code for federal income tax purposes.

"Pass-through entity" does not include an entity subject to tax under chapter 819.

7. Pass-through entity taxable income. "Pass-through entity taxable income" means the aggregate total of distributive share of income of all qualified members for the taxable year increased by the amount of the tax imposed on the pass-through entity by this subchapter and by the amount of the tax imposed on the pass-through entity by another state of the United States, a political subdivision of any such state or the District of Columbia that is substantially the same as the tax imposed under this subchapter.

8. Period of underpayment. "Period of underpayment" means the period of time from the date an estimated tax installment under section 5199-H is due until the underpayment is satisfied or until the tax return to which the estimated tax installment applies is due, whichever is less.

9. Qualified member. "Qualified member" means an individual, trust or estate that is a direct owner, partner or shareholder in an electing pass-through entity, except that "qualified member" does not include an organization exempt from tax under the Code, Section 501. For purposes of this subsection, "direct owner" includes a qualified member whose ownership in the electing pass-through entity is held through an entity that is disregarded under the Code for federal income tax purposes.

§5199-B. Election of pass-through entity tax

A pass-through entity that elects to be subject to the tax imposed by this subchapter shall declare that election annually on a timely filed return, including any extension granted for filing the return. The election is irrevocable after the due date, including any extension granted, for filing the return.

§5199-C. Imposition of tax

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for every taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2026, a tax is imposed on every electing pass-through entity. For each taxable year, the tax is equal to the pass-through entity taxable income multiplied by the highest marginal tax rate under section 5111 except for the income tax surcharge imposed pursuant to section 5111, subsection 7. The tax imposed by this section may not be reduced for a pass-through entity by any of the credits in chapter 822. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for all budgetary accounting purposes, receipts from the tax imposed by this section are individual income tax revenue and must be treated

for such purposes in the same manner as receipts from the tax imposed by chapter 803.

§5199-D. Estimated tax payment of 10% on behalf of nonresident qualified members

For every taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2026, a pass-through entity subject to the tax under this subchapter shall pay, in addition to the tax under section 5199-C, an estimated tax on behalf of its nonresident qualified members in an amount equal to 10% of the amount of the tax required to be reported to each nonresident qualified member for the taxable year by the electing pass-through entity in accordance with section 5199-G. The electing pass-through entity, no later than 30 days following the date the Maine return of the electing pass-through entity is due in accordance with section 5199-E, without regard to any extension, shall report to each nonresident qualified member the amount of the estimated tax paid by the pass-through entity for the taxable year on behalf of the nonresident qualified member. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for all budgetary accounting purposes, receipts from the tax imposed by this section are individual income tax revenue and must be treated for such purposes in the same manner as receipts from the tax imposed by chapter 803.

§5199-E. Filing of returns

1. Filing of returns. An electing pass-through entity shall file a return with respect to the tax imposed by this subchapter on such forms as may be required by the assessor. The return must contain such information as required by the assessor, including the name and social security or federal identification number of each qualified member and, for the taxable year, each qualified member's distributive share of income, distributive share of tax paid by the electing pass-through entity pursuant to this subchapter, the amount of the estimated tax paid by the entity under section 5199-D and the distributive share of tax paid to another state of the United States, a political subdivision of any such state or the District of Columbia that is substantially the same as the tax imposed by this subchapter. The distributive share of the tax paid to another state of the United States, a political subdivision of any such state or the District of Columbia that is substantially the same as the tax imposed by this subchapter with respect to qualified members that are not residents of the State may be reported on an aggregated basis. The return required by this subsection must be filed, along with any tax due, on or before the 15th day of the 3rd month following the end of the electing pass-through entity's taxable year for federal income tax purposes. The return, including related schedules and worksheets, required by this subsection must be filed with the bureau by electronic data submission.

2. Consent required to amend returns. Notwithstanding the requirement to file an amended return pursuant to section 5227-A, an electing pass-through entity

may not amend a return filed under this subchapter without the written consent of, or as otherwise authorized by, the assessor.

§5199-F. Nonresident qualified member filing exception

1. Nonresident individual. A qualified member of an electing pass-through entity who is a nonresident individual for the entire taxable year is not required to file an income tax return pursuant to section 5220, subsection 2 for the same taxable year if:

A. The member's entire Maine adjusted gross income, including a spouse's income in the case of married individuals filing a joint federal return, is from one or more electing pass-through entities;

B. The electing pass-through entity or entities file and pay the tax due under this subchapter; and

C. The qualified member's credit provided by section 5219-CCC plus the estimated tax amount paid by the electing pass-through entity on behalf of the nonresident qualified member in accordance with section 5199-D is sufficient to satisfy the Maine individual income tax liability of the member and the member's spouse for that taxable year.

2. Nonresident trust or estate. A qualified member of an electing pass-through entity that is a nonresident trust or estate for the entire taxable year is not required to file an income tax return pursuant to section 5220, subsection 4 for the same taxable year if:

A. The member has its entire Maine-sourced income, as determined pursuant to section 5142, for the taxable year from one or more electing pass-through entities;

B. The member would have been required to include income described in paragraph A as Maine taxable income if it were to file an income tax return for that year;

C. The member has not distributed any of its Maine-sourced income, as determined pursuant to section 5142, for the taxable year to its beneficiaries as distributable net income;

D. The electing pass-through entity or entities file and pay the tax due under this subchapter; and

E. The member's credit provided by section 5219-CCC plus the estimated tax amount paid by the electing pass-through entity on behalf of the nonresident qualified member in accordance with section 5199-D is sufficient to satisfy the Maine income tax liability for that taxable year.

§5199-G. Reporting tax to members

For purposes of the credit under section 5219-CCC, the electing pass-through entity, no later than 30 days following the date the Maine return of the electing pass-through entity is due in accordance with section 5199-E,

shall report to each qualified member that member's distributive share of tax. Each member report must clearly identify the member's name and federal employer identification number or social security number, the member's ownership interest in the entity, whether the member was a resident or nonresident of the State during the taxable year, each member's distributive share of income and the distributive share of tax paid to another state of the United States, a political subdivision of any such state or the District of Columbia that is substantially the same as the tax imposed by this subchapter and any other information that may be required by the assessor.

§5199-H. Estimated tax installment payments

Estimated taxes are required with respect to the tax imposed under section 5199-C in accordance with the provisions of this section.

1. Requirement to pay estimated tax. Every person subject to taxation under this subchapter shall make payment of estimated tax as required by this section. The requirement to make estimated tax payments is waived if:

A. The electing pass-through entity's estimated tax liability is less than \$1,000 for the taxable year; or

B. The electing pass-through entity had less than \$1,000 tax liability under this subchapter, excluding the estimated tax liability under section 5199-D, for the preceding taxable year.

2. Amount of estimated tax to be paid. Every electing pass-through entity required to make payment of estimated tax under this subchapter is liable for an estimated tax that is no less than the smaller of:

A. An amount equal to the electing pass-through entity's tax liability under this subchapter, excluding the estimated tax liability under section 5199-D, for the preceding taxable year, if that preceding year was a taxable year of 12 months; and

B. An amount equal to 90% of the electing pass-through entity's tax liability under this subchapter, excluding the estimated tax liability under section 5199-D, for the current taxable year.

3. Due dates for estimated tax installments. An installment payment is due the 15th day of the 4th, 6th, 9th and 13th month following the beginning of the electing pass-through entity's taxable year.

4. Amount of installment. The amount of estimated tax to be paid in a taxable year by an electing pass-through entity must be paid in installments by the dates established in subsection 3. The amount of the estimated tax must be paid in 4 equal installments unless the taxpayer establishes by adequate record the actual distribution of tax liability and allowable credits, or both, in which case the amount of the installment payments must be adjusted accordingly and be determined

in accordance with the portion of the electing pass-through entity's estimated tax liability applicable to that portion of the electing pass-through entity's taxable year completed by the close of the month preceding the installment's due date less estimated tax payments already made for the taxable year.

5. Penalty. A penalty accrues automatically on underpayments of the required installment amount for the period of underpayment at the rate provided pursuant to section 186. For cause, the assessor may waive or abate all or part of the penalty.

6. Short taxable year. For a taxable year of less than 12 months, the estimated tax must be paid in full by the 15th day of the last month of the taxable year. For payment dates falling within the short taxable year, payment must be made as provided in subsection 3.

7. Installments paid in advance. At the election of the electing pass-through entity, an installment of estimated tax may be paid prior to the date prescribed for its payment.

§5199-I. Interest on refunds prohibited

Notwithstanding any provision of this Title to the contrary, interest may not be paid by the assessor on an overpayment of the tax imposed by this subchapter.

Sec. N-4. 36 MRSA §5217-A, as amended by PL 2003, c. 391, §9 and c. 673, Pt. JJ, §4 and affected by §6, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§5217-A. Income tax paid to other taxing jurisdiction

A resident individual is allowed a credit against the tax otherwise due under this Part, excluding the tax imposed by section 5203-C, equal to the amount determined in subsection 1 plus the amount determined in subsection 2, as limited by subsection 4.

1. Individual income tax. For individual income tax, the credit is the amount of income tax imposed on that individual for the taxable year by another state of the United States, a political subdivision of any such state, the District of Columbia or any political subdivision of a foreign country that is analogous to a state of the United States with respect to income subject to tax under this Part that is derived from sources in that taxing jurisdiction.

2. Distributive share. If another state of the United States, a political subdivision of any such state, the District of Columbia or any political subdivision of a foreign country that is analogous to a state of the United States imposes an income tax on an individual, trust or estate that is substantially similar to the income tax imposed on such an individual, trust or estate under this Part, the credit is equal to the amount of the individual's distributive share of tax imposed on a pass-through entity that is substantially similar to the tax imposed under chapter 815, subchapter 3, reduced by any

refundable credits to the extent the refundable credits reduce the income tax imposed on the individual, trust or estate below zero, with respect to income subject to tax under this Part that is derived from sources in that taxing jurisdiction.

3. Sourcing of income. In determining whether income is derived from sources in another jurisdiction described in subsections 1 and 2, the assessor may not employ the law of the other jurisdiction but shall instead assume that a statute equivalent to section 5142 applies in that jurisdiction.

4. Credit limitation. The credit, for any of the specified taxing jurisdictions described in subsections 1 and 2, may not exceed the proportion of the tax otherwise due under this Part, excluding the tax imposed by section 5203-C, that the amount of the taxpayer's Maine adjusted gross income derived from sources in that taxing jurisdiction bears to the taxpayer's entire Maine adjusted gross income; except that, when a credit is claimed for taxes paid to both a state and a political subdivision of a state, the total credit allowable for those taxes does not exceed the proportion of the tax otherwise due under this Part, excluding the tax imposed by section 5203-C, that the amount of the taxpayer's Maine adjusted gross income derived from sources in the other state bears to the taxpayer's entire Maine adjusted gross income.

Sec. N-5. 36 MRSA §5219-CCC is enacted to read:

§5219-CCC. Credit for pass-through entity tax paid

A qualified member, as defined in section 5199-A, subsection 9, is allowed a credit against the tax imposed by this Part equal to 90% of the amount of the tax required to be reported to the qualified member for the taxable year by an electing pass-through entity, as defined in section 5199-A, subsection 4, in accordance with section 5199-G. The credit authorized by this section is refundable. A credit is not allowed under this section unless the electing pass-through entity paid the tax imposed under chapter 815, subchapter 3 and provided sufficient information on the pass-through entity tax return as prescribed by the assessor to identify that qualified member and the qualified member's distributive share of the tax paid by the electing pass-through entity. The provisions of section 5219-G, subsection 2 may not be applied to the credit allowed under this section.

Sec. N-6. 36 MRSA §5228, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2007, c. 438, §105, is further amended to read:

B. "Estimated tax" means the total amount of tax that a person estimates will be due for a taxable year under this Part, exclusive of a withholder's liability for taxes withheld and the tax imposed by chapter 815, subchapter 3, less any allowable credits for that taxable year.

Sec. N-7. 36 MRSA §5231, sub-§1-A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 441, Pt. C, §7 and affected by §11, is further amended to read:

1-A. Federal extension. When an individual, estate or trust is granted an extension of time within which to file a federal income tax return for any taxable year, an extension to file the taxpayer's income tax return with respect to the tax imposed by this Part is automatically granted for an equivalent period from the date prescribed for filing the return. When a taxable corporation, an electing pass-through entity under chapter 815, subchapter 3 or a financial institution subject to the tax imposed by chapter 819 is granted an extension of time within which to file its federal income tax return for any taxable year, an extension to file the taxpayer's income tax, pass-through entity tax or franchise tax return with respect to the tax imposed by this Part is automatically granted for an equivalent period from the date prescribed for filing the return plus 30 days.

Sec. N-8. Application. This Act applies to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

PART O

Sec. O-1. 36 MRSA §6652, sub-§1-D, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. BBB, §2 and affected by §6, is amended by enacting at the end a new first blocked paragraph to read:

For application periods that begin on or after August 1, 2029, reimbursement may not be made with respect to property located at a retail sales facility and used primarily in a retail sales activity, including property grandfathered into the program pursuant to this subsection.

Sec. O-2. 36 MRSA §6652, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. K, §1, is further amended to read:

4. Reimbursement percentage. The reimbursement under this chapter is an amount equal to the percentage specified in paragraphs A and B of taxes assessed and paid with respect to each item of eligible property, except that for claims filed for application periods that begin on August 1, 2006, August 1, 2009, August 1, 2010 or August 1, 2013, the reimbursement is 90% of that amount ~~and~~, for claims filed for the application period that begins on August 1, 2014, the reimbursement is 80% of that amount and for claims filed for the application period that begins on August 1, 2028, the reimbursement is 50% of that amount with respect to eligible property located at a retail sales facility and used primarily in a retail sales activity.

A. For each of the first to 12th years for which reimbursement is made, the percentage is 100%.

B. Pursuant to section 699, subsection 2, reimbursement under this chapter after the 12th year for which reimbursement is made is according to the

following percentages of taxes assessed and paid with respect to each item of eligible property.

(1) For the 13th year for which reimbursement is made, the percentage is 75%.

(2) For the 14th year for which reimbursement is made, the percentage is 70%.

(3) For the 15th year for which reimbursement is made, the percentage is 65%.

(4) For the 16th year for which reimbursement is made, the percentage is 60%.

(5) For the 17th year for which reimbursement is made, the percentage is 55%.

(6) For the 18th year for which reimbursement is made and for subsequent years, the percentage is 50%.

PART P

Sec. P-1. Suspension of appropriation limitation. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the requirements in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1534 establishing a General Fund appropriation limitation and the criteria for exceeding that limitation are suspended for fiscal year 2026-27.

PART Q

Sec. Q-1. Transfer of interest earnings; General Fund. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2026, the State Controller shall transfer \$6,678,121 from the interest earnings on the Federal Expenditures Fund - ARP State Fiscal Recovery fund and the Federal Expenditures Fund - ARP fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

PART R

Sec. R-1. Transfer to General Fund unappropriated surplus; Reserve for General Fund Operating Capital. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$2,500,000 from available balance in the Reserve for General Fund Operating Capital to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

PART S

Sec. S-1. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Information Services. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services is authorized to transfer up to \$812,630 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations, after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the All Other line category in the Information Services program, General

Fund for the purpose of funding stabilization of geographic information system functions, including latency. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

PART T

Sec. T-1. Affordability Payment Program established; purpose. The State has determined that residents face increasingly high costs for basic necessities of life and, further, that the burden of these high costs warrants assistance from the State. The Affordability Payment Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to promote the general welfare by returning a portion of consumption taxes through a payment to individuals disproportionately affected by those costs. The affordability payment is intended to offset expenses that have been incurred, and will be incurred in fiscal year 2026-27, by those individuals.

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

- A. "Affordability payment" means a payment in the amount of \$300 made pursuant to the program.
- B. "Assessor" means the State Tax Assessor.
- C. "Eligible recipient" means an individual who:
 - (1) Filed, by October 15, 2026, a Maine income tax return as a full-year resident of the State for the tax year;
 - (2) Had, and reported to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Maine Revenue Services by October 15, 2026 on an income tax return, federal adjusted gross income for the tax year of less than:
 - (a) For individuals filing married joint returns or surviving spouses permitted to file a joint return, \$100,000;
 - (b) For an individual filing as a head of household, \$75,000;
 - (c) For a single individual, \$50,000; or
 - (d) For a married individual filing a separate return, \$50,000; and
 - (3) May not be claimed as a dependent on another taxpayer's return for the tax year.
- D. "Fund" means the Affordability Payment Program Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account established by the State Controller pursuant to subsection 2.

E. "Tax year" means a tax year beginning on or after January 1, 2025 but not later than December 31, 2025.

Any other terms used in this section have the same meanings as when used in a comparable context in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, Part 8 relating to Maine income taxes, unless different meanings are clearly required.

2. Affordability Payment Program Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account established. The State Controller shall establish within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services the nonlapsing Affordability Payment Program Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account, which is funded through a transfer from the available balance of the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund pursuant to section 2.

3. Affordability payment. The assessor shall make affordability payments in accordance with this subsection.

A. The assessor shall identify all eligible recipients.

B. Beginning as soon as administratively feasible but not later than July 31, 2026, the assessor shall make an affordability payment to each eligible recipient for Maine income tax returns filed by July 1, 2026 for the tax year. Funds for the affordability payments must come from the fund and, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, are not subject to setoff to debts owed to agencies of the State.

C. By December 31, 2026, the assessor shall make an affordability payment to each eligible recipient who did not receive an affordability payment pursuant to paragraph B. Funds for the affordability payments must come from the fund and, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, are not subject to setoff to debts owed to agencies of the State.

D. An individual who has not received an affordability payment under paragraph B or C may provide documentation to the assessor by March 1, 2027 showing that the individual is an eligible recipient. The assessor shall review the documentation, determine if the individual is an eligible recipient and notify the individual of any adverse determination. This determination constitutes final agency action and is not reviewable pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 151.

E. By April 30, 2027, the assessor shall make an affordability payment to each eligible recipient determined eligible pursuant to paragraph D. Funds for the affordability payments must come from the fund and, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, are not subject to setoff to debts owed to agencies of the State.

4. State income tax subtraction modification.

For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026 but not later than December 31, 2027, in determining the taxable income of an individual, within the meaning of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 5122, federal adjusted gross income must be reduced by an amount equal to the affordability payment received by the individual, pursuant to this Part, to the extent the payment is included in federal adjusted gross income for the taxable year. The assessor shall request a ruling from the United States Internal Revenue Service that the affordability payments are not subject to federal taxation.

5. Designation as unclaimed property. For purposes of the program, affordability payment checks that remain undeposited on December 31, 2027 are to be treated as unclaimed property but are not subject to the notice and receipt provisions established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 33, section 2101 or the one-year dormancy period specified in Title 33, section 2061 that would be applicable to such checks. The Treasurer of State shall use unclaimed property systems and networks to find the proper recipients of such checks as quickly as possible.

6. Application to municipal general assistance program. For purposes of the municipal general assistance program established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, chapter 1161, affordability payments are not income, as defined in Title 22, section 4301, subsection 7; may not be considered to reduce need, as defined in Title 22, section 4301, subsection 10; and may not be considered a potential resource, as described in Title 22, section 4317.

7. Taxability of affordability payment. The State finds that the great majority of eligible recipients have paid at least \$300 in Maine sales and excise taxes, which have contributed to the balance in the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund. The State further finds that the affordability payments authorized by this section in effect return a portion of those tax payments to individuals considered to be disproportionately affected by such taxes. Accordingly, the State finds and intends that the affordability payments constitute a refund of those taxes paid for the purpose of determining whether the payments are income subject to tax under the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the State's conformity to the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Sec. T-2. Transfer from Maine Budget Stabilization Fund; Department of Administrative and Financial Services Affordability Payment Program Fund. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$155,200,000 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the Depart-

ment of Administrative and Financial Services, Affordability Payment Program Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account for a one-time affordability payment to eligible recipients.

Sec. T-3. Department of Education, Maine School Safety Center program, Other Special Revenue Funds account established. The State Controller shall establish within the Department of Education a nonlapsing Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Maine School Safety Center program, which is funded through a transfer from the available balance of the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund pursuant to section 4.

Sec. T-4. Transfer from Maine Budget Stabilization Fund; Department of Education, Maine School Safety Center. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$5,921,640 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the Department of Education, Maine School Safety Center program, Other Special Revenue Funds account.

Sec. T-5. Transfer from Maine Budget Stabilization Fund; Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Family Independence. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$4,334,946 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Family Independence program, Other Special Revenue Funds account for one-time needs for technology and compliance with federal Public Law 119-21.

Sec. T-6. Transfer from Maine Budget Stabilization Fund; Department of Health and Human Services Office of MaineCare Services. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$576,442 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of MaineCare Services program, Other Special Revenue Funds account for one-time needs for technology and compliance with federal Public Law 119-21.

Sec. T-7. Transfer from Maine Budget Stabilization Fund; Maine State Housing Authority, Emergency Housing Relief Fund Program. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$14,000,000 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the Maine State Housing Authority, Emergency Housing Relief Fund Program, Other Special Revenue Funds account.

Sec. T-8. Transfer from Maine Budget Stabilization Fund; Maine State Housing Authority, Housing Authority - State. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$37,500,000 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the Maine State Housing Authority, Housing Authority - State program, Other Special Revenue Funds account.

Sec. T-9. Transfer from Maine Budget Stabilization Fund; MaineCare Stabilization Fund program. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$22,000,000 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the MaineCare Stabilization Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Health and Human Services to prevent any loss of services or increased cost of services to a MaineCare member that would otherwise result from insufficient General Fund appropriations, insufficient federal matching funds or any other shortage of funds or changes in federal or state law, regulation, rule or policy.

Sec. T-10. Transfer from Maine Budget Stabilization Fund; Maine Office of Community Affairs Housing Opportunity Program. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$1,000,000 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the Maine Office of Community Affairs Housing Opportunity Program, Other Special Revenue Funds account for a 3-year pilot project to provide regionalized building code enforcement.

Sec. T-11. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Affordability Payment Program Z456

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for an affordability payment program that will provide a \$300 affordability payment to each eligible recipient and for the costs of administration, programming, mailing and taxpayer assistance.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$155,200,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$155,200,000

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$155,200,000

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$155,200,000

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Maine School Safety Center Z293

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for safety measures including retrofitting nearly 1,700 Maine school buses with crossing arms and antipinch door sensors.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$5,921,640
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$5,921,640

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$5,921,640

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$5,921,640

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

MaineCare Stabilization Fund Z018

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to prevent any loss of services or increased cost of services to a MaineCare member that would otherwise result from insufficient General Fund appropriations, insufficient federal matching funds or any other shortage of funds or changes in federal or state law, rule or policy.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$22,000,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$22,000,000

Office for Family Independence Z020

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for one-time technology adjustments and compliance with federal Public Law 119-21.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$14,044,045
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$14,044,045

Office of MaineCare Services 0129

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for one-time technology adjustments and compliance with federal Public Law 119-21.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,276,682
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,276,682
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$576,442
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$576,442
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF		
DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$1,276,682
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$36,620,487
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$37,897,169

HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE

Emergency Housing Relief Fund Program Z340

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the Community Aging in Place grant program for 2 years to provide services through nonprofit organizations around the State to eligible low-income elderly and disabled homeowners.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,000,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$2,000,000

Emergency Housing Relief Fund Program Z340

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to supplement or establish programs addressing the needs of people experiencing homelessness or facing other immediate housing challenges and support other uses that address housing emergencies in the State. These funds will provide emergency, transitional and permanent housing responses to homelessness.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$12,000,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$12,000,000

Housing Authority - State 0442

Initiative: Provides one-time funding from the budget stabilization fund to create more than 300 new affordable homes for ownership and rental across the State through the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program, the federal Low-income Housing Tax Credit program and the Affordable Homeownership Program, and for code enforcement compliance for existing projects for low-income and moderate-income households, with incentives added for projects that invest in wood fiber insulation and heat pumps and with consideration for those that use a modular building approach. These funds may be used for expansion and infill projects at manufactured home parks where the lots are not owned by the resident.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$37,500,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$37,500,000
HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$51,500,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$51,500,000

MAINE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Housing Opportunity Program Z418

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for a 3-year pilot project to provide regionalized building code enforcement.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,000,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$1,000,000

MAINE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$1,000,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$1,000,000

SECTION TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$1,276,682
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$250,242,127

SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS \$0 \$251,518,809

PART U

Sec. U-1. 7 MRSA c. 8-A, sub-c. 4, headnote is amended to read:

SUBCHAPTER 4

FARMERS DROUGHT RELIEF GRANT RESILIENCE PROGRAM

Sec. U-2. 7 MRSA §220-A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. TT, §1, is further amended to read:

§220-A. Farmers Drought Relief Grant Resilience Program

1. Grant program established. The Farmers Drought Relief Grant Resilience Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established in the department to assist farmers in the State to overcome the adverse effects of drought conditions by providing grants in accordance with this section.

2. Eligibility. A farmer in the State may apply for a grant under the program if the farmer needs to establish a source for irrigation water to alleviate the risk of crop losses due to drought. The source for irrigation water must be sustainable, environmentally sound and affordable.

3. Farmers Drought Relief Grant Resilience Program Fund. The Farmers Drought Relief Grant Resilience Program Fund is established as a nonlapsing fund to provide funding to achieve the purposes of the program. The department may use funds for personnel services and to contract for professional services to carry out the purposes of this section. The fund consists of any funds received from private and public sources. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

4. Rules. The department shall adopt rules to implement the program. The rules must include grant eligibility requirements, grant application and award procedures and grant funding limits. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

PART V

Sec. V-1. 12 MRSA §1849, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2021, c. 398, Pt. W, §1, is further amended to read:

2. Fund Funds established. All income received by the director from the public reserved lands, except income provided for in section 1855, must be deposited with the Treasurer of State to be credited to the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund, which is established as a nonlapsing fund and is subject to allocation

by the Legislature. Any interest earned on this money must also be credited to the fund. No expenditure may be made from the fund other than for the bureau's general operating purposes with respect to management of the public reserved lands unless the fund has a cash operating balance of at least \$2,500,000 at the start of the fiscal year during which the expenditure is made.

A. The Public Reserved Lands Conservation Easement Trust Fund, referred to in this paragraph as "the easement trust," is established as an account within the land management and planning program within the department. The easement trust is a nonlapsing, dedicated fund to be used only to monitor and defend conservation easements held by the bureau. The director may accept funds from any source and may accept gifts in trust to be credited to the easement trust to be invested by the Treasurer of State according to the laws governing the investment of trust funds. Interest earned on investments in the easement trust must be credited to the easement trust. The director may use interest and earnings from the easement trust for purposes of the easement trust as described in this paragraph. Principal from the easement trust may be used only with the approval of the Treasurer of State for extenuating circumstances, including legal defense.

B. The Public Reserved Lands Management Trust Fund, referred to in this paragraph as "the land management trust," is established as an account within the land management and planning program within the department. The land management trust is a nonlapsing, dedicated fund to be used only for the management of public reserved lands in which the State holds fee title or as a tenant in common. The director may accept funds from any source and may accept gifts in trust to be credited to the land management trust to be invested by the Treasurer of State according to the laws governing the investment of trust funds. Interest earned on investments in the land management trust must be credited to the land management trust. The director may use interest and earnings from the land management trust for purposes of the land management trust as described in this paragraph. When the Public Reserved Lands Management Fund balance is above \$5,000,000, the bureau, to the extent permitted under the laws governing the investment of trust funds, may temporarily invest those funds above \$5,000,000 in the land management trust with the Treasurer of State. Principal from the land management trust may be used only at the request of the director and approval of the commissioner, after consultation with the Treasurer of State.

PART W

Sec. W-1. Carrying provision; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture. Notwithstanding any provision

of law to the contrary, at the end of fiscal year 2025-26, the State Controller shall carry forward any unexpended balance remaining of the \$550,000 appropriated in Public Law 2021, chapter 635 in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture program, General Fund account, All Other line category to the next fiscal year to be used for the replacement of the feed, seed and fertilizer database.

PART X

Sec. X-1. Carrying provision; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, at the end of fiscal year 2025-26, the State Controller shall carry forward any unexpended balance remaining of the \$1,500,000 appropriated in Public Law 2023, chapter 412 in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture program, General Fund account, Capital Expenditures line category to the next fiscal year to be used for replacement of the licensing and inspection database for the division of quality assurance and regulations.

PART Y

Sec. Y-1. Carrying provision; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, at the end of fiscal year 2025-26, the State Controller shall carry forward any unexpended balance remaining of the \$750,000 appropriated in Public Law 2023, chapter 412, Part A in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture program, General Fund account, Capital Expenditures line category to the next fiscal year to be used to upgrade the Cony Road facility in Augusta.

PART Z

Sec. Z-1. 22 MRSA §1902, sub-§5-B is enacted to read:

5-B. Maine Title X grantee. "Maine Title X grantee" means a provider of family planning services as defined in 42 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 59.2 that is based in the State; is licensed, certified or otherwise legally authorized to deliver services in the State; is engaged primarily in the delivery of reproductive health care and family planning services as described in 42 United States Code, Section 1396d(a)(4)(C); and has previously received funding under the Title X program.

Sec. Z-2. 22 MRSA §1902, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

7. Title X program. "Title X program" means the program of grants for voluntary family planning projects described in Title X of the federal Public Health Service Act, 42 United States Code, Section 300.

Sec. Z-3. 22 MRSA §1912 is enacted to read:

§1912. Funding for Maine Title X grantees; substitute funding

For any fiscal year after state fiscal year 2024-25, if the funding previously received by a Maine Title X grantee under the Title X program is reduced relative to the funds received in fiscal year 2024-25 or is eliminated as a result of action by the Federal Government or of a decision by the grantee to withdraw from receiving funding under the Title X program due to the imposition of conditions attached to the funding, the department shall grant state funds to the Maine Title X grantee equal to the difference between the amount the grantee received from the Title X program in fiscal year 2024-25 and the amount the grantee receives and accepts in any subsequent fiscal year.

Sec. Z-4. 22 MRSA §1913 is enacted to read:

§1913. Access to family planning services

1. Access to services. In accordance with this chapter, the department shall provide funding to maintain statewide access to family planning services. The department shall issue a request for proposals from qualified providers of family planning services. The department shall select one provider to provide management and oversight of the delivery of family planning services in this State, including, but not limited to, the coordination and management of any grants to subrecipients, and shall distribute funds appropriated for that purpose.

2. Fund established. The Fund to Maintain Access to Statewide Family Planning Services, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a dedicated, nonlapsing fund within the department to provide family planning services under this section. The department may accept funds into the fund from any public or private source for the purpose of awarding a grant under this section. Any funds appropriated to the fund may not supplant other sources of funding. It is the intent of the Legislature that, beginning in fiscal year 2027-28, \$5,000,000 in ongoing funding be appropriated from the General Fund to the fund to be distributed to a single grantee.

3. Grant. The department shall make funds available from the fund in the form of a grant and may not distribute any funds under a fee-for-service basis.

Sec. Z-5. 22 MRSA §3196-A is enacted to read:

§3196-A. Services provided by federally unfunded providers

1. Federally unfunded provider; definition. For the purposes of this section, "federally unfunded provider" means a health care provider:

A. That is licensed, certified or otherwise authorized by state law to deliver health care services; and

B. That, pursuant to any federal law, the department may not pay using federal funds provided to carry out the state plan under Title XIX of the United States Social Security Act, for items or services provided on or after July 1, 2025 pursuant to federal law.

2. State funding for services. Family planning services, as defined by section 1902, subsection 4, and any other Medicaid-covered items or services lawfully provided to MaineCare members by a federally unfunded provider during any period for which federal funds may not be used to pay that provider, including any services provided between July 1, 2025 and the effective date of this section, must be reimbursed with state funds. The department shall reimburse the federally unfunded provider at no less than the MaineCare rate established by the department for those services on the date the service was provided. If any federal funds were used to pay a federally unfunded provider prior to the effective date of this section, state funds must be used to substitute for any federal funds that the department is required to reimburse or adjust in its transactions with the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

3. Discrimination prohibited. The department may not discriminate against, exclude, limit the participation of or modify the payment plan of a provider in the MaineCare program because the provider is a federally unfunded provider for any period of time.

4. Rulemaking. The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection may be effective retroactively to July 1, 2025, but any subsequent amendments to these rules may be retroactive only as permitted by section 42, subsection 8.

Sec. Z-6. Emergency rulemaking. The Department of Health and Human Services may adopt rules pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3196-A, subsection 4 as emergency rules without making findings as to the existence of any emergency required by Title 5, section 8054, subsection 2.

PART AA

Sec. AA-1. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Natural Areas Program. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry is authorized to transfer up to \$150,000 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations, after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the All Other line category of the Natural Areas Program, General Fund account for the purposes of funding early detection and rapid response to eradicate invasive stilt grass. These

amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

Sec. AA-2. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Natural Areas Program. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry is authorized to transfer up to \$25,000 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations, after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the All Other line category of the Natural Areas Program, General Fund account for the purpose of funding an update to Maine's Official List of Threatened and Endangered Plants. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

Sec. AA-3. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, DACF Administration. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry is authorized to transfer up to \$159,643 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations, after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the All Other line category of the DACF Administration program, General Fund account for the purposes of funding an upgrade to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission Geographically Oriented Action Tracker database, geographic information system expenses, equipment and licenses required to use the human resource management system. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

Sec. AA-4. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Maine Land Use Planning Commission. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry is authorized to transfer up to \$40,000 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations, after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the All Other line category of the Maine Land Use Planning Commission program, General Fund account for the purpose of funding stakeholder engagement in preparation for updates to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

PART BB

Sec. BB-1. 5 MRSA §1591, sub-§11 is enacted to read:

11. Department of Education. The Department of Education shall carry forward any balance remaining in the Early Childhood Nutrition Grant Program Fund, General Fund account at the end of any fiscal year for use in the next fiscal year for the same purpose.

Sec. BB-2. 20-A MRSA §6603-A is enacted to read:

§6603-A. Early childhood nutrition grant program

The department shall create and administer, in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services, a grant program to provide grants to school administrative units to enter into agreements with providers of off-site public preschool programs to provide students in those programs with breakfast, lunch and a snack in accordance with this section.

1. Definition. For the purposes of this section, "off-site public preschool program" means a public preschool program offered by a public school in the State in partnership with a community provider that is not located on the site of a public school and includes, but is not limited to, a public preschool program offered at a private child care facility.

2. Eligibility. After consulting with the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services, the department shall adopt rules to establish eligibility standards and requirements for participation in the grant program. Eligibility standards and requirements must align with rules adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services for the licensing of child care facilities, including, but not limited to, child care centers, nursery schools and small child care facilities. Eligibility standards and requirements must include, but are not limited to:

A. A requirement that the off-site public preschool program meet the basic approval standards for public preschools adopted by the department;

B. A requirement that the off-site public preschool program provide food that meets the nutritional standards developed for child care centers as provided in section 6602 and pursuant to 42 United States Code, Section 1766 and administered by the United States Department of Agriculture, child and adult food care program;

C. Requirements for the eligibility of school administrative units partnering with licensed child care programs for the delivery of special education services for children eligible under Part B, Section 619 as defined in section 7001, subsection 1-D; and

D. A requirement that a memorandum of understanding between the school administrative unit and the off-site public preschool program provider

describe the process by which meals will be delivered and reimbursed.

Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

3. Awards. Grants awarded by the department pursuant to this section are governed as follows.

A. The amount of a grant is limited to the total annual per-student reimbursement rate for the National School Lunch Program established in 7 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 210.

B. The department may not distribute grant funds prior to the 2027-2028 school year.

4. Fund established. The Early Childhood Nutrition Grant Program Fund, referred to in this subsection as "the fund," is established within the department to be used for the grant program in accordance with this section. The fund consists of any funds appropriated or allocated for inclusion in the fund by the State. The fund is nonlapsing and any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

PART CC

Sec. CC-1. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department of Corrections, Maine State Prison. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Corrections is authorized to transfer up to \$1,304,186 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met to the All Other line category of the Maine State Prison program, General Fund account for the purposes of funding rising electricity costs, Maine Criminal Justice Academy training costs, rising water and sewer utility costs and rising costs of contracting with Johnson Controls Fire Protection LP and Siemens Industry, Inc. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

Sec. CC-2. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department of Corrections, Correctional Center. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Corrections is authorized to transfer up to \$1,181,708 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met to the All Other line category of the Correctional Center program, General Fund account for the purposes of funding rising electricity costs, Maine Criminal Justice Academy training costs, rising water and sewer utility costs and rising costs of contracting with Johnson Controls Fire Protection LP and Siemens Industry, Inc. These amounts may be

transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

Sec. CC-3. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department of Corrections, Long Creek Youth Development Center.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Corrections is authorized to transfer up to \$417,720 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met to the All Other line category of the Long Creek Youth Development Center program, General Fund account for the purposes of funding rising electricity costs, Maine Criminal Justice Academy training costs, rising water and sewer utility costs and rising costs of contracting with Johnson Controls Fire Protection LP and Siemens Industry, Inc. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

Sec. CC-4. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department of Corrections, Mountain View Correctional Facility.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Corrections is authorized to transfer up to \$379,411 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met to the All Other line category of the Mountain View Correctional Facility program, General Fund account for the purposes of funding rising electricity costs, Maine Criminal Justice Academy training costs and rising costs of contracting with Johnson Controls Fire Protection LP and Siemens Industry, Inc. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

PART DD

Sec. DD-1. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management is authorized to transfer up to \$76,000 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met to the All Other line category of the Military Training & Operations program for the purpose of funding rising electricity costs. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

PART EE

Sec. EE-1. 22 MRSA §259, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. XXX, §1, is further amended to read:

B. Six hundred ninety-nine thousand, one hundred fifty dollars in fiscal year 2001-02 to federally qualified health centers to support the infrastructure of these programs in providing primary care services to underserved populations. Forty-four thousand, two hundred fifty dollars must be provided to each federally qualified health center with an additional \$8,850 for the 2nd and each additional site operated by a federally qualified health center. For the purposes of this paragraph, "site" means a site or sites operated by the federally qualified health center within its scope of service that meet all health center requirements, including providing primary care services, regardless of patients' ability to pay, 5 days a week with extended hours. If there is not sufficient funding to meet the formula in this paragraph, the \$699,150 must be allocated in proportion to the formula outlined in this paragraph; ~~and~~

Sec. EE-2. 22 MRSA §259, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. XXX, §2, is further amended to read:

C. Five hundred thousand dollars, beginning with fiscal year 2015-16 and continuing each fiscal year thereafter, to support access to primary medical, behavioral health and dental services to residents of the State in rural and underserved communities and to assist with provider recruitment and retention. Twenty-five thousand dollars must be provided to each federally qualified health center; ~~and~~

Sec. EE-3. 22 MRSA §259, sub-§1, ¶E is enacted to read:

E. Four million dollars in fiscal year 2026-27 to support access to pharmacy services and affordably priced prescription drugs to residents of the State in rural and underserved communities by providing funds to support federally qualified health centers in developing or improving pharmacy services, including without limitation:

(1) Planning, designing, constructing and operating one or more licensed retail pharmacies as part of a federally qualified health center's services;

(2) Entering into arrangements, including with one or more federally qualified health centers, to expand the availability of prescription drugs purchased and delivered to patients under the federal drug pricing program under Section 340B of the federal Public Health Service Act, 42 United States Code, Section 256b; and

(3) Expanding access to prescription drugs supplied by one or more federally qualified health centers, including without limitation by increasing the number of locations from which patients may obtain prescription drugs, improving existing pharmacy facilities, expanding the availability of automated pharmacy systems as defined in Title 32, section 13702-A, subsection 1 or addressing workforce issues related to pharmacy program planning and operation.

Sec. EE-4. 22 MRSA §259, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Allocation of pharmacy services support funding. Each federally qualified health center may apply for funds made available pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph E by providing the department with a budget and plan for developing or improving pharmacy services and access to affordably priced prescription drugs for its patients. The department shall allocate available funds equitably among all applicants based on the cost-effectiveness and feasibility of the proposed development or improvement of patient access to affordably priced prescription drugs and the availability of other pharmacy services in the areas served by a federally qualified health center applying for funds. In developing criteria for awarding available funds, the department shall consult with and consider the recommendations of a statewide association of federally qualified health centers. Any available funds not awarded in fiscal year 2026-27 must be deposited in a nonlapsing account from which awards may be made in subsequent fiscal periods for the purposes set forth in subsection 1, paragraph E.

Upon issuance of each award pursuant to this subsection, the department shall promptly implement a change in scope adjustment pursuant to section 3174-V, subsection 4 to reflect the ongoing costs for the federally qualified health center receiving the grant of operating expanded or improved pharmacy services.

Sec. EE-5. Implementation. The Department of Health and Human Services shall publish a schedule and instructions for the content of applications and criteria for determining awards for the pharmacy services support program described in this Part. The department's schedule must ensure that initial awards of funding be made no later than December 15, 2026 and must ensure that applicants have no less than 60 days to prepare and submit applications after instructions for the content of applications and criteria for selection have been published. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the department shall ensure that a majority of the persons selected to evaluate the applications have substantial training or experience in the operation and management of a federally qualified health

center by including among those evaluating the applications volunteers recommended by a statewide association of federally qualified health centers.

PART FF

Sec. FF-1. 22 MRSA §8712-A is enacted to read:

§8712-A. Care gap report

The organization shall submit an annual report to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and over appropriations and financial affairs no later than November 15th of each year beginning in 2027. This report must contain data on the care gap with a breakdown by MaineCare Benefits Manual sections and Office of Aging and Disability Services Policy Manual sections, including any changes in trends.

Data collected to create the report is not subject to the provisions of section 8712, subsection 6.

For purposes of this section, "care gap" means the difference between the home and community-based services individuals are authorized to receive and the services that they actually received.

Sec. FF-2. 26 MRSA §3802, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 688, §2 and reallocated by RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. A, §98, is amended to read:

2. Membership. The advisory committee consists of ~~14~~ 16 members, appointed as follows:

- A. One member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- B. One member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- C. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's designee;
- D. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee;
- E. One member representing an organization providing services to persons with intellectual disabilities and autism who is a member of a statewide association of providers of services to persons with intellectual disabilities and autism, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- F. One member representing a facility-based long-term care provider who is a member of a statewide association of facility-based long-term care providers, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- G. One member representing a service coordination agency for people receiving home-based and community-based long-term care, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- H. One member representing an organization providing statewide homemaker services through a

state-funded, independent, support service program, appointed by the President of the Senate;

I. One member representing an institution of higher education engaged in workforce development, appointed by the President of the Senate;

J. One member representing a career and technical education center or region, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

K. One member representing an organization promoting independent living for persons with disabilities, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

L. One member who is an essential support worker, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

M. One member representing a statewide advocacy association that broadly advocates for people who are entitled to receive essential support worker services, appointed by the Speaker of the House; ~~and~~

N. One member representing an organization providing services to persons with behavioral health challenges who is a member of a statewide association of providers of services to persons with behavioral health challenges, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

O. One member representing an organization providing personal care services in a home setting, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

P. One member representing the long-term care ombudsman program established under Title 22, section 5106, subsection 11-C and Title 22, section 5107-A.

Sec. FF-3. Maine Health Data Organization and Department of Health and Human Services to develop care gap plan. The Maine Health Data Organization, referred to in this section as "the organization," and the Department of Health and Human Services, referred to in this section as "the department," shall develop a plan to measure the State's care gap. For the purposes of this section, "care gap" means the difference between the home and community-based services individuals are authorized to receive and the services that they actually received. The organization and the department shall do the following:

1. Work with the department's appropriate vendors to create a supplemental file to report on the care gap for services provided under the sections of MaineCare policy provided under rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Sections 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 40, 65, 92 and 96. This file must include the authorization data elements needed for the organization to link this data with the claims and eligibility data that the vendor currently submits to the organization on behalf of the Office of MaineCare Services within the de-

partment. The organization must have access to the authorization, claims and eligibility data necessary to calculate the care gap. Using the existing data governance framework, the organization shall securely integrate multiple data streams, manage and store the data and develop dashboards to display key data points over time;

2. Work with the department's appropriate vendors to create a uniform reporting system for submitting key data elements to report on the care gap for services provided under the department's Office of Aging and Disability Services, Part 1 rule Chapter 5, Office of Aging and Disability Services Policy Manual, Sections 61, 63, 68 and 69. These data elements that may need modification to allow for data collection include, but are not limited to, the medical eligibility determination form, authorized care plan, invoiced payment data and utilization reports; and

3. Determine if there is any data available to estimate the care gap for services provided under the sections of MaineCare policy provided under rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Sections 23 and 26 and those services provided under Section 65 that do not require prior authorization. If data is available, the organization and the department shall estimate the care gap.

Following the modifications to contracts required in subsections 1 and 2, the organization shall integrate multiple data streams, manage and store the data and develop dashboards to display key data points over time. The organization may integrate any available data for those MaineCare services that do not require prior authorization described in subsection 3. In accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 8712-A, the organization shall submit a report to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and over appropriations and financial affairs no later than November 15, 2027. This report must contain data on the care gap with a breakdown by MaineCare Benefits Manual sections and Office of Aging and Disability Services Policy Manual sections, including any changes in trends. The report must include information on progress toward developing the care gap analysis, including any options for MaineCare services without prior authorization. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters is authorized to report out legislation in response to the report in 2028. As part of any proposed legislation, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters must consider the inclusion of the care gap data and the full cost of providing the services identified in the care gap in one of the existing statutorily required reports submitted by the department to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters.

Sec. FF-4. Cost-of-living adjustment for essential support workers; MaineCare rates. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a request to seek approval from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to implement a cost-of-living adjustment of 3.07% for reimbursement rates subject to rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Sections 13, 65 and 92 and rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Sections 2, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 26, 29, 40, 67, 96 and 97 Appendix C effective January 1, 2027. The department shall submit the request required to seek approval under this section to implement the cost-of-living adjustment as soon as practicable.

Sec. FF-5. Cost-of-living adjustment for state-funded home and community-based services. The Department of Health and Human Services shall increase reimbursement for state-funded home and community-based services by implementing a cost-of-living increase of 3.07% for direct care services provided under the department's Office of Aging and Disability Services, Part 1 rule Chapter 5, Office of Aging and Disability Services Policy Manual, Sections 61, 63, 68 and 69 effective January 1, 2027 to maintain parity with similar MaineCare programs.

PART GG

Sec. GG-1. 20-A MRSA §1001, sub-§23, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 210, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

23. Cellular telephone policy. By August 1, 2026, a school board shall adopt and implement a policy prohibiting student use of personal electronic devices for the duration of the school day, from starting bell to dismissal bell. The policy must restrict student use of cellular telephones and other personal electronic devices with Internet or cellular network capabilities. The Department of Education, in coordination with the Maine School Management Association or a successor organization and other relevant stakeholders, shall make available a model policy for school boards. The model policy must include exceptions for compliance with a student's individualized education program, a documented accommodation under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 United States Code, Section 794 (2026) regarding an individual student, the delivery of prescribed medical care as outlined in a student's individualized health care plan and language support services for a student who is an emergent English language learner when no other translation option is available.

PART HH

Sec. HH-1. 20-A MRSA c. 114-A, as amended, is repealed.

Sec. HH-2. 20-A MRSA §13112, sub-§4, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 70, §5, is amended by repealing subparagraph (1).

Sec. HH-3. 20-A MRSA §15689-A, sub-§21, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. C, §11, is repealed.

PART II

Sec. II-1. 20-A MRSA §5201, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2005, c. 662, Pt. A, §11, is further amended to read:

1. Eligibility to enroll; school year. A person meeting the minimum age requirements of subsection 2 or section 7001, subsection 1-B, paragraph B, and who has not reached ~~20~~ 22 years of age before the start of the school year may enroll as a full-time or, with the consent of the school board, as a part-time student, in the public elementary and secondary schools where the student resides as ~~defined~~ described in section 5202. The school year, for the purpose of this subsection, is defined as starting on July 1st and ending on the following June 30th.

PART JJ

Sec. JJ-1. 20-A MRSA §7304, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. W, §20, is amended to read:

3. Purposes. Allocations from the fund may be made to school administrative units that have assumed the responsibility for child find activities and for ensuring a free, appropriate public education for special education and related services pursuant to section 7006, subsection 2 as outlined in each child's individualized education program ~~and, including~~ for general education costs for incurred in the provision of special education services to children eligible under Part B, Section 619. The commissioner may pay costs attributed to professional and administrative staff support to implement the requirements of this section.

Sec. JJ-2. 20-A MRSA §7304, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Unexpended funds. If a school administrative unit has unexpended funds from an allocation of the fund at the end of the fiscal year, these funds must be carried forward in the school administrative unit pre-school fund account and used to reduce the net pre-school expenses in the next fiscal year.

PART KK

Sec. KK-1. 20-A MRSA §8605, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by PL 2005, c. 2, Pt. D, §29 and affected by §§72 and 74 and c. 12, Pt. WW, §18, is repealed.

Sec. KK-2. 20-A MRSA §8605, sub-§2, ¶C, as amended by PL 1991, c. 518, §37, is repealed.

Sec. KK-3. 20-A MRSA §15674, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 504, Pt. A, §6, is repealed.

Sec. KK-4. 20-A MRSA §15683, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2019, c. 398, §33, is further amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) The pupil count set forth in section 15674, subsection 1, paragraphs ~~A~~, B and C;

Sec. KK-5. 20-A MRSA §15689-A, sub-§30 is enacted to read:

30. Adult education. The commissioner may expend and disburse funds for adult education students in accordance with the provisions of chapter 315.

PART LL

Sec. LL-1. 20-A MRSA §13013-A, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2021, c. 635, Pt. C, §1, is further amended to read:

1. Department of Education salary supplement. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Department of Education shall provide a public school teacher, a teacher in a publicly supported secondary school or a teacher employed by an education service center as authorized under chapter 123 who has attained certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, or its successor organization, with an annual national board certification salary supplement for the life of the certificate. The salary supplement must be added to the teacher's base salary and must be considered in the calculation for contributions to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. If a nationally certified teacher is no longer employed as a teacher, the supplement ceases. The amount of the salary supplement is:

~~A. For fiscal year 2012-13, \$2,500;~~

~~B. For fiscal year 2013-14, \$2,750;~~

C. For fiscal year 2014-15 and succeeding years, except for a teacher under paragraph D or E, \$3,000; ~~and~~

D. For fiscal year ~~2020-21 and succeeding years~~ 2025-26, for a teacher who is employed in a school in which at least 50% of students qualify for a free or reduced-price lunch under chapter 223, subchapter 7 during the year that the supplement is provided, \$5,000; ~~and~~

E. For fiscal year 2026-27 and succeeding years, for a teacher who is employed in a school in which at least 50% of students qualify for a free or reduced-price lunch under chapter 223, subchapter 7 or at least 50% of students are identified as economically disadvantaged for subsidy purposes under chapter 606-B during the year that the supplement is provided, \$5,000.

PART MM

Sec. MM-1. 20-A MRSA §15672, sub-§2-A, ¶A, as amended by PL 2013, c. 167, Pt. B, §1, is repealed.

Sec. MM-2. 20-A MRSA §15689, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 2009, c. 571, Pt. E, §23, is further amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) The school administrative unit's local share results in a full-value education mill rate less than the local cost share expectation as described in section 15671-A through the 2009-10 fiscal year. Beginning in fiscal year 2010-11 and in subsequent fiscal years, the school administrative unit's debt service allocation must include principal and interest payments ~~as defined in section 15672, subsection 2-A, paragraph A.~~

Sec. MM-3. 20-A MRSA §15689, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 2009, c. 571, Pt. E, §23, is further amended by repealing subparagraph (2).

Sec. MM-4. 20-A MRSA §15689-A, sub-§29 is enacted to read:

29. Debt service. The commissioner shall pay principal and interest costs for approved major capital projects in the allocation year, excluding payments made with funds from state and local government accounts established under the federal Internal Revenue Code and regulations for disposition of excess, unneeded proceeds of bonds issued for a school project and excluding any principal and interest costs attributable to a school closed for lack of need pursuant to chapter 202.

Sec. MM-5. 20-A MRSA §15905, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 462, §1, is further amended to read:

A. The state board may approve projects as long as ~~no~~ the project approval will ~~not~~ cause debt service costs, ~~as defined in section 15672, subsection 2-A, paragraph A and pursuant to rules adopted in accordance with Resolve 2007, chapter 223, section 4,~~ to exceed the maximum limits specified in Table 1 and Table 2 in subsequent fiscal years.

Fiscal year	Table 1	
	Major Capital	Integrated, Consolidated Secondary and Postsecondary Project
	Maximum Debt Service Limit	Maximum Debt Service Limit
1990	\$ 48,000,000	
1991	\$ 57,000,000	
1992	\$ 65,000,000	
1993	\$ 67,000,000	
1994	\$ 67,000,000	
1995	\$ 67,000,000	
1996	\$ 67,000,000	
1997	\$ 67,000,000	
1998	\$ 67,000,000	
1999	\$ 69,000,000	
2000	\$ 72,000,000	
2001	\$ 74,000,000	
2002	\$ 74,000,000	
2003	\$ 80,000,000	

2004	\$ 80,000,000	
2005	\$ 84,000,000	
2006	\$ 90,000,000	
2007	\$ 96,000,000	
2008	\$100,000,000	
2009	\$104,000,000	
2010	\$108,000,000	
2011	\$126,000,000	
2012	\$116,000,000	
2013	\$116,000,000	
2014	\$126,000,000	\$10,000,000
2015	\$126,000,000	\$10,000,000
2016	\$126,000,000	\$10,000,000
2017	\$126,000,000	\$10,000,000
2018	\$126,000,000	\$10,000,000
2019	\$126,000,000	\$10,000,000
2020	\$126,000,000	\$20,000,000
2021	\$126,000,000	\$20,000,000
2022	\$126,000,000	\$20,000,000
2023	\$126,000,000	\$20,000,000

Table 2	
Fiscal year	Maximum Debt Service Limit
2024	\$150,000,000
2025	\$150,000,000
2026	\$150,000,000
2027	\$150,000,000

PART NN

Sec. NN-1. 20-A MRSA §15689-A, sub-§21, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. C, §11, is repealed.

PART OO

Sec. OO-1. 5 MRSA §1591, sub-§10 is enacted to read:

10. Department of Education. The Department of Education shall carry forward any General Fund balances remaining in the Special Services Team program at the end of any fiscal year for use in the next fiscal year for the same purpose.

PART PP

Sec. PP-1. Transfer; Department of Education, Child Development Services, Other Special Revenue Funds. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$12,600,000 of the unencumbered balance forward from the Department of Education, General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program, General Fund account, All Other line category to the Department of Education, Child Development Services program, Other Special Revenue Funds account, All Other line category.

Sec. PP-2. Transfer; Department of Education, Child Development Services, General Fund. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$4,051,457 of the unencumbered balance forward from the Department of Education, General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program, General

Fund account, All Other line category to the Department of Education, Child Development Services program, General Fund account, All Other line category.

PART QQ

Sec. QQ-1. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department of Education, School Finance and Operations. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Education is authorized to transfer up to \$74,000 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations, after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the All Other line category of the School Finance and Operations program, General Fund account for the purposes of funding maintenance and licensing costs for an Internet-based application for free or reduced-price meals. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

Sec. QQ-2. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department of Education, Leadership Team. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Education is authorized to transfer up to \$363,114 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations, after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the All Other line category of the Leadership Team program, General Fund account for the purposes of funding annual hosting and maintenance costs for the department's grant management system. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

Sec. QQ-3. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department of Education, Adult Education. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Education is authorized to transfer up to \$12,500 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations, after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the All Other line category of the Adult Education program, General Fund account for the purpose of funding rising costs related to the adult education data system. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

PART RR

Sec. RR-1. 5 MRSA §1591, sub-§10 is enacted to read:

10. Department of Energy Resources. The Department of Energy Resources shall carry forward any General Fund balances remaining in the Department of

Energy Resources program at the end of any fiscal year for use in the next fiscal year.

PART SS

Sec. SS-1. Transfer of Personal Services balances to Capital Expenditures; Department of Environmental Protection, Air Quality. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Environmental Protection is authorized to transfer up to \$256,994 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations, after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the Capital Expenditures line category of the Air Quality program, General Fund for the purposes of funding 2 ozone calibrator instruments, one ozone monitor instrument, one continuous, real-time air quality monitoring instrument, one zero air generator, 2 hydrogen sulfide analyzers, 2 trace-level dilution calibrators and 2 data loggers. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

PART TT

Sec. TT-1. 10 MRSA §962, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2015, c. 504, §1, is further amended to read:

2. Revenue obligation securities. Issue revenue obligation securities to finance eligible projects, except that revenue obligation securities may not be issued for energy distribution system projects or energy generating system projects unless the authority issued a certificate of approval for those eligible projects before January 1, ~~2020~~ 2040 pursuant to subchapter 3;

Sec. TT-2. 10 MRSA §1044, sub-§13, as amended by PL 2015, c. 504, §4, is further amended to read:

13. Limitation. The authority may not issue revenue obligation securities for energy distribution system projects or energy generating system projects unless the authority issued a certificate of approval for the energy distribution system project or energy generating system project before January 1, ~~2020~~ 2040. Notwithstanding this subsection, revenue refunding securities may be issued to refund any outstanding revenue obligation securities.

Sec. TT-3. 35-A MRSA §3156, 5th ¶, as amended by PL 1997, c. 781, §2, is further amended to read:

A certificate may not be issued under this section after July 31, ~~1998~~ 2040.

PART UU

Sec. UU-1. Carrying provision; Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Maine Fire

Protection Services Commission. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, at the end of fiscal year 2025-26, the State Controller shall carry forward any unexpended balance remaining of the \$1,500,000 appropriated in Public Law 2023, chapter 459 in the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Maine Fire Protection Services Commission program, General Fund account, All Other line category to the next fiscal year to be used for fire service training facilities.

PART VV

Sec. VV-1. 22 MRSA §3731-A, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Donations or grants accepted; nonlapsing funds. The commissioner may accept donations or grants for the Maine Child Care Affordability Program from any source. Any unexpended funds appropriated or allocated by the Legislature or accepted by the commissioner for the purposes of the Maine Child Care Affordability Program may not lapse and must be carried forward in the same amount for the next fiscal year.

PART WW

Sec. WW-1. 22 MRSA §1708-A is enacted to read:

§1708-A. Reimbursement to Maine Veterans' Homes

Nursing facility services provided by a veterans' facility must be reimbursed by the MaineCare program at rates established by the department pursuant to this section. This section applies to all funds, including federal funds, paid by an agency of the State to a veterans' facility for nursing facility care.

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Nursing home" or "nursing facility" has the same meaning as in section 1812-A.

B. "Residential care facility" has the same meaning as in section 7852, subsection 14.

C. "Veterans' facility" means a nursing home that is operated by the Maine Veterans' Homes at any location required under Title 37-B, section 601, subsection 2.

2. Per resident basis. Veterans' facilities must be reimbursed on a per resident daily rate basis for services to residents covered under the MaineCare program.

3. Rate calculations. Rate calculations under this section must follow the process and principles set forth in section 3173-J to determine a daily rate that is reasonable and adequate to cover the MaineCare allowable costs of operating veterans' facilities and to reflect any meaningful cost differences between veterans' nursing home and nonveterans' nursing home costs for the direct

care and routine care cost components of the daily rate. Adjustments to rates and reimbursement for purposes that include, but are not limited to, audit procedures, quality and case mix must be made in the same way as those adjustments are made for all other nursing facilities as set forth in department rule.

4. Annual adjustments for inflation. The daily rate amounts calculated under this section must be annually adjusted for inflation to the same extent that MaineCare reimbursement rates for nonveterans' facilities that are nursing homes and residential care facilities are adjusted.

Sec. WW-2. Supplemental payments to Maine Veterans' Homes residential care facilities in fiscal year 2026-27. The Department of Health and Human Services shall make a one-time payment to the Maine Veterans' Homes residential care facilities for the difference between MaineCare payments and actual allowed MaineCare costs, as reported on the most recently filed cost reports. The department may make these residential care facility payments in fiscal year 2026-27 to enable the department to seek and receive approval for a state plan amendment from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services with federal matching payments to the extent possible.

Sec. WW-3. Supplemental payments previously appropriated. Upon implementation of the rate calculations process established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 1708-A, any supplemental funding allocated or appropriated for the Maine Veterans' Homes in Public Law 2021, chapter 528 that has not been expended may not be used as supplemental payments but may be used for the purposes of this Part.

PART XX

Sec. XX-1. 22 MRSA §3108-A is enacted to read:

§3108-A. Heating assistance for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program households

To the extent that funds are available, the department may issue an annual heating assistance payment to households receiving assistance under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

PART YY

Sec. YY-1. 22 MRSA §3769-E, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. NNNNNN, §12, is repealed.

PART ZZ

Sec. ZZ-1. Continuation of limited-period positions. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, all limited-period positions throughout State Government that are scheduled to expire in June 2026, are already funded through the end of fiscal year 2025-26 and are proposed to continue in the 2026-2027

biennium are authorized to continue until November 1, 2026.

PART AAA

Sec. AAA-1. PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. II, §4 is amended to read:

Sec. II-4. Supplemental payments to private psychiatric hospitals. The Department of Health and Human Services, from the amounts appropriated and allocated, shall determine a consistent and reasonable allocation method to distribute supplemental payments to private psychiatric hospitals. Total payment amounts may not exceed the lower of the amount appropriated for supplemental payments to psychiatric hospitals by this Act and the amount by which any payment would cause the department to exceed allowable aggregate upper payment limits as determined by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

These payments must be allocated based on a consistent allocation method subject to United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approval from total supplemental pool amounts as follows:

1. A supplemental pool amount based on the tax owed by psychiatric hospitals in fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27 as the result of the incremental increase in the hospital tax rate imposed by this Part, for twice-annual supplemental payments in those fiscal years; and
2. A supplemental pool amount based on the tax owed by psychiatric hospitals in fiscal year 2024-25 as the result of the retroactive application of the incremental increase in the hospital tax rate imposed by this Part, for a one-time supplemental payment in fiscal year 2025-26.

Supplemental payments must continue until implementation of reimbursement reform for psychiatric hospitals, at which point the supplemental payments must be discontinued and the associated spending must be invested in direct reimbursement for inpatient and outpatient psychiatric hospital services.

PART BBB

Sec. BBB-1. Emergency rule-making authority; health and human services matters. The Department of Health and Human Services is authorized to adopt emergency rules under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, sections 8054 and 8073 as necessary to implement those provisions of this Act over which the department has subject matter jurisdiction for which specific authority has not been provided in any other Part, notwithstanding the requirement that the department find that immediate adoption is necessary to avoid a threat to public health, safety or general welfare.

PART CCC

Sec. CCC-1. Lapsed balances; Department of Health and Human Services, State Supplement to Federal Supplemental Security Income. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, \$1,000,000 of unencumbered balance forward in the Department of Health and Human Services, State Supplement to Federal Supplemental Security Income program, General Fund account, All Other line category lapses to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30, 2027.

PART DDD

Sec. DDD-1. Lapsed balances; Department of Health and Human Services. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, \$3,600,000 of the unencumbered balance forward in the General Fund carrying accounts of the Department of Health and Human Services in the All Other line category lapses to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30, 2026.

PART EEE

Sec. EEE-1. Transfer of Personal Services balances to Capital Expenditures; Department of Health and Human Services, Disproportionate Share - Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Health and Human Services is authorized to transfer up to \$290,664 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations, after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the Capital Expenditures line category of the Disproportionate Share - Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center program, General Fund account for the purpose of funding the replacement of the camera and access control system at Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

Sec. EEE-2. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department of Health and Human Services, Office of MaineCare Services. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Health and Human Services is authorized to transfer up to \$1,100,000 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations, after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the All Other line category of the Office of MaineCare Services program, General Fund account for the purpose of funding rate determinations for MaineCare services. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

PART FFF

Sec. FFF-1. 12 MRSA §10108, sub-§13 is enacted to read:

13. Inland Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Program. The Inland Fisheries Conservation and Enhancement Program, referred to in this subsection as "the program," is established within the department's fisheries and hatcheries division within the Bureau of Resource Management.

A. The program must:

(1) Prioritize native inland fish conservation and the research, management and enhancement of the State's native inland fish populations, including but not limited to those identified by the department as species of greatest conservation need, brook trout, lake whitefish, arctic charr and lake trout;

(2) Identify and implement actions to enhance native inland fish production and stocking, including assessment of native inland fish production programs; and

(3) Work to conserve, protect and enhance the State's sport fish fisheries.

B. To the extent that resources allow, the program must support and incorporate the following elements:

(1) The design and implementation of regional and statewide fishery research programs designed to conserve the State's native inland and sport fish fisheries and promote the long-term sustainability and health of those fisheries;

(2) Investment in new technology, equipment and training programs to enhance the success and effectiveness of the program;

(3) Effective communication regarding ongoing program actions, to promote program success and collaboration;

(4) The establishment of collaborative partnerships to engage organizations, communities and companies representing conservation groups, anglers, land trusts and other organizations involved in outdoor recreation in implementing and publicizing the program; and

(5) Engagement with representatives of various agencies, anglers and nonprofit organizations to enhance and restore the habitats and populations of native inland fisheries.

C. The commissioner may accept money, goods or services donated to the department for the program. Money accepted by the commissioner under this paragraph must be deposited into the fisheries and hatcheries division dedicated account.

D. The commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, shall report no later than February 1st annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters regarding program activities. The report must describe the work being done to conserve, research, manage and enhance the State's native inland fish populations and must include a summary of program expenditures, including how those expenditures were allocated.

PART GGG

Sec. GGG-1. 12 MRSA §10252, as affected by PL 2003, c. 614, §9 and amended by c. 655, Pt. B, §51 and affected by §422, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§10252. Fish hatchery maintenance fund

1. Fund established. The fish hatchery maintenance fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established in the department as a nonlapsing fund to be used by the commissioner to fund or assist in funding engineering designs, statewide facilities assessments and maintenance, repair and capital improvements at fish hatcheries and feeding stations owned by the State. The fund may be used for overtime personnel services costs when overtime for fish stocking and other hatchery-related work is operationally required. The fund may support the design, construction and operation of additional state fish hatcheries that support the mission of the department, as approved by the Legislature. The fund may not be used to fund the general operating costs of an existing fish hatchery.

2. Funding. Notwithstanding section 10801, subsection 4, §2 from each fishing license sold must be deposited into the fund. Additionally, money deposited pursuant to Title 29-A, section 456-C, subsection 3, paragraph A, subparagraph (1) must be credited to the fund. The commissioner may accept and deposit into the fund any monetary gifts, donations or other contributions from public or private sources and must use that money for the purposes specified in subsection 1.

PART HHH

Sec. HHH-1. PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. FF, §1 is amended to read:

Sec. FF-1. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Judicial Department, Courts - Supreme, Superior and District; fiscal year 2025-26. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2025-26 only, the Judicial Department is authorized to transfer up to ~~\$750,000~~ \$1,250,000 of available balances of appropriations in the Personal Services line category in the Courts - Supreme, Superior and District program, General Fund, after all financial commitments for salary, benefit and other obligations have been made, to the General Fund, All Other line category in order to fund temporary clerk

services, marshal services contracts, guardians ad litem, interpreters and mental health services. These amounts may be transferred by financial order on the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

Sec. HHH-2. PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. FF, §2 is amended to read:

Sec. FF-2. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Judicial Department, Courts - Supreme, Superior and District; fiscal year 2026-27. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27 only, the Judicial Department is authorized to transfer up to ~~\$750,000~~ \$1,250,000 of available balances of appropriations in the Personal Services line category in the Courts - Supreme, Superior and District program, General Fund, after all financial commitments for salary, benefit and other obligations have been made, to the General Fund, All Other line category in order to fund temporary clerk services, marshal services contracts, guardians ad litem, interpreters and mental health services. These amounts may be transferred by financial order on the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

PART III

Sec. III-1. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Judicial Department, Courts - Supreme, Superior and District. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Judicial Department is authorized to transfer up to \$2,050,725 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations, after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the All Other line category of the Courts - Supreme, Superior and District program, General Fund account for the purposes of funding iPad replacements and licensing fees, rising contract costs related to case management services, rising utility costs, rising interpreter costs, rising travel costs for staff and judicial officers and the implementation of a new records management system. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

Sec. III-2. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Judicial Department, Courts - Supreme, Superior and District. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Judicial Department is authorized to transfer up to \$109,448 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations, after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the All Other line category of the Courts - Supreme, Superior and District program, General Fund account for the purposes of funding general facility improvements, increased lease

costs and additional file storage at the Lincoln District Court location. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

PART JJJ

Sec. JJJ-1. 26 MRSA §1418-A, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 560, Pt. F, §13, is amended to read:

The Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired is established within the ~~department~~ Bureau of Rehabilitation Services under the jurisdiction of the Director of the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired. ~~The commissioner shall appoint the director, subject to the Civil Service Law.~~

PART KKK

Sec. KKK-1. Transfer from Maine Budget Stabilization Fund; General Fund. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$38,409,609 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

PART LLL

Sec. LLL-1. 12 MRSA §6043 is enacted to read:

§6043. Marine Science Research and Boat Operations and Maintenance Fund

1. Fund established. The Marine Science Research and Boat Operations and Maintenance Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a dedicated, nonlapsing fund administered by the department for the purpose of providing funds in support of marine science programs for the purposes described in subsection 3. Balances may not lapse and must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

2. Sources of funding. The fund consists of any money received from the following sources:

- A. Fees charged to marine science research programs based on research conducted and boat use;
- B. Contributions from private sources;
- C. Federal funds and awards; and
- D. Any other funds received in support of the purposes for which the fund is established.

3. Disbursements from fund. The department shall use the funds received pursuant to subsection 2 to support marine science programs in the State, including, but not limited to, funding for marine science research, boat operations and boat maintenance.

PART MMM

Sec. MMM-1. Carrying balances; Department of Marine Resources, Bureau of Marine Science. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, at the end of fiscal year 2025-26, the State Controller shall carry forward any unexpended balance remaining of the \$400,000 appropriated in Public Law 2025, chapter 2 in the Department of Marine Resources, Bureau of Marine Science program, General Fund account, Capital Expenditures line category to the next fiscal year until the balance is fully expended. The funding must be used to support the department's obligation of the total cost for federal Public Assistance 406 Mitigation funding from the United States Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency related to storm damages from January 2024.

PART NNN

Sec. NNN-1. 4 MRSA §157, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. ZZZZ, §2, is further amended to read:

A. The Governor, subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters and to confirmation by the Legislature, shall appoint to the District Court 42 judges, except that, beginning July 1, 2024, the Governor, subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters and to confirmation by the Legislature, shall appoint to the District Court ~~44~~ 46 judges. At least one judge must be appointed from each district who is a resident of a county in which the district lies, except that in District 3 there must be 2 judges appointed who are residents of a county in which the district lies; in District 6 there must be 2 judges appointed who are residents of a county in which the district lies; and in District 9 there must be 2 judges appointed who are residents of a county in which the district lies. Each District Court Judge has a term of office of 7 years.

To be eligible for appointment as a District Judge, a person must be a member of the bar of the State. The term "District Judge" includes the Chief Judge and Deputy Chief Judge.

PART OOO

Sec. OOO-1. 24 MRSA §2986, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2025, c. 109, §3, is further amended to read:

3. Completed kit. If the victim has not reported the alleged offense to a law enforcement agency when the examination is complete, the hospital or health care practitioner shall then notify the nearest law enforcement agency, which shall transport and store the completed forensic examination kit for 8 ~~20~~ years. The completed kit may be identified only by the tracking number. If during that storage period a victim decides to report the alleged offense to a law enforcement

agency, the victim may contact the hospital or health care practitioner to determine the tracking number. The hospital or health care practitioner shall provide the victim with the tracking number on the forensic examination kit and shall inform the victim which law enforcement agency is storing the kit.

If the victim reports the alleged offense to a law enforcement agency by the time the examination is complete, the investigating agency shall retain custody of the forensic examination kit.

If an examination is performed under subsection 5 and the victim does not, within 60 days, regain a state of consciousness adequate to decide whether or not to report the alleged offense, the State may file a motion in the District Court relating to the storing or ~~processing~~ analysis of the forensic examination kit. Upon finding good cause and after considering factors, including, but not limited to, the possible benefits to public safety in ~~processing~~ analyzing the kit and the likelihood of the victim's regaining a state of consciousness adequate to decide whether or not to report the alleged offense in a reasonable time, the District Court may order either that the kit be stored for additional time or that the kit be transported to the Maine State Police Crime Laboratory for ~~processing~~ analysis in accordance with the laboratory's practices and procedures, or such other disposition that the court determines just. In the interests of justice or upon motion by the State, the District Court may conduct hearings required under this paragraph confidentially and in camera and may impound pleadings and other records related to them.

A law enforcement agency shall store a completed forensic examination kit involving sexual assault for 20 years regardless of whether the alleged offense is reported to a law enforcement agency.

Sec. 000-2. 25 MRSA §2915-B is enacted to read:

§2915-B. Sexual assault forensic examination kit tracking system

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Crime laboratory" means the Maine State Police Crime Laboratory located in Augusta or another accredited laboratory that provides forensic services to law enforcement agencies for the purpose of analyzing forensic examination kits.

B. "Department" means the Department of Public Safety.

C. "Forensic examination kit" or "kit" means a uniform standardized forensic examination kit developed by the department pursuant to section 2915, subsection 1 for evidence collection by a licensed health care provider in alleged cases of sexual assault.

D. "Law enforcement agency" means the Bureau of State Police, a county law enforcement agency or a municipal law enforcement agency.

E. "Licensed health care provider" means:

(1) A hospital licensed under Title 22, chapter 405; or

(2) A health care practitioner who is licensed by this State to provide or otherwise lawfully providing health care or a partnership or corporation made up of such health care practitioners.

F. "Sexual assault" means any crime enumerated in Title 17-A, chapter 11.

G. "Tracking system" means the forensic examination kit tracking system established by the department pursuant to subsection 2.

2. Forensic examination kit tracking system.

The department shall operate and maintain a tracking system for all completed forensic examination kits, regardless of whether the alleged offense relating to the kit was reported to a law enforcement agency, that is continuously accessible to approved users as determined by department rule, including, at a minimum, licensed hospitals and licensed health care providers that perform forensic examinations for victims of sexual assault.

A. The department shall operate and maintain the tracking system through the use of department personnel and resources and may contract with public or private entities, including, but not limited to, software and technology providers, to accomplish the department's duties related to the tracking system.

B. Approved users shall adhere to the following procedures when entering information for each kit into the tracking system, which must, at a minimum, collect the following information.

(1) A crime laboratory shall enter into the tracking system each new and unused kit and record each kit's intended destination before the kit leaves the possession of the crime laboratory.

(2) A licensed health care provider shall enter into the tracking system:

(a) The date the licensed health care provider receives each kit from a crime laboratory;

(b) The date a particular kit is used for evidence collection, is discarded based on damage to the kit or is used for training; and

(c) The date a completed kit is transferred to a law enforcement agency, the name of

the law enforcement agency to which the kit was transferred and, to the extent known to the licensed health care provider, whether the victim of sexual assault from whom the forensic evidence in the kit was collected has reported the alleged offense to a law enforcement agency.

(3) A law enforcement agency shall enter into the tracking system:

(a) The date the law enforcement agency receives a completed kit, the location where that kit is being stored and, to the extent known by the law enforcement agency, whether the victim of sexual assault from whom the forensic evidence in the kit was collected has reported the alleged offense to a law enforcement agency;

(b) The date the law enforcement agency transfers a completed kit to a crime laboratory and the name of the crime laboratory to which the kit was transferred; and

(c) The date the law enforcement agency reports to a prosecuting attorney that a forensic examination has been performed pursuant to Title 24, section 2986.

(4) A crime laboratory shall identify when it has conducted an analysis of a completed kit and enter into the tracking system the date of the analysis.

(5) A law enforcement agency that receives a kit after analysis from a crime laboratory shall enter into the tracking system the date it received the kit and whether that kit was stored or destroyed.

C. The tracking system must provide for the updating and tracking of a forensic examination kit as follows.

(1) A victim of sexual assault from whom forensic evidence has been collected using a kit must have access to the tracking system on an anonymous and secure basis for the purposes of receiving updates regarding the kit and tracking the status of the kit.

(2) A licensed health care provider, law enforcement agency, prosecuting attorney or any other entity in possession of a kit must have access to the tracking system for the purposes of entering, updating and tracking the status and location of the kit.

(3) A prosecuting attorney in the State must have access to the tracking system for the purpose of receiving updates regarding the kits and tracking the status of the kits.

3. Participation required. Law enforcement agencies, licensed health care providers, crime laboratories and prosecuting attorneys in the State shall participate in the tracking system on the schedule and in the manner required by department rules adopted pursuant to subsection 7.

4. Immunity. A person or entity required by subsection 3 to participate in the tracking system is immune from civil liability for actions taken as a participant that are required by subsection 3 or by rules adopted pursuant to subsection 7.

5. Confidentiality. The tracking system and all information in the tracking system is confidential.

6. Report. The department shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters and the Governor by January 1, 2028 and annually thereafter regarding the tracking system. The report may include recommendations from the department for improved operation of the tracking system and must include the following information, identified by the county from which a forensic examination kit was entered into the tracking system:

A. The number of completed kits in the tracking system, including:

(1) The number of completed kits for which a victim of sexual assault has reported the alleged offense to a law enforcement agency and, of those kits, the number on which analysis has been completed and the number on which analysis has not been completed; and

(2) The number of completed kits for which a victim of sexual assault has not reported the alleged offense to a law enforcement agency and, of those kits, the number on which analysis has been completed and the number on which analysis has not been completed;

B. The number of completed kits that were entered into the tracking system during the prior calendar year, including:

(1) The number of completed kits for which a victim of sexual assault has reported the alleged offense to a law enforcement agency and, of those kits, the number on which analysis has been completed and the number on which analysis has not been completed; and

(2) The number of completed kits for which a victim of sexual assault has not reported the alleged offense to a law enforcement agency and, of those kits, the number on which analysis has been completed and the number on which analysis has not been completed;

C. The average and median lengths of time for forensic examination kits to be sent for analysis after

being entered into the tracking system and for analysis to be completed; and

D. The number of reported forensic examination kits entered into the tracking system for more than one year for which analysis has not been completed.

A law enforcement agency that performs its duties in more than one county shall provide to the department tracking information for each county where a forensic examination kit was entered into the tracking system.

7. Rules. The commissioner shall adopt rules to govern participation in and implementation of the tracking system. The rules must include provisions for maintaining confidentiality of tracking system information; provisions to ensure timely posting to the tracking system; a process for approving tracking system users and access for approved users; procedures for posting information and for updating information in the tracking system; and requirements for documentation of persons who have posted, accessed and updated information in the tracking system. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 000-3. 25 MRSA §3821, as amended by PL 2025, c. 109, §6, is further amended to read:

§3821. Transportation and storage of forensic examination kits

For the purposes of this section, "sexual assault" means any crime enumerated in Title 17-A, chapter 11 and "strangulation" has the same meaning as in Title 17-A, section 208, subsection 1, paragraph C.

If a victim of sexual assault or strangulation has a forensic examination and has not reported the alleged offense to a law enforcement agency when the examination is complete, the licensed hospital or licensed health care practitioner that completed the forensic examination shall notify the nearest law enforcement agency. That law enforcement agency shall transport the completed forensic examination kit, identified only by a tracking number assigned by the kit manufacturer, to its evidence storage facility. ~~The law enforcement agency shall store the forensic examination kits involving sexual assault for 20 years and forensic examination kits involving only strangulation for 6 years. If during that storage period the victim reports the offense to a law enforcement agency, the investigating agency shall take possession of the forensic examination kit.~~

If a victim of sexual assault or strangulation has a forensic examination and has reported the alleged offense to a law enforcement agency when the forensic examination is complete, or the victim reports the alleged offense after the forensic examination kit has been transported to the nearest law enforcement agency, the law enforcement agency investigating the alleged offense shall take possession of that kit.

A law enforcement agency shall store the forensic examination kits involving sexual assault for 20 years and forensic examination kits involving only strangulation for 6 years, regardless of whether the alleged offense relating to the kit is reported to a law enforcement agency.

In the case of a forensic examination performed under Title 24, section 2986, subsection 5, the law enforcement agency must immediately notify the district attorney for the district in which the hospital or health care practitioner is located that such a forensic examination has been performed and a forensic examination kit has been completed under Title 24, section 2986, subsection 5.

Sec. 000-4. Sexual assault forensic examination kit inventory. By October 1, 2027, all law enforcement agencies that receive, maintain, store or preserve sexual assault forensic examination kits shall complete an inventory of all kits in their possession and shall report their findings to the Department of Public Safety. At a minimum, reported findings to the department must include a breakdown by year by each agency of the number of:

1. Completed kits received, including a breakdown of the number of these kits for which a victim of sexual assault has reported the alleged offense to a law enforcement agency and the number of these kits for which the victim of sexual assault has not reported the alleged offense to a law enforcement agency;

2. Completed kits for which a victim of sexual assault has reported the alleged offense to a law enforcement agency and the kit has not been analyzed by a crime laboratory. For purposes of this section, "crime laboratory" has the same meaning as in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, section 2915-B, subsection 1, paragraph A; and

3. Completed kits that have been returned to the law enforcement agency after analysis by a crime laboratory.

The department shall compile all agency findings and present a report of the inventory by January 1, 2028 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters. At the time the report is presented, the department shall post the report on its publicly accessible website.

PART PPP

Sec. PPP-1. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department of Public Safety, State Police. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Public Safety is authorized to transfer up to \$292,500 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations, after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the All Other line category of the State

Police program, General Fund account for the purposes of funding a Maine Information and Analysis Center contract for firearms examiner services. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

Sec. PPP-2. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department of Public Safety, State Police. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Public Safety is authorized to transfer up to \$500,500 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations, after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the All Other line category of the State Police program, General Fund account for the purposes of funding the replacement of 8 40-millimeter launchers and consoles at 3 emergency communications centers. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

Sec. PPP-3. Transfer of Personal Services balances to Capital Expenditures; Department of Public Safety, State Police. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Public Safety is authorized to transfer up to \$91,650 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations, after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the Capital Expenditures line category of the State Police program, General Fund account for the purposes of funding a roof replacement at the K-9 office, a heat pump and generator for the Pittsfield barracks and updating the security system at the Bangor barracks. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

Sec. PPP-4. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department of Public Safety, Criminal Justice Academy. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Public Safety is authorized to transfer up to \$540,000 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the All Other line category of the Criminal Justice Academy program, General Fund account for the purposes of funding rising food service costs. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

PART QQQ

Sec. QQQ-1. 20-A MRSA §12723, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 372, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§12723. Maine Free Community College Program

The Maine Free Community College Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established. The system shall waive tuition for no more than 2 years for an eligible student who meets the conditions under subsection 2. The availability of the tuition waiver is limited to the amount appropriated.

1. Definition. For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "eligible student" means a person who graduated from high school in the previous 2 academic years or obtained the equivalent of a high school diploma in the previous 2 academic years.

2. Conditions. In order to receive a tuition waiver under this section, an eligible student must:

A. Pursue an associate degree or other academic credential;

B. Have established a primary residence in the State for at least 12 consecutive months immediately prior to the date of admission to a college and reside in the State for the duration of the student's enrollment in the college;

C. Accept all available federal and state grants, scholarships and other sources of funding; and

D. Access the tuition waiver for no longer than 150% of the time stated by a college for completion of a program of study.

3. Report. No later than January 15th of each year, the system shall prepare and submit a report regarding the program to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs.

PART RRR

Sec. RRR-1. 5 MRSA §12004-A, sub-§22, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 786, §5, is repealed.

Sec. RRR-2. 10 MRSA §1404, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 717, §3, is amended to read:

6. Warranty supplemental. That this statutory warranty is in addition to any express warranty provided by the manufacturer or dealer and any warranty created by state or federal law, including the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a specific purpose. ~~The Manufactured Housing Board~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs, in consultation with the Department of the Attorney General, shall prepare a written warranty form that contains the terms of subsections 1 to 5 and shall ensure that this warranty form is distributed to all dealers and manufacturers doing business in this State.

Sec. RRR-3. 10 MRSA §8001, sub-§38, ¶R, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 397, §11, is repealed.

Sec. RRR-4. 10 MRSA §9001, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1999, c. 725, §1, is further amended to read:

2. Intent. It is therefore declared that the State, with the passage of this chapter, intends:

A. To provide protection to the public against hazards from poorly constructed or installed manufactured housing;

B. To provide and enforce, with respect to its licensees and political subdivisions, uniform performance standards for construction and installation of manufactured housing that ensure durability and safety of manufactured housing; and

C. To eliminate all costly, duplicative regulations and to adopt rules that provide for the performance necessary to provide decent, safe and sanitary housing at prices that people of this State can afford and to establish regulations that govern those matters within this State;

~~D. To establish an administrative board for the purpose of administering and enforcing this chapter and applicable warranties;~~

~~E. To require this board to assume responsibilities as consistent with this chapter, including the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter, the administration and enforcement of rules, investigations of complaints and any other acts that are consistent with the purposes of this chapter;~~

~~F. To have this board, in the administration of this chapter, give consideration to economic factors that may result in additional costs to home buyers and eliminate any unnecessary costs that may occur from the enforcement of this chapter or any other Act; and~~

~~G. To grant to this board the investigative and regulatory powers it may reasonably require to accomplish the foregoing purposes and intent and to carry out the provisions of this chapter, including making decisions, in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.~~

Sec. RRR-5. 10 MRSA §9002, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 550, §1, is repealed.

Sec. RRR-6. 10 MRSA §9002, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. B, §4, is further amended to read:

5. Inspection agency. "Inspection agency" means an approved person or organization, public or private, determined by the board office to be qualified by reason of facilities, personnel and demonstrated ability and independence of judgment to provide for inspection and approval of the design, construction or installation of

manufactured housing in compliance with the standards and the rules adopted in accordance with this ~~Act~~ chapter.

Sec. RRR-7. 10 MRSA §9002, sub-§6, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 260, Pt. A, §1, is amended to read:

B. The assembly and fastening of structural components of manufactured housing, including the completed roof system, as specified by the manufacturer's installation instructions and in accordance with the rules of the ~~board~~ office.

Sec. RRR-8. 10 MRSA §9002, sub-§7, ¶B, as amended by PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. B, §6, is further amended to read:

B. State-certified modular homes, which are those units that the manufacturer certifies are constructed in compliance with this ~~Act~~ chapter and rules, meaning structures, transportable in one or more sections, that are not constructed on a permanent chassis and are designed to be used as dwellings on foundations when connected to required utilities, including the plumbing, heating, air-conditioning or electrical systems contained therein. "Manufactured housing" does not include modular homes constructed at an educational facility by students pursuant to rules adopted by the ~~board~~ office;

Sec. RRR-9. 10 MRSA §9002, sub-§11-A is enacted to read:

11-A. Office. "Office" means the Maine Office of Community Affairs as established in Title 5, chapter 310-B.

Sec. RRR-10. 10 MRSA §9003, as amended by PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. B, §8, is repealed.

Sec. RRR-11. 10 MRSA §9004, as amended by PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. D, §2, is repealed.

Sec. RRR-12. 10 MRSA §9005-A, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. D, §4, is amended to read:

§9005-A. Powers and duties

The ~~board~~ office shall administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter.

The ~~board~~ office shall propose, revise, adopt and enforce rules necessary to carry out this chapter in accordance with the provisions of Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. The ~~board~~ office may delegate the enforcement authority to employees or to other entities established by rule by the office.

Sec. RRR-13. 10 MRSA §9006, as amended by PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. B, §9, is further amended to read:

§9006. Installation standards

1. Standards. The board office shall, by rule, set uniform reasonable standards for the installation of manufactured homes, including, but not limited to, standards for foundations, supports, anchoring, underpinning and skirting of manufactured homes installed in this State.

2. Exemption. Manufactured housing ~~which that~~ is manufactured, sold, installed or serviced in compliance with this chapter ~~shall be is~~ exempt from all state or other political subdivision codes, standards or regulations ~~which that~~ regulate the same matters.

Sec. RRR-14. 10 MRSA §9006-B, as amended by PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. B, §10, is further amended to read:

§9006-B. Formaldehyde emissions; disclosure

In addition to requiring that the "Health Notice on Formaldehyde Emissions" set out in 24 Code of Federal Regulations ~~53280.309~~, Section 3280.309 be prominently displayed in each manufactured housing unit sold in the State and provided as part of the Manufactured Home Consumer Manual provided to each purchaser of a new manufactured housing unit, the board office shall require that a copy of that notice be provided to a purchaser of a new manufactured housing unit at the time of execution of the purchase and sales agreement, and that each purchaser sign a certification, provided at the bottom of that notice, that the purchaser has read and understood the contents of the notice before signing the purchase and sales agreement.

Sec. RRR-15. 10 MRSA §9006-C, as amended by PL 2009, c. 241, Pt. A, §§1 and 2, is further amended to read:

§9006-C. Warranty seals

The board office shall issue warranty seals to be attached on manufactured housing sold in this State. The following provisions govern the attachment of warranty seals on manufactured housing.

1. Manufacturer's warranty seal. Before manufactured housing may be installed in this State, the manufacturer shall first obtain from the board office a Maine manufacturer's warranty seal. The warranty seal may be issued upon payment of the fee as set pursuant to section 9021, subsection 2-A. The manufacturer must attach the seal to the manufactured housing.

2. Installer's or mechanic's warranty seal. Before manufactured housing may be installed in this State, the installer or mechanic must obtain from the board office a Maine installer's or mechanic's warranty seal. The warranty seal may be issued upon payment of the fee as set pursuant to section 9021, subsection 2-A. The installer or mechanic must attach the seal to the manufactured housing.

Sec. RRR-16. 10 MRSA §9006-D, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 281, §1, is amended to read:

§9006-D. Notice of installation

1. Notice of installation. A manufacturer, dealer, mechanic and installer shall notify the board office every month of the installations completed by that person that month. The notice must include the location of each unit of manufactured housing, the owner of each unit at the time of installation, the type or model of the unit, the manufacturer of the unit, written certification that the installation meets standards that conform to those required by the board office and the name and address of the manufacturer, dealer, mechanic or installer. The information must be submitted within 10 days after the end of each month in the form and manner prescribed by the board office by rule. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter ~~II-A~~ 2-A.

2. Failure to file. The board office may require a manufacturer, dealer, mechanic or installer who fails to comply with this section to pay a fine of not less than \$5 and not more than \$100 for each day the notice is late.

Sec. RRR-17. 10 MRSA §9008, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. B, §11, is further amended to read:

1. Licenses. A person may not manufacture, sell, broker, distribute, install or service any manufactured housing in this State regardless of the destination of the housing without first obtaining a license from the board office as required in this chapter.

Sec. RRR-18. 10 MRSA §9009, as amended by PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. B, §12, is further amended to read:

§9009. Investigations; suspensions; revocations

1. Investigations. The board office is authorized to conduct, delegate or administer any inspections and investigations as may be necessary to carry out its responsibilities under this chapter. Fees for inspection of manufactured housing that must be paid by the manufacturer, dealer, developer dealer, installer or mechanic whose actions or failure to act gave rise to the necessity of the inspection are set pursuant to section 9021, subsection 2-A. The board office is authorized to contract with local governments and private inspection organizations to carry out such inspection functions to the extent not prohibited by federal law, rule or regulation.

3. Remedies for manufacturing and building system defects. The board staff office may investigate any complaints made to the board office of noncompliance with or violation of chapter 213 or a warranty applicable to the sale of manufactured housing. If the board office finds, after hearing, that a manufacturer, dealer or developer dealer has sold, or is making available for sale, manufactured housing that poses a threat to public health or safety or has failed to comply with

chapter 213 or an applicable warranty, express or implied, the board office may order the manufacturer, dealer or developer dealer or any combination thereof to take appropriate corrective action. Corrective action may include, but is not limited to, reimbursing consumers for repairs that are covered by warranty and made by the consumer if the consumer notifies the dealer, developer dealer or manufacturer in writing of the defect within a reasonable time prior to undertaking the repairs and the board office finds that the repairs are or were necessary to correct or prevent an imminent threat to health or safety or to the structure of the manufactured housing. The board office may also revoke or suspend the license of the manufacturer, dealer, developer dealer or any combination thereof to prevent any future threat to public health or safety. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 8003, subsection 5-A, revocations ordered by the board office are subject to judicial review exclusively in the Superior Court in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 7. This subsection applies to any new manufactured housing that is sold to a consumer after January 1, 1993.

4. Remedies for installation defects. The board staff office may investigate all complaints made to the board office of noncompliance with or violation of chapter 213 or a warranty applicable to the installation of manufactured housing. If the board office finds, after hearing, that the installation of manufactured housing poses a threat to public health or safety or does not comply with the board's office's installation standards, chapter 213 or any applicable warranty, the board office may order the installer to take appropriate corrective action. Corrective action may include, but is not limited to, reimbursing consumers for repairs that are covered by warranty and made by the consumer if the consumer notifies the installer or mechanic in writing of the defect within a reasonable time prior to undertaking the repairs and the board office finds that the repairs are or were necessary to correct or prevent an imminent threat to health or safety or to the structure of manufactured housing. The board office may also revoke or suspend the installer's or mechanic's license to install manufactured housing to prevent any future threat to the public health or safety. ~~Notwithstanding the provisions of Title 10, section 8003, subsection 5-A, revocations~~ Revolutions ordered by the board office are subject to judicial review exclusively in the Superior Court in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 7. This subsection applies to any new manufactured housing that is sold to a consumer after January 1, 1993.

Sec. RRR-19. 10 MRSA §9011, as amended by PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. B, §13, is further amended to read:

§9011. Enforcement and penalties

1. Inspection of violations. The board office may, upon complaint or probable cause, inspect the manufactured housing, manufacturing facilities, a licensee's

business facilities or such records as may be necessary to verify whether a violation has occurred. If the board office finds that a violation has occurred, it shall proceed pursuant to section 9009.

2. Petition to initiate legal action. The board office may petition the Attorney General to initiate legal action in any court of competent jurisdiction for monetary or injunctive relief to enforce this chapter.

3. Penalties. ~~Any~~ A person found guilty of violation of this chapter may be required to pay a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 for each such violation, but not more than \$5,000 for an action consisting of separate violations.

4. Private actions. The private rights of action created by this subsection are in addition to any rights of enforcement and relief granted to the board office in this chapter. The board office shall notify all claimants of their right to seek remedy.

A. A person damaged as a result of a violation of this chapter also has a cause of action in court against the person responsible for the manufacture, brokering, distribution, sale, lease, installation or service, and the court may award appropriate damages and cost for litigation in its judgment.

B. After exhausting all administrative remedies, a person damaged as a result of a violation of section 9042 also has a cause of action in court against the political subdivision of the State that fails to comply with the provisions of section 9042, and the court may award injunctive relief.

5. Crime designated. An individual or a director, officer or agent of a corporation who knowingly and willfully violates section 9008 in a manner that threatens the health or safety of any purchaser commits a Class E crime.

Sec. RRR-20. 10 MRSA §9012, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 550, §1, is amended to read:

§9012. Confidential information

1. Reported information. All information reported to or otherwise obtained by the board office, its director or any of its employees ~~which that~~ contains or relates to a trade secret, or ~~which that~~, if disclosed, would put the person furnishing the information at a substantial competitive disadvantage, ~~shall be considered~~ is confidential, except that the information may be disclosed to other federal, state or local officials concerned with enforcement of this chapter or when relevant in any proceeding under this chapter or any related law, rule or regulation.

2. Refusal to release information. In any action brought against ~~a member, officer or employee of the~~ the board office pursuant to Title 1, section 410; for refusal to release information in the custody or control of the board office, it ~~shall be~~ is a defense ~~if that~~ the defendant

refused to release the information in the good faith belief that such information was rendered confidential by the terms of subsection 1.

3. State not liable. ~~No~~ An action for damages shall ~~may not~~ accrue against the State or the ~~board, or the members, officers or employees of the board;~~ office for the mistaken release of information rendered confidential by subsection 1.

~~A. For the mistaken release of information rendered confidential by subsection 1.~~

Sec. RRR-21. 10 MRSA §9021, as amended by PL 2021, c. 642, §4 and c. 676, Pt. A, §21, is further amended to read:

§9021. Licenses

The ~~board~~ office shall adopt rules governing qualifications for each category of license under its jurisdiction.

1. Licenses required. ~~Any~~ A person who engages in the business of manufacturing, brokering, distributing, selling, installing or servicing manufactured housing, regardless of the destination of the housing, must first obtain a license issued by the ~~board~~ office. The ~~board~~ office shall, within a reasonable time, issue a license to ~~any~~ a person who intends to manufacture, sell, install or service manufactured housing in this State subject to filing and approval of an application. ~~Any~~ A person who is licensed to conduct these activities by other state or federal law is exempt from this requirement when the law provides for specific authority to provide a particular service or preempts the requirement for such a license. Active licensees of the Real Estate Commission are exempt from the licensing requirement for selling or brokering used manufactured housing and new manufactured housing if such housing is sold or offered for sale by a licensee of the ~~board~~ office.

1-A. Initial training. All licensees and applicants for licensure must obtain initial training, including, but not limited to, the servicing and installation of manufactured housing. Applicants for initial licensure must complete the training before the ~~board~~ office approves the application for licensure.

2-A. Fees. The ~~Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation~~ director of the office may establish by rule fees for purposes authorized under this chapter in amounts that are reasonable and necessary for their respective purposes. The license fee to operate a manufactured housing community pursuant to subchapter 6 may not exceed a base fee of \$60 plus an additional amount of up to \$6 per manufactured home site, except that, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2030, the fee per manufactured home site is \$16 per site. This fee must accompany each

license application, including applications for manufactured housing community expansion and license renewal. The review and evaluation fees authorized by section 9083 may not exceed the actual cost of the review or evaluation. The fee for any inspection authorized by this chapter may not exceed the actual cost of the inspection. The fee for each warranty seal required by section 9006-C, subsections 1 and 2 and each new dwelling unit required by section 9045 may not exceed \$200. The fee for any other purpose authorized by this chapter may not exceed \$200 annually. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

3. License term. A license expires on the date set by the ~~Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation pursuant to section 8003, subsection 4~~ director of the office for the licensing period for which the license was issued. A license may be renewed upon receipt of an application for renewal and the payment of the renewal fee as set pursuant to subsection 2-A. A license may be renewed up to 90 calendar days after the date of expiration upon payment of a late fee in addition to the renewal fee. An applicant who submits an application for renewal more than 90 calendar days after the expiration date is subject to all requirements governing new applicants under this chapter.

4. Renewals. A license may be renewed up to 90 days after the date of its expiration upon payment of a late fee in addition to the renewal fee as set under subsection 2-A. If any licensee fails to renew within 90 days after expiration, that licensee is required to make a new application.

6. Financial responsibility. The ~~board~~ office may require bonding or other reasonable methods to ensure that manufacturers, dealers, developer dealers and others licensed under this chapter are financially responsible to fully comply with this chapter.

8-A. Denial or refusal to renew license; disciplinary action. In addition to the grounds enumerated in section 8003, subsection 5-A, paragraph A, subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3), the board office may deny a license, refuse to renew a license or impose the disciplinary sanctions authorized by section 8003, subsection 5-A for a violation of the rules of the office or for any of the following reasons:

- A. Accepting manufactured housing, directly or indirectly, from a manufacturer not licensed by the State pursuant to this chapter;
- B. Selling or delivering, directly or indirectly, manufactured housing to a dealer or developer dealer not licensed by the State pursuant to this chapter; or
- C. Violation of any of the provisions of chapter 213.

9. Proof of sales tax registration. The board office shall require that an applicant for a manufacturer, dealer or developer dealer license under this subchapter demonstrate that the applicant is registered with the State Tax Assessor for the collection of sales and use tax under Title 36, chapter 211 or that the applicant is not required to register under that chapter.

10. License by endorsement. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, the board office, in accordance with this section ~~§003-H~~ and any applicable rules adopted pursuant to ~~that~~ this section, shall establish a process to issue a license by endorsement for each license authorized under this chapter that the board office determines is appropriate for licensure by endorsement. An applicant may submit an application under the process established under this subsection or any other licensure process authorized in this chapter.

Sec. RRR-22. 10 MRSA §9041, first ¶, as amended by PL 2007, c. 695, Pt. B, §3, is further amended to read:

The board office shall adopt rules and establish standards as provided by section 9005-A to administer and enforce this subchapter.

Sec. RRR-23. 10 MRSA §9042, as amended by PL 2011, c. 633, §4, is further amended to read:

§9042. Standards

1. Standards. The board office shall, by rule, adopt standards in conformance with nationally recognized standards for the construction and the installation of manufactured housing.

2. Approval. The board office shall approve for sale or installation all manufactured housing that complies with the rules and standards authorized by this chapter or shall delegate the authority to inspect and approve the manufactured housing by inspection agencies authorized by the board office.

3. Exemption. Notwithstanding the provisions of Title 25, section 2357-A and Title 30-A, section 4358, new manufactured housing that is manufactured, brokered, distributed, sold, installed or serviced in compliance with this chapter is exempt from all state or other political subdivision codes, standards, rules or regulations that regulate the same matters. A building permit or certificate of occupancy may not be delayed, denied or withheld on account of any alleged failure of new manufactured housing to comply with any code, standard, rule or regulation from which the new manufactured housing is exempt under this subsection.

5. Local enforcement. Except as specifically set forth in this subsection, a certificate of occupancy for any certified manufactured housing may not be denied, delayed or withheld on account of any alleged failure to comply with this chapter or any building code or rule adopted by the board office. For the purposes of this section, "certified manufactured housing" means new

manufactured housing to which a label, seal or other device has been affixed, in accordance with rules adopted by the board office, certifying the compliance of the housing with this chapter and all applicable rules.

A. The State or a political subdivision of the State may deny a certificate of occupancy for any certified manufactured housing when, in the exercise of reasonable judgment, the State or the political subdivision of the State determines that an imminent and direct risk of serious physical injury or death would exist in the normal use of the manufactured housing.

B. If a certificate of occupancy for certified manufactured housing is denied, the State or a political subdivision of the State shall promptly provide the applicant for the certificate of occupancy with written notice of the denial. The notice must describe each reason for the denial of the certificate of occupancy in sufficient detail to allow the applicant to correct each deficiency noted. The State or a political subdivision of the State shall simultaneously provide a copy of the notice to the board office.

C. If the code enforcement or other inspection officer of the State or a political subdivision of the State identifies a failure of certified manufactured housing to comply with this chapter or any building code or rule adopted by the board office, the officer may file a complaint with the board office in accordance with section 9051.

D. This chapter may not be construed to impose a duty on a code enforcement or other inspection officer of the State or a political subdivision of the State to inspect any certified manufactured housing for compliance with this chapter or any building code or rule adopted by the board office. Unless a certificate of occupancy has been issued pursuant to the provisions of section 9043, subsection 2, paragraph A, a certificate of occupancy for certified manufactured housing does not constitute a representation by the State or a political subdivision of the State that the manufactured housing meets the standards established under this chapter.

6. Review of denial; issuance of certificate of occupancy. Notwithstanding the provisions of Title 25, chapter 313, if a certificate of occupancy for certified manufactured housing is denied on account of any alleged failure of the manufactured housing to comply with this chapter or any building code or rule adopted by the board office or any law, rule, regulation or ordinance from which the manufactured housing is exempt under this chapter, the applicant for the certificate of occupancy may petition the board office to review the denial.

The board office shall issue a certificate of occupancy for the manufactured housing if, after appropriate notice and administrative hearing in accordance with Title 5,

chapter 375, subchapter ~~IV~~ 4, the board office determines that:

- A. The manufactured housing has been certified pursuant to the rules adopted by the board office;
- B. The certificate of occupancy was not denied pursuant to subsection 5, paragraph A; and
- C. The notice of denial issued under subsection 5, paragraph B does not specify any violation of applicable law, rule, regulation or ordinance from which the manufactured housing is not exempted under this chapter.

A certificate of occupancy issued under this subsection has the same validity, force and effect as if issued by the State or a political subdivision of the State in which the manufactured housing is located.

Sec. RRR-24. 10 MRSA §9043, as amended by PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. B, §§18 and 19, is further amended to read:

§9043. Approval alternatives

1. Inspection agency. ~~Any~~ A manufacturer seeking inspection and approval of manufactured housing subject to the requirements of this subchapter may contract with an inspection agency authorized by the board office to perform the necessary services in order to obtain approval of the manufactured housing.

2. Local option. The provisions of this subchapter must be waived by the board office with respect to manufactured housing that is installed in a municipality that has adopted a building code and has a local building code enforcement agency if:

- A. The manufactured housing is found by the local enforcement agency to comply with the applicable local building code; and
- B. The local enforcement agency reports the compliance to the board office in such form and detail as the board office may reasonably require.

3. Program of approval. The board office may provide a special program of approval to manufacturers who can demonstrate an unreasonable economic hardship resulting from the alternatives in subsections 1 and 2, except that ~~in no case shall~~ a program of unsupervised self-certification may not be authorized.

4. Certification. The manufacturer of that housing, regardless of the approval alternative used, shall certify that the manufactured housing conforms to all applicable standards whether adopted by the board office or local enforcement agency, as the case may be, and that manufacturer's certification must be permanently affixed to the manufactured housing in accordance with such requirements as the board office may by rule prescribe. Affixation of a certificate to manufactured housing signifies the manufacturer's representation and warranty to all purchasers of the housing that

the housing was manufactured in accordance with all applicable standards of the board office or the local enforcement agency, as the case may be, in effect on the date of manufacture.

5. Documentation. The manufacturer shall provide to an agency in accordance with this section for review and approval any required documents necessary to define the design, assembly and installation of the manufactured housing to be produced, including the quality assurance practices to be applied by the manufacturer.

6. Inspection and certification. Manufactured housing produced by a manufacturer approved in subsection 5, ~~shall must~~ be inspected by an approval agency in accordance with this section, and certified by that agency as having been constructed in accordance with the standards adopted by the board office or local enforcement agency, as the case may be, provided as long as the approval agency makes that determination.

Sec. RRR-25. 10 MRSA §9044, as amended by PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. B, §20, is further amended to read:

§9044. Authorized inspection agencies

1. Establishment of procedures and standards. The board office shall, by regulation rule, establish procedures and standards for the qualification of private or public agencies to perform evaluation and inspection services required by this subchapter. The current edition of the Criteria Standard Specification for Agencies Engaged in System Analysis and Compliance Assurance for Manufactured ~~Buildings~~ Building, ASTM-E 541, as adopted by the ~~American Society of Testing and Materials shall~~ ASTM International must be considered by the board office in adopting these standards and procedures.

2. Inspection agencies. The ~~board shall office~~ may qualify as inspection agencies only those persons or organizations ~~which that~~ it determines ~~to~~ comply with the standards adopted by the board office pursuant to subsection 1. Inspection agencies qualified under this subsection may contract with manufactured housing manufacturers to provide inspection services required by this subchapter.

3. Suspension of qualification. Qualification of an inspection agency must be suspended by the board office if, after appropriate notice and administrative hearing, it determines the agency is no longer qualified as meeting the standards adopted pursuant to subsection 1. The board office may request information and documentation and may conduct such reviews and inspections of the work of a qualified agency as the board office determines are necessary to reasonably ensure continuing compliance of the qualified agency with the standards adopted pursuant to subsection 1.

Sec. RRR-26. 10 MRSA §9046, first ¶, as amended by PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. B, §21, is further amended to read:

Upon complaint by ~~any~~ a person concerning an alleged violation of this chapter, the ~~board office~~ may investigate and determine, or may cause to be investigated and determined, whether the unit complies with established rules. The ~~board office~~ shall notify the complainant of the complainant's right to relief under section 9011, subsection 4. If the ~~board office~~ determines the defect occurred in other similar manufactured housing, the ~~board office~~ shall notify all ascertainable purchasers of the housing, in accordance with the records obtained from the manufacturer and dealer of their possible right of action under this subchapter. Failure of the manufacturer, dealer or developer dealer to retain reasonable business records or to provide access to those records in response to a request by the ~~board office~~ pursuant to this subchapter is a violation of this chapter.

Sec. RRR-27. 10 MRSA §9047, as amended by PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. B, §22, is further amended to read:

§9047. Notification and correction of defects

1. Manufacturer. ~~Every~~ A manufacturer of manufactured housing in this State and ~~any~~ a manufacturer who offers manufactured housing for sale, lease, delivery, introduction or importation into this State shall furnish notification of any defect in manufactured housing produced by the manufacturer that the manufacturer or the ~~board office~~ determines relates to a standard of the ~~board office~~ that is applicable to the housing or that constitutes a safety hazard to an occupant of the housing. The notification must be accomplished in a manner and within a time the ~~board office~~ by rule prescribes, except that the rules must at least provide the following:

- A. Notification by mail to the first purchaser of the manufactured housing, other than a dealer or developer dealer of the manufacturer, and to any subsequent purchaser whose identity the manufacturer knows;
- B. Notification by mail or some expeditious means to the dealers and developer dealers of the manufacturer to whom the manufactured housing was delivered; and
- C. Notification by mail to the ~~board office~~.

2. Dealers. ~~Any~~ A person who sells, leases, delivers or transports manufactured housing that has been certified under this chapter shall notify the ~~board office~~ and any present or prospective purchaser of the housing in writing of any defect resulting from damage or modification to the housing that the person determines relates to a standard of the ~~board office~~ that is applicable to the housing or that constitutes a safety hazard to an occupant of the housing. This requirement does not apply to sales or leases of manufactured housing after the

first purchase of the housing by a person for purposes other than resale and does not apply to deliveries or transportations of the manufactured housing that occur after the first installation of the housing on a permanent foundation.

3. Corrections. The licensed person responsible for noncompliance with the standards adopted by the ~~board office~~ or for the creation of a safety hazard shall promptly make or cause to be made such repairs and modifications as may be necessary to correct the nonconformance or eliminate the safety hazard. ~~Any~~ A licensed person who fails to make these repairs or modifications is subject to section 9009.

Sec. RRR-28. 10 MRSA §9048, as amended by PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. D, §10, is further amended to read:

§9048. Reciprocity

1. Standards. If the ~~board office~~ finds that the standards for the manufacture and inspection of manufactured housing prescribed by statute or regulation of another state or governmental agency meet the objectives of this chapter and the rules adopted pursuant to this chapter and are enforced satisfactorily by that other state or other governmental agency, or by their agents, the ~~board office~~ may accept manufactured housing that has been certified by that other state or governmental agency as being in compliance with this chapter. The standards of another state are not considered to be satisfactorily enforced unless that other state provides for notification to the ~~board office~~ of suspensions or revocations of approvals issued by that other state in a manner satisfactory to the ~~board office~~ and so notifies the ~~board office~~. Acceptance of this notification does not remove the ~~board's office's~~ right to pursue remedies outlined in sections 9009 and 9011.

2. Suspension or revocation. Notwithstanding Title 5, section 10051, the ~~board office~~ may suspend or revoke the ~~board's office's~~ acceptance or certification, or both, of manufactured housing certified under the reciprocal provisions of this section, for the following causes:

- A. If the ~~board office~~ determines that the standards for the manufacture and inspection of the manufactured housing of another state or governmental agency do not meet the objectives of this chapter and the rules adopted pursuant to this chapter;
- B. The ~~board office~~ determines that the standards for manufacture and inspection are not being enforced to the satisfaction of the ~~board office~~; or
- C. The other state or governmental agency suspends or revokes its approval or certification.

3. Cooperation. In order to encourage reciprocity, the ~~board office~~ shall cooperate with similar authorities in other jurisdictions, with national standards organiza-

tions and with model code procedures for testing, evaluating, approving and inspecting manufactured housing, and otherwise encouraging their production and acceptance.

4. Agreement. The ~~board shall~~ office may not grant this reciprocity unless the recipient state enters into an agreement with the ~~board~~ office whereby manufactured housing manufactured within Maine and regulated under the provisions of this chapter ~~shall be~~ is deemed approved for sale in that recipient state.

5. Formal agreements. The ~~board, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation,~~ office may enter into formal agreements with the agencies or authorities of other states, or other governmental agencies, or their agents, to carry out the purpose of this chapter.

Sec. RRR-29. 10 MRSA §9051, as amended by PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. B, §23, is further amended to read:

§9051. General

1. Violation. The ~~board~~ office may cause to be investigated any complaint of an alleged violation by any licensee or of any rules adopted by the ~~board~~ office, either by its own inspector or ~~any an~~ an authorized agency, to determine the validity of the complaint.

A. Within one year and 10 days after installation, ~~any a~~ a home buyer of new manufactured housing may file a complaint about any defective construction or installation defect.

B. ~~Any A~~ A person having knowledge of a violation of this chapter may file a complaint within one year of that violation.

2. Form. Complaints may be made in any form, as approved by the ~~board~~ office, as long as the complaint includes all information the ~~board~~ office considers necessary.

3. Notice for purposes of limitation of actions. If a consumer files a written complaint with the manufacturer, dealer, developer dealer, installer, mechanic or ~~board~~ office within one year and 10 days after installation of new manufactured housing, receipt of the written complaint by the manufacturer, dealer, developer dealer, installer, mechanic or ~~board~~ office tolls the statute of limitations for purposes of bringing an action to enforce ~~any an~~ an applicable warranty concerning the defect that is the subject of the written complaint.

Sec. RRR-30. 10 MRSA §9061, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 152, §16, is repealed.

Sec. RRR-31. 10 MRSA §9061, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1987, c. 395, Pt. A, §38, is repealed.

Sec. RRR-32. 10 MRSA §9061, sub-§4, as amended by PL 1987, c. 395, Pt. A, §38, is repealed.

Sec. RRR-33. 10 MRSA §9061, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Director. "Director" means the Director of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

Sec. RRR-34. 10 MRSA §9061, sub-§9, as amended by PL 1993, c. 642, §31, is further amended to read:

9. State administrative agency. "State administrative agency" means the department or office that has been approved or conditionally approved to carry out the state plan for enforcement of the standards pursuant to section 623 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Public Law 93-383, 42 United States Code, Section 5422 and 24 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 3282, Subpart G.

Sec. RRR-35. 10 MRSA §9062, first ¶, as amended by PL 1995, c. 502, Pt. H, §14, is further amended to read:

The ~~board shall~~ delegate the responsibility for administering the state administrative agency program to the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation. The ~~commissioner~~ director may delegate or contract out the administration of the state administrative agency program at the ~~commissioner's~~ director's discretion. The ~~board~~ office is vested with the authority upon appropriate notice to discontinue participation in the federal enforcement program as a state administrative agency for this State.

Sec. RRR-36. 10 MRSA §9063, first ¶, as amended by PL 1995, c. 353, §2, is further amended to read:

The ~~commissioner~~ director is authorized to ~~issue~~ adopt, amend and revoke rules as necessary to implement all procedures required of a state administrative agency pursuant to 24 Code of Federal Regulations, Paragraph 3282 and 42 United States Code, Sections 5401 to 5426, including the implementation of a consumer complaint handling process and the holding of hearings. In the event of a conflict between this chapter and the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 involving the state administrative agency program, the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 prevails. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. RRR-37. 10 MRSA §9064, as amended by PL 1995, c. 353, §3, is further amended to read:

§9064. Standards

1. Adoption, administration and enforcement of standards. The ~~department~~ office is charged with the adoption, administration and enforcement of manufactured housing construction and safety standards. The

standards adopted must meet the standards adopted pursuant to the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974, 42 United States Code, Sections 5401 to 5426.

2. Rules. The ~~department~~ office may adopt rules necessary to enforce the standards adopted under subsection 1.

Sec. RRR-38. 10 MRSA §9065, first ¶, as amended by PL 1995, c. 353, §4, is further amended to read:

The ~~department~~ office, by authorized representatives, may enter, at reasonable times, any factory, warehouse or establishment in which manufactured housing is manufactured, stored or held for sale for the purpose of ascertaining whether the requirements of the federal manufactured housing construction and safety standards and the rules of the ~~department~~ office have been and are being met.

Sec. RRR-39. 10 MRSA §9066, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. B, §25, is further amended to read:

1. Violations. A person who violates any of the following provisions relating to manufactured housing or rules adopted by the ~~department~~ office is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation. Each violation constitutes a separate violation with respect to each manufactured housing unit, except that the maximum penalty may not exceed \$1,000,000 for any related series of violations occurring within one year from the date of the first violation. It is a violation of this chapter for a person:

A. To manufacture for sale, lease, sell, offer for sale or lease or introduce, deliver or import into the State any manufactured housing that is manufactured on or after the effective date of any applicable federal manufactured home construction and safety standard that does not comply with that standard;

B. To fail or refuse to permit access to or copying of records, fail to make reports or provide information or fail or refuse to permit entry or inspection as required by section 9065;

C. To fail to furnish notification of any defect as required by 42 United States Code, Section 5414;

D. To fail to issue a certification required by 42 United States Code, Section 5415 or to issue a certification to the effect that a manufactured home conforms to all applicable federal manufactured home construction and safety standards, if that person in the exercise of due care has reason to know that the certification is false or misleading in a material respect;

E. To fail to establish and maintain records or make such reports and provide information as the ~~department~~ office may reasonably require to enable

it to determine whether there is compliance with the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974; or fail to permit, upon request of a person duly authorized by the ~~commissioner~~ director, inspection of appropriate books, papers, records and documents relative to determining whether a manufacturer, distributor or dealer has acted or is acting in compliance with this chapter or with the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974; or

F. To issue a certification pursuant to 42 United States Code, Section 5403, Paragraph (a), if the person in the exercise of due care has reason to know that the certification is false or misleading in a material respect.

Sec. RRR-40. 10 MRSA §9068, as amended by PL 1995, c. 353, §6, is further amended to read:

§9068. Monitoring inspection fees

The ~~department~~ office shall establish a monitoring inspection fee in an amount established by the Secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. This monitoring inspection fee is an amount paid by the manufacturer for each home produced in this State.

The manufacturer shall pay the monitoring inspection fee ~~shall be paid by the manufacturer~~ to the Secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, ~~who shall distribute for distribution, along with~~ the fees collected from all home manufacturers, among the approved and conditionally approved states, based on the number of new homes whose first location after leaving the manufacturing plant is on the premises of a distributor, dealer or purchaser in that state.

Sec. RRR-41. 10 MRSA §9082, first ¶, as amended by PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. B, §29, is further amended to read:

A person may not conduct, control, manage or operate, for compensation, directly or indirectly, any manufactured housing community unless licensed by the ~~board~~ office. Licenses issued must be displayed in a place readily visible to customers or other persons using a licensed establishment.

Sec. RRR-42. 10 MRSA §9082, 2nd ¶, as amended by PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. B, §29, is further amended to read:

~~Any~~ A person desiring a license shall submit satisfactory evidence, in a form acceptable to the ~~board of~~ office, of that person's ability to comply with the minimum standards of this subchapter and all rules adopted under this subchapter.

Sec. RRR-43. 10 MRSA §9083, first ¶, as amended by PL 2025, c. 428, §1, is further amended to read:

Application and license fees for manufactured housing communities are set under section 9021, subsection 2-A, including applications for manufactured housing community expansion and license renewal. Fees are also set under section 9021, subsection 2-A for manufactured housing community inspections; for the cost of reviewing engineering and site plans; for costs incurred in evaluating an applicant's eligibility for licensure as a manufactured housing community; and for costs incurred in evaluating a licensee's ongoing compliance with the requirements of this subchapter and the rules of the board office. Failure to pay costs billed to an applicant or licensee within 90 days of the billing date constitutes grounds for license revocation, unless an extension for an additional period not to exceed 90 days is granted in writing by the board office. A municipality shall accept a license issued by the board office as evidence a manufactured housing community meets all requirements of this subchapter. A municipality may not charge any additional fees for a manufactured housing community to operate.

Sec. RRR-44. 10 MRSA §9084, as amended by PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. B, §§31 to 33, is further amended to read:

§9084. Issuance of licenses

The board office shall, within 30 days following receipt of application, issue a license to operate any manufactured housing community that is found to comply with this subchapter and the rules adopted by the board office.

When ~~any applicant is found~~, based upon an inspection by the board office or by municipal inspection made according to section 9088, an applicant is found to not be in compliance with the requirements of this subchapter or rules adopted and approved pursuant to section 9085 or section 9088, subsection 1, the board office may refuse issuance of the initial license but may issue a conditional license with such terms and conditions as required by the board office except when conditions are found that present a danger to the health and safety of the public. A conditional license may not exceed 90 days. Failure by the conditional licensee to meet the terms and conditions specified permits the board office to void the conditional license.

The conditional license is void when the board office has delivered in hand or by certified mail a written notice to the conditional licensee or, if the licensee cannot be reached for service in hand or by certified mail, has left notice thereof at the facility.

Upon the written request of the board office, the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall provide such technical services as may be required by the board

office to assist with inspections and licensing of new manufactured housing communities. The ~~department~~ Department of Health and Human Services may assess the manufactured housing community owner a reasonable fee for these services.

A license expires on the date set by the ~~Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation pursuant to section 8003, subsection 4~~ director of the office for the licensing period for which the license was issued. A license may be renewed upon receipt of an application for renewal and payment of the renewal fee as set under section 9021, subsection 2-A, subject to compliance with rules of the board office and with this subchapter. A license may be renewed up to 90 days after the date of its expiration upon payment of a late fee in addition to the renewal fee as set under section 9021, subsection 2-A. An applicant who submits an application for renewal more than 90 calendar days after the expiration date is subject to all requirements governing new applicants under this chapter.

The issuance of the license provided for in this subchapter does not provide exemption from other state or local laws, ordinances or regulations, notwithstanding any ~~other~~ provision of law to the contrary.

A license issued under this subchapter may not be assigned or transferred.

Sec. RRR-45. 10 MRSA §9085, first ¶, as amended by PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. B, §34, is further amended to read:

The board office may ~~make~~ adopt and enforce all necessary rules for the administration of this subchapter, and may repeal or amend such rules from time to time as may be in the public interest, insofar as that action is not in conflict with any of the provisions of this subchapter.

Sec. RRR-46. 10 MRSA §9086, first ¶, as amended by PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. B, §35, is further amended to read:

The board office and any duly designated officer or employee thereof may enter upon the premises of any manufactured housing community licensed pursuant to this subchapter at any reasonable time in order to determine the state of compliance with this subchapter and any rules in force pursuant to this subchapter. The right of entry and inspection extends to any premises under its jurisdiction that the board office has reason to believe are being operated or maintained without a license, but ~~no~~ any such entry or inspection of any premises may not be made without the permission of the owner or person in charge of the premises or, after hearing, upon order of the court.

Sec. RRR-47. 10 MRSA §9088, as amended by PL 2025, c. 428, §2, is further amended to read:

§9088. Municipal inspections

Notwithstanding any ~~other~~ provisions of this subchapter ~~to the contrary~~, the ~~board office~~ may issue a license to a manufactured housing community on the basis of an inspection performed by an inspector who works for and is compensated by the municipality in which the establishment is located, but only if the following conditions have been met.

1. Adopted rules; code of standards. The municipality involved has adopted a set of rules, ordinances or other code of standards for the establishments ~~which that~~ has been approved by the ~~board office~~ and ~~which that~~ is consistent with the rules used by the ~~board office~~ for the issuance of the licenses in effect at the time of inspection.

2. Qualified to make inspections. ~~No~~ A municipally employed ~~sanitarians~~ ~~sanitarian~~ may ~~not~~ make ~~inspections~~ ~~an inspection~~ under the provisions of this subchapter; unless certified as qualified by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services.

3. Inspection to ascertain intent. The ~~board of-~~ ice may from time to time inspect the municipally inspected establishment to ascertain that the intent of these statutes is being followed.

4. Inspection reports. The ~~municipalities~~ municipality shall furnish the ~~board office~~ copies of its inspection reports relating to the inspections on a monthly basis.

5. Charge. Municipalities may not charge the ~~board office~~ for performing ~~those the~~ inspections.

7. Licenses. Licenses issued under this section ~~shall must~~ be displayed, renewed and in every other way treated the same as licenses issued under this subchapter on the basis of inspection by the ~~board office~~.

8. Certification. Certification of municipally employed sanitarians ~~shall must~~ be in accordance with standards set by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services and ~~shall be extended~~ for a period of 3 years.

Sec. RRR-48. 10 MRSA §9089, as amended by PL 2021, c. 676, Pt. A, §22, is further amended to read:

§9089. Denial or refusal to renew license; ~~disciplinary action~~

The ~~board office~~ may deny a license, ~~or~~ refuse to renew a license ~~or impose the disciplinary sanctions authorized by section 8003, subsection 5-A for any of the reasons enumerated in section 8003, subsection 5-A, paragraph A~~ noncompliance with any provision of this subchapter.

Sec. RRR-49. 10 MRSA §9090-A, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 398, §1, is amended to read:

3. Attestation of net worth. An entity claiming an exemption under subsection 2, paragraph D shall

provide the register of deeds with an attestation of net worth when the deed for the manufactured housing community is offered for recordation and any other information or documentation as required by the ~~Department of Professional and Financial Regulation~~ office by rule.

Sec. RRR-50. 10 MRSA §9094, sub-§2, ¶B-2, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 642, §39, is amended to read:

B-2. At the time of sale or change in the principal occupant of a mobile home, the mobile home park owner or operator may require the owner of the home, if ~~the home was~~ built before June 15, 1976, to provide evidence that the home meets the ~~Manufactured Housing Board's~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs' standard for used manufactured housing. The mobile home owner may demonstrate compliance with the standard by providing the park owner or operator with a report signed by the following persons and indicating that the home complies with the standard's specifications regarding those aspects of the home inspected:

- (1) A licensed electrician who inspected the home's electrical system;
- (2) A person licensed to repair the home's heating system who inspected the home's heating system; and
- (3) A certified professional engineer who inspected the home for safety and structural soundness.

Signature of the report may not be construed for any purpose as an endorsement that the home meets provisions of the standard other than those for which the inspection was conducted. A park owner who receives a signed report indicating that the home complies may not require removal of a home under this section on the basis of fire safety or the safety of the home.

Sec. RRR-51. 10 MRSA §9094, sub-§2, ¶F, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. B, §3 and amended by Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

F. The ~~Manufactured Housing Board~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs, in conjunction with the State Fire Marshal, the Department of the Attorney General, representatives of the manufactured housing industry, representatives of mobile home park owners or operators and representatives of mobile home owners and tenants, shall develop recommendations concerning the standards for rules covered by this subsection. The recommendations ~~shall must~~ include standards designed to ensure the safety of the mobile home and its occupants, while being objective and measurable to provide for enforcement. ~~The recommendations shall be made to the joint standing committees of the Legislature~~

having jurisdiction over legal affairs and business legislation by January 15, 1990.

Sec. RRR-52. 10 MRSA §9094, sub-§2, ¶F-1, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 678, §2, is repealed.

Sec. RRR-53. 10 MRSA §9094, sub-§2, ¶F-2, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 678, §2, is repealed.

Sec. RRR-54. 25 MRSA §2450-A, first ¶, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. D, §31, is further amended to read:

In addition to the fees established in section 2450, a surcharge of ~~4¢~~ 6¢ per square foot of occupied space must be levied on the existing fee schedule for new construction, reconstruction, repairs, renovations or new use for the sole purpose of funding the activities of the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board with respect to the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, established pursuant to Title 10, chapter 1103, the activities of the Division of Building Codes and Standards under chapter 314 and the activities of the Maine Office of Community Affairs under Title 30-A, section 4451, subsection 3-A, except that the fee for review of a plan for the renovation of a public school, including the fee established under section 2450, may not exceed \$450. Revenue collected from this surcharge must be deposited into the Uniform Building Codes and Standards Fund established by section 2374.

Sec. RRR-55. 30-A MRSA §4358, sub-§1, ¶D, as repealed and replaced by PL 1993, c. 487, §1, is amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) For "newer mobile homes," as defined in paragraph A, subparagraph (1), a foundation that conforms to the installation standards established by the ~~Manufactured Housing Board~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs; or

Sec. RRR-56. 30-A MRSA §4358, sub-§3, ¶G, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 506, §3, is amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) Be built according to acceptable engineering standards and with a professional engineer's seal as required by the ~~Manufactured Housing Board~~ Maine Office of Community Affairs;

Sec. RRR-57. 30-A MRSA §4358, sub-§3, ¶H, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 506, §3, is repealed.

Sec. RRR-58. Transition provisions; Manufactured Housing Board. The following provisions govern the transition of the responsibilities of the Manufactured Housing Board, and its supporting services provided by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation, to the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

1. The Maine Office of Community Affairs is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the Manufactured Housing Board, including acting as the state administrative agency under the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974.

2. All existing rules, regulations and procedures in effect, in operation or adopted in or by the Manufactured Housing Board or on its behalf by the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation or any of the board's administrative units or officers are declared in effect and continue in effect until rescinded, revised or amended by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

3. All existing contracts, agreements and compacts currently in effect under the authority of the Manufactured Housing Board or on its behalf by the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation or any of the board's administrative units or officers continue in effect until supplanted by rules established by the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

4. All records, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the Manufactured Housing Board become, on the effective date of this Part, part of the property of the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

5. All existing forms, licenses, letterheads and similar items bearing the name of or referring to the Manufactured Housing Board may be used by the Maine Office of Community Affairs until existing supplies of those items are exhausted.

6. Employees of the Maine Office of Community Affairs who were employees of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation immediately prior to the effective date of this Part retain all their employee rights, privileges and benefits, including sick leave, vacation and seniority, provided under the Civil Service Law or collective bargaining agreements. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Human Resources shall provide assistance to the affected departments and shall assist with the orderly implementation of this subsection.

7. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer any unobligated balances remaining in associated accounts of the Manufactured Housing Board, Other Special Revenue Funds and federal funds to the Maine Office of Community Affairs no later than the effective date of this Part.

PART SSS

Sec. SSS-1. 20-A MRSA §13407, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2021, c. 441, §1, is further amended to read:

3. School years beginning in or after 2022 and before 2027. For the school year starting after June 30,

2022, and in each subsequent school year starting before July 1, 2027, the minimum salary for certified teachers and career and technical education teachers is \$40,000.

Sec. SSS-2. 20-A MRSA §13408 is enacted to read:

§13408. Minimum salaries beginning in 2027-2028 school year

1. School year 2027-2028. For the school year starting after June 30, 2027, the minimum salary for certified teachers and career and technical education teachers is \$45,000;

2. School year 2028-2029. For the school year starting after June 30, 2028, the minimum salary for certified teachers and career and technical education teachers is \$47,500; and

3. School years beginning in or after 2029. For the school year starting after June 30, 2029, and in each subsequent school year, the minimum salary for certified teachers and career and technical education teachers is \$50,000.

A school administrative unit shall provide to the department annually on or before October 1st the number of certified teachers and career and technical education teachers eligible for incremental salary increases as defined in section 15689, subsection 7-A, paragraph A.

Sec. SSS-3. 20-A MRSA §15689, sub-§7-B is enacted to read:

7-B. Adjustment for minimum teacher salary. Beginning in fiscal year 2027-28, the commissioner shall, in accordance with this subsection, increase the state share of the total allocation to a qualifying school administrative unit by an amount necessary to achieve the minimum salary for certified teachers and career and technical education teachers established in section 13408.

A. As used in this subsection, unless the context otherwise indicates, "qualifying school administrative unit" means a school administrative unit that the commissioner determines to have a locally established salary schedule with a minimum teacher salary less than \$45,000 in school year 2027-2028. As used in this subsection, unless the context otherwise indicates, "incremental salary increases" means the incremental increases in the salaries of certified teachers and career and technical education teachers employed by a qualifying school administrative unit in school year 2027-2028 necessary to meet the minimum salary requirements of section 13408 from fiscal year 2027-28 to fiscal year 2029-30.

B. The commissioner shall allocate the funds appropriated by the Legislature in accordance with the following.

(1) The amount of increased funds provided to qualifying school administrative units under this subsection must be the amount necessary to fund the incremental salary increases specified in this subsection.

(2) The number of certified teachers and career and technical education teachers eligible for incremental salary increases in a qualifying school administrative unit for a fiscal year must be based on the information supplied to the department pursuant to section 13408 in that fiscal year.

(3) The increased funds provided under this subsection must be issued to qualifying school administrative units as an adjustment to the state school subsidy for distribution to the certified teachers and career and technical education teachers. Qualifying school administrative units shall use the payments provided under this subsection to provide salary adjustments to those certified teachers and career and technical education teachers eligible for incremental salary increases. The department shall collect the necessary data to allow the funds to be included in a qualifying school administrative unit's monthly subsidy payments beginning no later than February 1st of each fiscal year.

(4) Funding for incremental salary increases in fiscal year 2027-28 must be based on data submitted to the department and certified by school administrative units as of October 1, 2026.

PART TTT

Sec. TTT-1. Transfer; Department of Labor, Maine Apprenticeship Program. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer up to \$89,082 in fiscal year 2026-27, and up to \$93,500 in fiscal year 2027-28, from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Adult Use Cannabis Public Health and Safety and Municipal Opt-in Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account to the Department of Labor, Maine Apprenticeship Program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to support the continuation of one limited-period CareerCenter Consultant position established by Public Law 2023, chapter 683, Part B, section 5 through June 18, 2028.

PART UUU

Sec. UUU-1. 5 MRSA §1532, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 2, Pt. A, §5 and affected by §14, is amended to read:

4. Investment of funds. The money in the stabilization fund may be invested as provided by law ~~with the earnings credited to the stabilization fund.~~

Sec. UUU-2. 5 MRSA §1532, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Investment earnings. At the close of every month during which the stabilization fund is below the 18% limitation described in subsection 1, the State Controller shall credit investment earnings as follows:

A. Fifty percent of the investment earnings must be credited to the stabilization fund;

B. Twenty-five percent of the investment earnings must be credited to the Irrevocable Trust Funds for Other Post-employment Benefits established in section 286-B, subsection 2 for the state employee plan, as defined in section 286-B, subsection 1, paragraph D; and

C. Twenty-five percent of the investment earnings must be credited to the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund established in section 6203-D.

Sec. UUU-3. 5 MRSA §1532, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. F, §2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

5. Investment earnings; exception. At the close of every month during which the stabilization fund is at the 18% limitation described in subsection 1, the State Controller shall credit investment earnings as follows:

A. Seventy-five percent of the investment earnings must be credited to the Irrevocable Trust Funds for Other Post-employment Benefits established in section 286-B, subsection 2 for the state employee plan, as defined in section 286-B, subsection 1, paragraph D; and

B. Twenty-five percent of the investment earnings must be credited to the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund established in section 6203-D.

PART VVV

Sec. VVV-1. Carrying provision; Department of Secretary of State, Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, at the end of fiscal year 2025-26, the State Controller shall carry forward up to \$750,000 in unexpended balances in the Personal Services and All Other line categories in the Department of Secretary of State, Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions program, after all financial commitments for obligations and budgetary adjustments have been made, to the next fiscal year in the All Other line category in the Department of Secretary of State, Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions program to be used to continue the modernization of systems and services provided to the public. These funds do not lapse and are intended to carry until expended.

PART WWW

Sec. WWW-1. 20-A MRSA §7211, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Supports, assistance and resources to school administrative units; authority to bill. The Child Development Services System may assess fees for services provided to school administrative units under this section as follows.

A. The Child Development Services System may assess fees to school administrative units for supports, assistance and resources provided by regional support and service hubs under this section. Fees must be established in accordance with rules adopted pursuant to subsection 4 and may be based on, but are not limited to, the type, intensity, duration or frequency of services and the costs reasonably associated with the provision of those services.

B. The Child Development Services System may bill school administrative units for supports, assistance and resources provided by regional support and service hubs under this section, and school administrative units shall pay such invoices from funds available for special education and related services, subject to applicable state and federal law. The Child Development Services System may enter into agreements or memoranda of understanding with school administrative units that specify the scope of services and the method and schedule of payment.

Sec. WWW-2. 20-A MRSA §7211, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Rules. The department may adopt rules to implement subsection 3 specifying the method for establishing rates for supports, assistance and resources provided to school administrative units by regional support and service hubs under this section, which may include hourly rates, per-service rates, per-pupil rates or other reasonable and established methodologies. Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

PART XXX

Sec. XXX-1. 36 MRSA §2013, sub-§1, ¶B-1, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. N, §2 and affected by §3, is amended to read:

B-1. "Commercial wood harvesting" means the commercial severance ~~and~~, yarding ~~and~~ hauling of trees for sale or for processing into logs, pulpwood, bolt wood, wood chips, stud wood, poles, pilings, biomass or fuel wood or other products commonly known as forest products.

Sec. XXX-2. 36 MRSA §2013, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 2025, c. 469, §14 and affected by §44, is further amended by amending subparagraph (4) to read:

(4) New or used machinery and equipment for use directly and primarily in commercial wood harvesting, including, but not limited to, chain saws, skidders, delimbers, forwarders, slashers, feller bunchers ~~and~~, wood chippers, semi-trailers as defined in Title 29-A, section 101, subsection 66, trailers as defined in Title 29-A, section 101, subsection 86, trucks as defined in Title 29-A, section 101, subsection 88, truck tractors as defined in Title 29-A, section 101, subsection 90, pickup trucks as defined in Title 29-A, section 101, subsection 55 and commercial motor vehicles as defined in Title 29-A, section 101, subsection 17; and

Sec. XXX-3. 36 MRSA §2013, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 2025, c. 469, §14 and affected by §44, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

"Depreciable Except as provided in subparagraph (4), "depreciable machinery and equipment" does not include a motor vehicle as defined in section 1752, subsection 7 or a trailer as defined in section 1752, subsection 19-A.

Sec. XXX-4. 36 MRSA §2013, sub-§1, ¶D is enacted to read:

D. "Hauling" means the transportation of forest products from the land where the forest products were harvested to their initial destination involving production or use.

Sec. XXX-5. Application. This Part applies to sales occurring on or after January 1, 2027.

PART YYY

Sec. YYY-1. Supplemental payment to hospitals. The Department of Health and Human Services shall determine a consistent and reasonable allocation method to distribute a one-time supplemental payment to acute care hospitals. The amount of the payment must equal the amount appropriated and allocated for this purpose by this Act but may be proportionally reduced if revenues collected pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, chapter 377 are less than the allocation. Additionally, total payment amounts may not exceed the lower of the amount appropriated for supplemental payments by this Act and the amount by which any payment would cause the department to exceed allowable aggregate upper payment limits as determined by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The department may make these payments in fiscal year 2026-27 to enable the department to seek and receive approval for a state plan amendment from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services with federal matching payments to the extent possible.

Sec. YYY-2. Cost-of-living adjustment. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Department of Health and Human Services shall submit the required methodology notice necessary to seek approval from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to implement a cost-of-living adjustment for inpatient diagnosis-related group reimbursement rates subject to rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Section 45 effective July 1, 2026. The amount of the cost-of-living adjustment must be determined based on amounts appropriated and allocated for this purpose by this Act and actual revenues collected pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, chapter 377.

Sec. YYY-3. Supplemental payments and increases in rates contingent. Any supplemental payments and increases to hospital inpatient reimbursement rates provided for in this Part with funding made available due to changing the base year of the hospital tax are contingent upon the Department of Health and Human Services seeking and being approved for any applicable tax waivers from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services pursuant to 42 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 433.72.

PART ZZZ

Sec. ZZZ-1. Transfer from Maine Budget Stabilization Fund; Highway Fund unallocated balance. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer \$13,029,115 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the unallocated balance of the Highway Fund on or before June 30, 2027.

PART AAAA

Sec. AAAA-1. Carrying provision; Department of Education, Office of Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, at the end of fiscal year 2025-26, the State Controller shall carry forward \$1,117,457 of the unexpended balance of funds appropriated for debt service costs associated with the bonding authority granted in Public Law 2021, chapter 635, Part X for career and technical education centers and regions in the Department of Education, Office of Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways program, General Fund account, All Other line category to the next fiscal year.

PART BBBB

Sec. BBBB-1. State Controller; post-closing. The State Controller is authorized to keep open the official system of general accounts of State Government for fiscal year 2025-26 in order to make post-closing entries and adjustments to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Sec. BBBB-2. Retroactivity. This Part applies retroactively to June 30, 2026.

PART CCCC

Sec. CCCC-1. 36 MRSA §5219-KK, sub-§2-D, as amended by PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. S, §4, is further amended to read:

2-D. Credit in 2022 and after. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2022, a resident individual is allowed a credit against the taxes imposed under this Part equal to the amount by which the benefit base for the resident individual exceeds 4% of the resident individual's income. The For tax years beginning on January 1, 2022 and before January 1, 2026, the credit may not exceed \$1,000 for resident individuals under 65 years of age as of the last day of the taxable year or, for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, the credit may not exceed \$1,500 for resident individuals under 65 years of age as of the last day of the taxable year. For tax years beginning before January 1, 2024, the credit may not exceed \$1,500 for resident individuals 65 years of age and older as of the last day of the taxable year. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, for resident individuals 65 years of age and older, the credit may not exceed \$2,000. In the case of married individuals filing a joint return, only one spouse is required to be 65 years of age or older to qualify for the \$1,500 or \$2,000 credit limitation. Married taxpayers filing separate returns do not qualify for the credit under this section.

PART DDDD

Sec. DDDD-1. 36 MRSA §5111, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

7. Income tax surcharge. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, the tax calculated under subsections 1-F, 2-F and 3-F is increased by an income tax surcharge at the rate of 2% on that portion of the taxpayer's Maine taxable income in excess of:

A. For married persons filing separate returns, 1/2 of the applicable amount under paragraph D;

B. For single individuals, \$1,000,000;

C. For heads of households, \$1,500,000; and

D. For individuals filing married joint returns or surviving spouses, \$1,500,000.

Sec. DDDD-2. 36 MRSA §5160, as amended by PL 2003, c. 390, §35, is further amended to read:

§5160. Imposition of tax

The tax is imposed, at the rates provided by section 5111 for single individuals, including the surcharge imposed pursuant to section 5111, subsection 7 at the rate for single individuals, upon the Maine taxable income of estates and trusts. The tax must be paid by the fiduciary.

Sec. DDDD-3. 36 MRSA §5403, sub-§10, as corrected by RR 2025, c. 1, Pt. A, §58, is amended to read:

10. Dependent exemption phase-out. Beginning in 2025 and each year thereafter, by the dollar amount of the applicable amounts specified in section 5219-SS, subsection 4, paragraphs A, B and C, except that, for the purposes of this subsection, notwithstanding section 5402, subsection 1-B, the "cost-of-living adjustment" is the Chained Consumer Price Index for the 12-month period ending June 30th of the preceding calendar year divided by the Chained Consumer Price Index for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2024; and

Sec. DDDD-4. 36 MRSA §5403, sub-§11, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. H, §4 and reallocated by RR 2025, c. 1, Pt. A, §59, is amended to read:

11. Income deduction for retirement plan benefits; applicable amount. Beginning in 2025 and each year thereafter, by the dollar amount of the applicable amounts specified in section 5122, subsection 2, paragraph M-3, except that for the purposes of this subsection, notwithstanding section 5402, subsection 1-B, the "cost-of-living adjustment" is the Chained Consumer Price Index for the 12-month period ending June 30th of the preceding calendar year divided by the Chained Consumer Price Index for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2024; and

Sec. DDDD-5. 36 MRSA §5403, sub-§12 is enacted to read:

12. Income tax surcharge. Beginning in 2026 and each year thereafter, by the dollar amounts specified in section 5111, subsection 7, paragraphs B, C and D, except that for the purposes of this subsection, notwithstanding section 5402, subsection 1-B, the "cost-of-living adjustment" is the Chained Consumer Price Index for the 12-month period ending June 30th of the preceding calendar year divided by the Chained Consumer Price Index for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2025.

PART EEEE

Sec. EEEE-1. 35-A MRSA §3214, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2023, c. 201, §1; c. 230, §2; c. 306, §§2 and 3; and c. 361, §§3 to 5, is further amended by enacting at the end a new last blocked paragraph to read:

As used in this subsection, "low-income household" means a household that is eligible for an assistance program administered by the Maine State Housing Authority pursuant to Title 30-A, section 4722, subsection 1, paragraph W or a means-tested assistance program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services and that has an income of no more than 150% of the federal poverty level, as defined in Title 22, section 3762, subsection 1, paragraph C.

Sec. EEEE-2. Funds to supplement allocations for low-income electric ratepayer assistance. Funds appropriated for low-income electric ratepayer assistance in Part A are in addition to the amounts already allocated by the Public Utilities Commission for low-income electric ratepayer assistance under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3214, subsection 2.

PART FFFF

Sec. FFFF-1. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶R, as amended by PL 2025, c. 595, §2, is further amended to read:

R. Persons in the employment of the Department of Health and Human Services on October 1, 2025 or hired thereafter who have the job classification of Mental Health Worker I, Mental Health Worker II, Mental Health Worker III or Mental Health Worker IV; ~~and~~

Sec. FFFF-2. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶S, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 595, §3, is amended to read:

S. Persons in the employment of the Department of Public Safety on August 1, 2026 or hired thereafter who have the job classification of emergency communications director-;

Sec. FFFF-3. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶T is enacted to read:

T. Employees of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner within the Department of the Attorney General on August 1, 2026 or hired thereafter; and

Sec. FFFF-4. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶U is enacted to read:

U. Persons in the employment of the Department of Health and Human Services on August 1, 2026 or hired thereafter who provide crisis outreach and crisis services to adults with developmental disabilities or intellectual disabilities in a community-based or residential setting and who have the job classification of Community Response Worker.

Sec. FFFF-5. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2025, c. 595, §4, is further amended to read:

2. Qualification for benefits. A member employed in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; any employee identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025

for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph S; any employee identified in subsection 1, paragraph T; after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph U; and any employee identified in subsection 1, paragraph L, qualifies for a service retirement benefit if that member either:

A. Is at least 55 years of age and has completed at least 10 years of creditable service under the 1998 Special Plan in any one or a combination of the capacities; or

B. Has completed at least 25 years of creditable service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1, whether or not the creditable service included in determining that the 25-year requirement has been met was earned under the 1998 Special Plan or prior to its establishment.

Sec. FFFF-6. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§3, ¶A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 595, §5, is further amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) Service credit purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated contributions following termination of service is included only to the extent that time to which the refund relates was served after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; and after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1. Service credit may be purchased for service by an employee identified in subsection 1, paragraphs L, M, R ~~and~~ S, T and U regardless of when performed; and

Sec. FFFF-7. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§4, ¶A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 595, §6, is further amended to read:

A. If all of the member's creditable service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 was earned after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, par-

agraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs S to U; if service credit was purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated contributions for service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs S to U; or if service credit was purchased by other than the repayment of an earlier refund and eligibility to make the purchase of the service credit, including, but not limited to, service credit for military service, was achieved after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs S to U, the benefit must be computed as provided in section 17852, subsection 1, paragraph A.

(1) If the member had 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the benefit under subsection 2, paragraph B must be reduced as provided in section 17852, subsection 3, paragraphs A and B.

(2) If the member had fewer than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the benefit under subsection 2, paragraph B must be reduced by 6% for each year that the member's age precedes 55 years of age.

Sec. FFFF-8. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§4, ¶B, as amended by PL 2025, c. 595, §7, is further amended to read:

B. Except as provided in paragraphs D, E, F, G ~~and H, I and J~~, if some part of the member's creditable service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 was earned before July 1, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H; before January 1, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; before January 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; before July 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; before July 1, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; before October 1, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; before October 1, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and before August 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs S to U and some part of the member's creditable service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 was earned after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs S to U, then the member's service retirement benefit must be computed in segments and the amount of the member's service retirement benefit is the sum of the segments. The segments must be computed as follows:

(1) The segment or, if the member served in more than one of the capacities specified in subsection 1 and the benefits related to the capacities are not interchangeable under section 17856, segments that reflect creditable service earned before July 1, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H; before January 1, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; before January 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; before July 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; before July 1, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P;

before October 1, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; before October 1, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and before August 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs S to U or purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated contributions for service before July 1, 1998, for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H; before January 1, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; before January 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; before July 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; before July 1, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; before October 1, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; before October 1, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and before August 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs S to U in a capacity or capacities specified in subsection 1 or purchased by other than the repayment of a refund and eligibility to make the purchase of the service credit, including, but not limited to, service credit for military service, was achieved before July 1, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H; before January 1, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; before January 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; before July 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; before July 1, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; before October 1, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; before October 1, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and before August 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs S to U, must be computed under section 17852, subsection 1, paragraph A. If the member is qualified under subsection 2, paragraph B and:

- (a) Had 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the amount of the segment or segments must be reduced as provided in section 17852, subsection 3, paragraphs A and B; or
 - (b) Had fewer than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the amount of the segment or segments must be reduced as provided in section 17852, subsection 3-A; and
- (2) The segment that reflects creditable service earned after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in

subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs S to U or purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated contributions for service after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs S to U in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1, or purchased by other than the repayment of a refund and eligibility to make the purchase of the service credit, including, but not limited to, service credit for military service, was achieved after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs S to U

U must be computed under section 17852, subsection 1, paragraph A. If the member is qualified under subsection 2, paragraph B and:

- (a) Had 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the segment amount must be reduced in the manner provided in section 17852, subsection 3, paragraphs A and B for each year that the member's age precedes 55 years of age; or
- (b) Had fewer than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the segment amount must be reduced by 6% for each year that the member's age precedes 55 years of age.

Sec. FFFF-9. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§4, ¶I is enacted to read:

I. The service retirement benefit of a member to whom subsection 1, paragraph T applies and who qualifies for service retirement benefits under subsection 2 must be computed under section 17852, subsection 1, paragraph A on the basis of all of the member's creditable service in the capacity specified in subsection 1, paragraph T, regardless of when that creditable service was earned, except that for a member qualifying under subsection 2, paragraph B:

- (1) If the member had 10 years of service on July 1, 1993, the benefit must be reduced as provided in section 17852, subsection 3, paragraphs A and B for each year the member's age precedes 55 years of age; or
- (2) If the member had fewer than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the benefit must be reduced by 6% for each year that the member's age precedes 55 years of age.

Sec. FFFF-10. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§4, ¶J is enacted to read:

J. The service retirement benefit of a member to whom subsection 1, paragraph U applies and who qualifies for service retirement benefits under subsection 2 must be computed under section 17852, subsection 1, paragraph A on the basis of all of the member's creditable service in the capacity specified in subsection 1, paragraph U, regardless of when that creditable service was earned, except that for a member qualifying under subsection 2, paragraph B:

- (1) If the member had 10 years of service on July 1, 1993, the benefit must be reduced as provided in section 17852, subsection 3, paragraphs A and B for each year the member's age precedes 55 years of age; or
- (2) If the member had fewer than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the benefit

must be reduced by 6% for each year that the member's age precedes 55 years of age.

Sec. FFFF-11. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2025, c. 595, §9, is further amended to read:

5. Contributions. Notwithstanding any provision of subchapter 3 to the contrary, after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; and after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs S to U, a member in the capacities specified in subsection 1 must contribute to the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program or have pick-up contributions made at the rate of 8.65% of earnable compensation until the member has completed 25 years of creditable service as provided in this section and at the rate of 7.65% thereafter.

PART GGGG

Sec. GGGG-1. 30-A MRSA c. 201, sub-c. 15 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 15

MAINE EVICTION PREVENTION PROGRAM

§4994-D. Maine Eviction Prevention Program

The Maine Eviction Prevention Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the Maine State Housing Authority to provide rental assistance to individuals.

1. Eligibility; income. The Maine State Housing Authority shall establish eligibility criteria and application requirements for participation in the program consistent with the requirements under this subchapter. A program applicant's income may not exceed 60% of the area median income, adjusted for family size, in accordance with federal standards generally accepted as of the effective date of this subchapter and comparable to the standards of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

2. Rental assistance. A participant in the program is eligible to receive up to \$800 per month in rental assistance paid directly to the participant's landlord for up to 12 months.

3. Assistance priority. Rental assistance under this subchapter must be awarded in the following order of priority:

A. As the first priority, participants who have received a summons and complaint for forcible entry and detainer;

B. As the 2nd priority, participants who receive an eviction notice for nonpayment of rent; and

C. As the 3rd priority, participants who pay over 30% of their income in rent.

4. Payment requirement. A participant in the program is required to pay 30% of the participant's income toward the participant's rental obligation.

5. Rent requirement. A participant in the program must reside in a rental unit in which the rent is at or below 125% of the fair market rent established by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development pursuant to 24 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 888.113 for the household size in the area in which the rental unit is located.

6. Eviction for cause. A landlord may evict a program participant only for cause during any month rental assistance is paid by the program.

7. Program administration. The Maine State Housing Authority shall delegate administration of the program and provide appropriate funding to one or more of the following: a designated community action agency as described by Title 22, section 5324; a municipal housing authority; or any other qualified entity as determined by the Maine State Housing Authority. An entity delegated to administer the program shall develop a method of verifying a participant's eligibility for the rental assistance every 6 months after initial approval. An entity delegated to administer the program shall limit administrative costs of the program to 12% or less of distributions received.

8. Rules. The Maine State Housing Authority may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this subchapter. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

PART HHHH

Sec. HHHH-1. Transfer from General Fund; MaineCare Stabilization Fund. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$31,250,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the MaineCare Stabilization Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Health and Human Services to prevent any loss of services or increased cost of services to a MaineCare member that would otherwise result from insufficient General Fund appropriations, insufficient federal matching funds or any other shortage of funds or changes in federal or state law, rule or policy.

Sec. HHHH-2. Transfer from General Fund; Education Stabilization Fund. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$31,250,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Education Stabilization Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Education to prevent any reduction in the state share percentage of the statewide adjusted total cost of the components of essential programs and services that would otherwise result from insufficient General Fund appropriations or any other shortage of funds.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 651

H.P. 1383 - L.D. 2070

An Act to Improve the Management of Landfill Leachate and Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge at Solid Waste Landfills

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this legislation directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services to procure technical information from waste industry professionals regarding criteria and considerations for siting new solid waste facilities in the State and for the sustainable management of special wastes and municipal solid waste bypass to ensure that sufficient capacity is available for those wastes that are generated in the State until at least 2050; and

Whereas, the bureau must initiate the process of procuring that information as soon as possible and prior to the expiration of the 90-day period in order for the bureau to timely submit a report regarding that information to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters, as is provided in this legislation; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §590, sub-§1, ¶F is enacted to read:

F. A facility that is required to be licensed under this chapter and that processes or incinerates sludge shall implement best available control technology

for any new source and best practical treatment for any existing source to minimize emissions of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances from the facility to the ambient air.

(1) An applicant for a license under this chapter that is a facility that processes or incinerates sludge shall propose in the application the best available control technology or best practical treatment, as applicable, for department approval.

(2) A license issued by the department pursuant to this chapter to a facility that processes or incinerates sludge must require the licensee to demonstrate compliance with perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances emission limits or emission reduction requirements established by the department in the license, which must include requirements for the licensee to conduct emission testing for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

For purposes of this paragraph, perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances are air contaminants and regulated pollutants under this chapter and under department rules.

As used in this paragraph, "perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances" has the same meaning as in section 1614, subsection 1, paragraph F and "sludge" has the same meaning as in section 1303-C, subsection 28-A.

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §590, sub-§1, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 294, §1, is amended by amending the 2nd blocked paragraph to read:

The board may adopt rules to implement paragraphs A to ~~E~~ F. Rules initially adopted to implement paragraphs A to ~~E~~ F are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Any subsequent revision to rules adopted to implement paragraphs A to ~~E~~ F are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §1310-N, sub-§10-C is enacted to read:

10-C. Landfill leak detection system; testing of landfill site groundwater for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. In accordance with a schedule approved by the department, a new or expanded solid waste landfill that requires for its construction or expansion a permit under the Natural Resources Protection Act for the alteration of freshwater wetlands shall:

A. Incorporate a leak detection system into the landfill's engineering design;

B. Integrate into the landfill's department-approved water quality monitoring plan the use of that leak detection system and the sampling and

analysis of groundwater on the landfill site for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances; and

C. In accordance with the landfill's department-approved water quality monitoring plan, provide the results of the groundwater sampling and analysis conducted pursuant to paragraph B to the department as part of the landfill's annual report.

This subsection does not apply to a solid waste landfill that is less than 6 acres in size that accepts only inert fill, construction and demolition debris, debris from land clearing and wood wastes. As used in this subsection, "freshwater wetlands" has the same meaning as in section 480-B, subsection 4.

Sec. 4. 38 MRSA §1310-N, sub-§10-D is enacted to read:

10-D. Sludge testing required. A solid waste facility licensed under this chapter may not process, beneficially reuse or dispose of sludge at that facility unless the sludge has been characterized by the entity that generated the sludge in accordance with a plan approved by the department, which must include sampling and analysis of the sludge for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

Sec. 5. 38 MRSA §1310-AA, sub-§1-B, ¶C is enacted to read:

C. Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, the commissioner may not find that a new or expanded solid waste landfill owned by the State provides a substantial public benefit in accordance with subsection 3 unless the solid waste landfill treats the leachate collected from the landfill to reduce the concentrations of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in the leachate, in accordance with a license issued by the department pursuant to section 1310-N, and otherwise satisfies the standards in subsection 3.

Sec. 6. 38 MRSA §2152-A, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Prohibition on development or use of Carpenter Ridge site as State-owned solid waste disposal facility. Notwithstanding any provision of this Title or other law to the contrary:

A. The Carpenter Ridge site may not be developed as or used for the operation of a State-owned solid waste disposal facility, including, but not limited to, a State-owned solid waste landfill;

B. The bureau or other state agency may not apply for, and the department may not issue, a new or expanded license or an amendment to or renewal of an existing license for the operation of a State-owned solid waste disposal facility at the Carpenter Ridge site; and

C. The bureau or other state agency may not operate or contract for the operation of a State-owned

solid waste disposal facility at the Carpenter Ridge site.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Penobscot Nation has the right of first refusal to purchase the Carpenter Ridge site, or any portion of the Carpenter Ridge site, that may be proposed for sale by the bureau or other state agency having ownership over the site, in a manner consistent with applicable laws or rules regulating the sale of State-owned property.

As used in this subsection, "Carpenter Ridge site" means a parcel of land owned by the State, consisting of approximately 1,500 acres located in the unorganized territory in Penobscot County, in Township 2, Range 8, for which a license to operate a solid waste landfill was issued by the department to the former State Planning Office on April 24, 1996; and "Penobscot Nation" has the same meaning as in Title 30, section 6203, subsection 10.

Sec. 7. Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services procurement of technical waste management information; report. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services shall procure technical information from waste industry professionals regarding criteria and considerations, including, but not limited to, environmental justice considerations, for siting new solid waste facilities in the State and for the sustainable management of special wastes and municipal solid waste bypass to ensure that sufficient capacity is available for those wastes that are generated in the State until at least 2050. On or before March 1, 2027, the bureau shall submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters a report setting forth the technical information procured by the bureau pursuant to this section. After reviewing the report, the joint standing committee may report out legislation relating to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027. As used in this section, "environmental justice" has the same meaning as in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 1310-AA, subsection 3, paragraph E.

Sec. 8. Department of Environmental Protection; evaluation of state solid waste facility rules; report. The Department of Environmental Protection shall conduct an evaluation of its rules regulating solid waste facilities and identify opportunities to develop new or support or improve existing facilities, technologies, programs, initiatives or processes in a manner consistent with the State's solid waste management hierarchy under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 2101. In conducting its work under this section, the department shall solicit input from and invite the participation of waste industry stakeholders and the general public. On or before January 15, 2028, the department shall submit a report setting forth the results

of the evaluation under this section, including any recommendations for legislative action, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters. The report required under this section may be included in the report required by Title 38, section 2124-A. After reviewing the report, the joint standing committee may report out legislation relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 652

S.P. 135 - L.D. 378

An Act to Clarify That Health Insurers Must Comply with Plan Sponsors' Statutory Rights to Audit Claims and Data Requests Related to Those Audits

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, current law requires 3rd-party administrators of health plans to grant plan sponsors certain audit rights and to provide the requisite medical and pharmacy data to conduct those audits; and

Whereas, this legislation clarifies that law to ensure that health insurers administering health plans on behalf of plan sponsors are considered administrators and must comply with a plan sponsor's statutory right to audit claims and data requests related to those audits; and

Whereas, this legislation needs to take effect without delay so that plan sponsors can include these audit rights in contracts with administrators that are being renewed, amended or entered into prior to the 2027 plan year; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §1914, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 487, §1, is amended to read:

2. Claims data; right to audit. An administrator that contracts with a plan sponsor to provide health coverage shall permit a plan sponsor to perform a post-payment audit of all claims paid to ensure compliance with the contract at least once in a calendar year as long as the request is not earlier than 6 months following a previously requested audit. Upon request of a plan sponsor as part of an audit, an administrator shall disclose within 30 business days to a plan sponsor that has certified its compliance with the use and disclosure requirements of 45 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 164.504(f) or, to the extent permitted by law and if requested by the plan sponsor, to the ~~plan sponsor's plan's~~ designated business associate the following information specific to the plan ~~sponsor's plans~~:

A. Claims data received by the administrator via electronic claims transactions on any current standardized claim form approved by the Federal Government for professional services or institutional services. The form or transaction may be modified only as necessary to comply with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law 104-191;

B. Claims payments, electronic funds transfers or remittance advice notices provided by the administrator as electronic files compliant with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law 104-191, including, but not limited to, electronic claims transactions for both the billed amount and the paid amount for professional services and both the billed amount and the paid amount for institutional services. The files may be modified only as necessary to comply with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law 104-191, and the federal Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009, Title XIII, Subtitle D, Public Law 111-5, and any regulations promulgated under those laws;

C. Any fees charged to the plan sponsor related to plan administration and claims processing, including renegotiation fees, access fees, repricing fees or enhanced review fees; and

D. Any out-of-network fees or out-of-network negotiated discounts, aligned incentive program fees, pay-for-performance payments and recoveries, cost-containment program fees, overpayment recovery program fees, subrogation fees and any other special program fees and discounts.

Sec. 2. 24-A MRSA §1914, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 487, §1, is amended to read:

4. Nondisclosure and data use agreement. An administrator may require that the plan sponsor and the plan sponsor's designated business associate execute a nondisclosure and data use agreement that protects the

confidentiality of the administrator's trade secrets, proprietary information or information otherwise confidential by law, rule or regulation before data is provided in accordance with this section and that reasonably restricts the auditor's use of such data provided by the administrator to the sole purpose of conducting an audit on behalf of a plan sponsor. The coverage limits of any cybersecurity insurance or liability insurance policy required under the nondisclosure and data use agreement may not exceed the administrator's limit of liability under the services agreement between the plan sponsor and the administrator, if such limit applies. Except for the coverage limits of any cybersecurity insurance or liability insurance policy, this subsection is not intended to limit the inclusion in a nondisclosure and data use agreement of reasonable requirements regarding notice, indemnification or liability for the unauthorized disclosure or security breach of data in the possession of the plan sponsor or its designated business associate pursuant to this section. In addition, an administrator is not required to provide data to an auditor selected by a plan sponsor if the auditor has previously breached a nondisclosure and data use agreement with that administrator or refuses to execute a nondisclosure and data use agreement.

Sec. 3. 24-A MRSA §1914, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Liability for disclosure of protected information. A plan sponsor or a plan sponsor's designated business associate who receives information from an administrator pursuant to this section shall notify the administrator of any unauthorized disclosure or security breach of the following information in the possession of the plan sponsor or its designated business associate immediately upon discovery of the unauthorized disclosure or security breach of:

A. Personal information as defined in Title 10, section 1347, subsection 6;

B. Protected health information in violation of any applicable requirements of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law 104-191, and any regulations promulgated under that law;

C. Electronic protected health information as defined in the federal Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009, Title XIII, Subtitle D, Public Law 111-5, and any regulations promulgated under that law; or

D. Nonpublic information as defined in section 2263, subsection 10.

Sec. 4. 24-A MRSA §1914, sub-§5-A is enacted to read:

5-A. Certain persons acting as administrators included. Notwithstanding section 1901, subsection 1, paragraphs D and E, for the purposes of this section, an

administrator subject to the requirements of this section includes any person who, on behalf of a plan sponsor, receives or collects charges, contributions or premiums for or adjusts or settles claims on residents of this State in connection with any type of health benefit.

Sec. 5. 24-A MRSA §4347, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Administrator. "Administrator" includes, notwithstanding section 1901, subsection 1, paragraphs D and E, any person who, on behalf of a plan sponsor, receives or collects charges, contributions or premiums for or adjusts or settles claims on residents of this State in connection with any type of health benefit.

Sec. 6. 24-A MRSA §4347, sub-§18-A, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 487, §2, is amended to read:

18-A. Plan sponsor. "Plan sponsor" has the same meaning as in section 1901, subsection 8, except that "plan sponsor" does not include ~~an employer~~ a person that offers or provides a health plan benefit that is fully insured by an insurer authorized to do transact insurance business in this State.

Sec. 7. 24-A MRSA §4349-B, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 487, §3 and reallocated by RR 2025, c. 1, Pt. A, §34, is amended to read:

2. Claims data; right to audit. Notwithstanding section 4350-C, a pharmacy benefits manager that contracts with a plan sponsor to provide prescription drug coverage shall permit a plan sponsor to perform a post-payment audit of claims paid to ensure compliance with the contract at least once in a calendar year as long as the request is not earlier than 6 months following a previously requested audit. Upon request of a plan sponsor as part of an audit, a pharmacy benefits manager shall disclose within 30 business days to a plan sponsor who has certified its compliance with the use and disclosure requirements of 45 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 164.504(f), or, to the extent permitted by law and if requested by the plan sponsor, to the ~~plan sponsor's~~ plan's designated business associate the following information specific to the plan ~~sponsor~~ sponsor's plans:

A. Rebate amounts, identified by the drug and therapeutic category, secured on prescription drugs provided by a pharmaceutical manufacturer that are generated by claims processed through the plan maintained by the plan sponsor and administered by the pharmacy benefits manager;

B. Prescription drug and device claims received by the pharmacy benefits manager via electronic claims transactions on any current standardized claim form approved by the Federal Government for these services. The form or transaction may be modified only as necessary to comply with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law 104-191, and the federal Health Information Technology for Economic

and Clinical Health Act of 2009, Title XIII, Subtitle D, Public Law 111-5, and any regulations promulgated under those laws;

C. Prescription drug and device claims payments, electronic funds transfers or remittance advice notices provided by the pharmacy benefits manager as electronic files. The files may be modified only as necessary to comply with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law 104-191, and the federal Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009, Title XIII, Subtitle D, Public Law 111-5, and any regulations promulgated under those laws; and

D. Any other revenue and fees derived by the pharmacy benefits manager from the contract, including all direct or indirect remuneration from pharmaceutical manufacturers regardless of whether the remuneration is classified as a rebate, fee or other classification.

Sec. 8. 24-A MRSA §4349-B, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 487, §3 and reallocated by RR 2025, c. 1, Pt. A, §34, is amended to read:

4. Nondisclosure and data use agreement. A pharmacy benefits manager may require that the plan sponsor and the plan sponsor's designated business associate execute a nondisclosure and data use agreement that protects the confidentiality of the pharmacy benefits manager's trade secrets, proprietary information or information otherwise confidential by law, rule or regulation before data is provided in accordance with this section and that reasonably restricts the auditor's use of such data provided by the pharmacy benefits manager to the sole purpose of conducting an audit on behalf of a plan sponsor. The coverage limits of any cybersecurity insurance or liability insurance policy required under the nondisclosure and data use agreement may not exceed the pharmacy benefits manager's limit of liability under the services agreement between the plan sponsor and the pharmacy benefits manager, if such limit applies. Except for the coverage limits of any cybersecurity insurance or liability insurance policy, this subsection is not intended to limit the inclusion in a nondisclosure and data use agreement of reasonable requirements regarding notice, indemnification or liability for the unauthorized disclosure or security breach of data in the possession of the plan sponsor or its designated business associate pursuant to this section. In addition, a pharmacy benefits manager is not required to provide data to an auditor selected by a plan sponsor if the auditor has previously breached a nondisclosure and data use agreement with that pharmacy benefits manager or refuses to execute a nondisclosure and data use agreement.

Sec. 9. 24-A MRSA §4349-B, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Liability for disclosure of protected information. A plan sponsor or a plan sponsor's designated business associate who receives information from a pharmacy benefits manager pursuant to this section shall notify the pharmacy benefits manager of any unauthorized disclosure or security breach of the following information in the possession of the plan sponsor or its designated business associate immediately upon discovery of the unauthorized disclosure or security breach of:

A. Personal information as defined in Title 10, section 1347, subsection 6;

B. Protected health information in violation of any applicable requirements of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law 104-191, and any regulations promulgated under that law;

C. Electronic protected health information as defined in the federal Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act of 2009, Title XIII, Subtitle D, Public Law 111-5, and any regulations promulgated under that law; or

D. Nonpublic information as defined in section 2263, subsection 10.

Sec. 10. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1, 2026.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective July 1, 2026.

CHAPTER 653

H.P. 1272 - L.D. 1901

An Act to Regulate Shared Appreciation Agreements Relating to Residential Property

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, shared appreciation mortgage loans are a new form of equity-based financing; and

Whereas, this legislation enacts statutory provisions to regulate shared appreciation mortgage loans as mortgage loans and directs the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection to enforce those provisions; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this legislation is necessary for the protection of consumers; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

PART A

Sec. A-1. 9-A MRSA §1-110, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 218, is amended to read:

3. ~~First lien mortgages~~ Mortgages on real estate granted by a creditor subject to licensing by the administrator as set out in section 2-301.

Sec. A-2. 9-A MRSA §1-301, sub-§14, ¶D is enacted to read:

D. "Consumer loan" includes a shared appreciation mortgage loan.

Sec. A-3. 9-A MRSA §1-301, sub-§17, as amended by PL 2021, c. 245, Pt. A, §2, is further amended by amending the 5th blocked paragraph to read:

"Creditor" includes a mortgage loan servicer and a shared appreciation mortgage loan lender.

Sec. A-4. 9-A MRSA §1-301, sub-§19, ¶A, as amended by PL 2011, c. 427, Pt. D, §6, is further amended by amending subparagraph (7) to read:

(7) Premiums or other charges for credit life, accident, health or loss-of-income insurance or insurance against loss of or damage to property or against liability arising out of the ownership or use of property, written in connection with a credit transaction, unless the applicable requirements of section 2-501 and Article 8-A are met; ~~and~~

Sec. A-5. 9-A MRSA §1-301, sub-§19, ¶A, as amended by PL 2011, c. 427, Pt. D, §6, is further amended by amending subparagraph (8) to read:

(8) Discounts for the purpose of inducing payment by a means other than the use of credit; and

Sec. A-6. 9-A MRSA §1-301, sub-§19, ¶A, as amended by PL 2011, c. 427, Pt. D, §6, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (9) to read:

(9) Equity share payment amount as defined in section 8-506, subsection 1, paragraph F-1.

Sec. A-7. 9-A MRSA §1-301, sub-§37-A is enacted to read:

37-A. Shared appreciation mortgage loan. "Shared appreciation mortgage loan" means a writing evidencing a transaction or any option, any future or any

other derivative between a person and a consumer according to which the consumer receives money or any other item of value in exchange for an interest or future interest in a dwelling or residential real estate or a future obligation to pay an amount based on the value of the dwelling or residential real estate that is secured by a mortgage, a deed of trust or an equivalent consensual security interest in the dwelling or residential real estate on the occurrence of an event, such as the transfer of ownership; a maturity date; the death of the consumer; or any other event contemplated by the writing. "Shared appreciation mortgage loan" does not include any shared appreciation mortgage loan extended through a federal or state government agency, a government-sponsored enterprise or a municipal agency or enterprise of the State.

Sec. A-8. 9-A MRSA §1-301, sub-§37-B is enacted to read:

37-B. Shared appreciation mortgage loan lender. "Shared appreciation mortgage loan lender" means a person that extends a shared appreciation mortgage loan secured by a dwelling or residential real estate.

Sec. A-9. 9-A MRSA §8-504, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2013, c. 464, §4, is further amended to read:

2. Rule-making authority. Consistent with the purposes of Title X and Title XIV of the federal Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Public Law 111-203 and with the purposes set forth in sections 1-102 and 8-502 and notwithstanding other law, the administrator may adopt rules substantially similar to or that afford more protection for consumers than those codified in 12 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1026 and 12 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1013. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. In adopting rules pursuant to this subsection, the administrator shall specifically consider whether there is a ~~substantial~~ an impact on consumer protection before adopting rules affecting the following provisions of section 8-506:

- A. The rate thresholds pertaining to high-cost mortgage loans in section 8-506, subsection 1, paragraph H;
- B. The prepayment penalties for high-cost mortgage loans in section 8-506, subsection 2, paragraph D;
- C. The assignee liability for high-cost mortgage loans in section 8-506, subsection 3;
- D. The ability to repay in section 8-506, subsection 4;
- E. The prohibition against flipping and the principles of tangible net benefit in section 8-506, subsection 5; ~~and~~

F. The enhanced penalties for violations in section 8-506, subsection 6;

G. The method to calculate the annualized cost of a shared appreciation mortgage loan under section 8-506, subsection 1, paragraph A-1;

H. The maximum allowable shared appreciation mortgage loan equity share percentage to payment amount percentage ratios, as those terms are defined in section 8-506, subsection 1, paragraphs F-2 and J-2;

I. Restrictions on shared appreciation mortgage loans in section 8-506, subsection 5-A;

J. The standards for automated valuation models used by shared appreciation mortgage lenders pursuant to section 8-506, subsection 5-C, paragraph B;

K. The standards for shared appreciation mortgage loan borrower and homeowner counseling in section 8-506, subsection 5-D; and

L. The preliminary and closing borrower disclosures for shared appreciation mortgage loans required in section 8-506, subsection 5-F.

The rules may contain classifications, differentiations or other provisions and may provide for adjustments and exceptions for any class of transactions subject to this Title that in the judgment of the administrator are necessary or proper to effectuate the purposes of this Title; or to prevent circumvention or evasion of or to facilitate compliance with the provisions of this Title.

Sec. A-10. 9-A MRSA §8-506, sub-§1, ¶A-1 is enacted to read:

A-1. "Annualized cost" means the annualized cost of a shared appreciation mortgage loan, expressed as a percentage and calculated as follows: $\left(\left(\frac{\text{settlement payment}}{\text{payment amount}} \right)^{\frac{365}{\text{term days}}} - 1 \right)$, otherwise expressed as

$$\left(\left(\frac{\text{settlement payment}}{\text{payment amount}} \right)^{\frac{365}{\text{term days}}} - 1 \right).$$

or as established by rule adopted by the administrator pursuant to section 8-504, subsection 2.

Sec. A-11. 9-A MRSA §8-506, sub-§1, ¶F-1 is enacted to read:

F-1. "Equity share payment amount" means the settlement payment minus the payment amount.

Sec. A-12. 9-A MRSA §8-506, sub-§1, ¶F-2 is enacted to read:

F-2. "Equity share percentage" means the percentage portion of the value of the dwelling or residential real estate pledged by the borrower by agreement to the creditor at the time of consummation of a shared appreciation mortgage loan or later.

Sec. A-13. 9-A MRSA §8-506, sub-§1, ¶H, as amended by PL 2013, c. 464, §8, is further amended to read:

H. "High-cost mortgage loan" means a residential mortgage loan in which the terms of the loan meet or exceed one or more of the following thresholds or a shared appreciation mortgage loan in which the terms of the loan meet or exceed the total points and fees threshold established in subparagraph (2):

(1) Rate threshold, which, for a residential mortgage loan, is the point at which the annual percentage rate equals or exceeds the rate set forth in 12 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1026.32(a)(1)(i) without regard to whether the residential mortgage loan may be considered a "residential mortgage transaction" or an extension of "open-end credit" as those terms are set forth in 12 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1026.2; and

(2) The total points and fees threshold, which is:

(a) For loans in which the total loan amount is \$40,000 or more, the point at which the total points and fees payable in connection with the residential mortgage loan less any excluded points and fees exceed 5% of the total loan amount; and

(b) For loans in which the total loan amount is less than \$40,000, the point at which the total points and fees payable in connection with the residential mortgage loan less any excluded points and fees exceed 6% of the total loan amount.

Sec. A-14. 9-A MRSA §8-506, sub-§1, ¶I, as amended by PL 2013, c. 464, §8, is further amended to read:

I. "Higher-priced mortgage loan" has the same meaning as set forth in the Federal Truth in Lending Act and its implementing regulation, Regulation Z, 12 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1026.35(a). "Higher-priced mortgage loan" also includes a residential mortgage loan, except for a shared appreciation mortgage loan, that is a nontraditional mortgage as described in the "Interagency Guidance on Nontraditional Mortgage Product Risks" issued September 29, 2006 and published in 71 Federal Register, 58609 on October 4, 2006 and as updated from time to time, except that "higher-priced mortgage loan" does not include a mortgage that does not allow a borrower to defer repayment of principal or interest.

Sec. A-15. 9-A MRSA §8-506, sub-§1, ¶J-1 is enacted to read:

J-1. "Payment amount" means the proceeds of a shared appreciation mortgage loan that are disbursed to a borrower by a creditor or disbursed by a creditor to 3rd parties on the borrower's behalf. "Payment amount" includes the dollar value of the payments or other consideration made to a borrower by a creditor at the time of consummation of a shared appreciation mortgage loan or later.

Sec. A-16. 9-A MRSA §8-506, sub-§1, ¶J-2 is enacted to read:

J-2. "Payment amount percentage" means the percentage portion of the value of the dwelling or residential real estate disbursed to the borrower by agreement by the creditor at the time of consummation of a shared appreciation mortgage loan or later.

Sec. A-17. 9-A MRSA §8-506, sub-§1, ¶L, as amended by PL 2013, c. 464, §8, is further amended by enacting at the end a new blocked paragraph to read:

"Residential mortgage loan" includes a shared appreciation mortgage loan.

Sec. A-18. 9-A MRSA §8-506, sub-§1, ¶M-1 is enacted to read:

M-1. "Settlement payment" means the dollar amount that a borrower is expected to pay to a creditor to settle or pay off a shared appreciation mortgage loan, exclusive of any money advanced by the creditor on behalf of the borrower, subsequent to the consummation of the loan, for certain homeownership costs including, but not limited to, property taxes, insurance, owner association fees and utilities, payable by the borrower to the creditor under the terms of the shared appreciation mortgage loan.

Sec. A-19. 9-A MRSA §8-506, sub-§1, ¶M-2 is enacted to read:

M-2. "Term days" means the exact number of days between the settlement date of a shared appreciation mortgage loan and the settlement payment date of a shared appreciation mortgage loan or as established by rule adopted by the administrator pursuant to section 8-504, subsection 2.

Sec. A-20. 9-A MRSA §8-506, sub-§5-A is enacted to read:

5-A. Shared appreciation mortgage loans; restrictions. A shared appreciation mortgage loan is subject to the following restrictions and any rules related to these restrictions adopted by the administrator pursuant to section 8-504, subsection 2.

A. A shared appreciation mortgage loan may not contain a provision that prevents the borrower from renting the property to another, except that, if the rental otherwise complies with applicable federal

or state law, regulation and rule, this paragraph does not prohibit:

- (1) A creditor from charging fees or premiums associated with originating a shared appreciation mortgage loan secured by a non-owner-occupied property;
- (2) A creditor from requiring the borrower to obtain usual and customary insurance coverage associated with such rental; or
- (3) A creditor from prohibiting the borrower from entering into a rental or lease agreement that would extend beyond the maturity date of the shared appreciation mortgage loan.

B. A shared appreciation mortgage loan may not contain a provision that prevents the borrower or the homeowner from refinancing an existing senior mortgage or lien through a conventional or agency so-called rate-and-term refinancing as long as the principal balance on the new mortgage loan does not exceed the unpaid principal balance of the mortgage loan being refinanced plus customary and reasonable transaction costs. The creditor shall agree to subordinate its interest in connection with the rate-and-term refinancing as set forth in this paragraph.

C. A shared appreciation mortgage loan may not apply a settlement payment formula that differs from the formula originally agreed upon or impose any penalties if the borrower elects to settle or otherwise terminate the shared appreciation mortgage loan before its scheduled maturity date or termination date.

D. A shared appreciation mortgage loan may not contain mandatory arbitration clauses and waivers of certain consumer rights in accordance with the prohibition found in 12 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1026.36(h).

E. A shared appreciation mortgage loan may not include a confidentiality provision regarding the terms of the shared appreciation mortgage loan.

F. A shared appreciation mortgage loan may not contain a provision permitting the creditor to extend the term of the shared appreciation mortgage loan unless the provision requires the express written consent of the borrower to the extension, except that, and subject to the applicable statute of limitations, this paragraph may not be construed to limit or otherwise reduce the period of time in which the creditor may pursue legal action related to a borrower's failure to settle the shared appreciation mortgage loan upon the expiration of the then-current term of the shared appreciation mortgage. A creditor may unilaterally extend the term of the shared appreciation mortgage loan:

- (1) For 30 days if:

(a) The extension occurs at the end of the term; and

(b) The extension is related to a settlement or other termination that is in progress but will not occur prior to the termination of the shared appreciation mortgage loan or the borrower has requested an extension but will not complete the written consent prior to the termination of the option period; or

- (2) For one year if:

(a) The extension occurs at the end of the term;

(b) The creditor has sent the borrower at least 3 notices regarding the end of the term; and

(c) The borrower has not responded or indicated an intent to settle or otherwise terminate the shared appreciation mortgage loan.

G. A prepayment fee or penalty may not be charged under the terms of or included in the loan documents of a shared appreciation mortgage loan.

H. A shared appreciation mortgage loan may not include a demand feature that permits the creditor to accelerate the indebtedness by terminating the shared appreciation mortgage loan in advance of the original maturity date and to demand repayment of the entire outstanding balance, except in the following circumstances:

- (1) There is fraud or material misrepresentation by the borrower in connection with the loan or open-end credit agreement;
- (2) The borrower fails to meet the payment terms of the agreement for any outstanding balance that results in a default in payment under the loan; or
- (3) There is an action or inaction by the borrower that adversely affects the creditor's security for the loan or any right of the creditor in the security.

I. A person who purchases or is otherwise assigned a shared appreciation mortgage loan is subject to all affirmative claims and any defenses with respect to the loan that the borrower may assert against a creditor of the loan.

J. A creditor may receive the settlement payment amount based only on the appraisal at settlement of the loan and may not charge additional amounts based on the condition of the property.

K. In addition to applicable requirements under federal and state law, the creditor shall disclose prior to consummation of the loan the annualized

cost, equity share payment amount, settlement payment amount and annual percentage rate for each year of the term of the loan based on a real estate appreciation index prescribed by the administrator by rule.

Sec. A-21. 9-A MRSA §8-506, sub-§5-B is enacted to read:

5-B. Shared appreciation mortgage loans; requirements for contents of shared appreciation mortgage loans. A shared appreciation mortgage loan is subject to the following requirements.

A. A shared appreciation mortgage loan must contain a provision requiring the creditor to provide to the borrower at least 90 days' advance written notice of any action required by the borrower under the terms of the shared appreciation mortgage loan that, if not timely taken by the borrower, will affect the rights or interests of the borrower, except that this paragraph does not apply to:

(1) Actions required of the borrower arising from a directive or mandate by a governmental authority related to noncompliance with applicable law that requires action in fewer than 90 days; or

(2) Matters that cause an imminent threat to the condition of the dwelling, property or health or safety of the public that are known to the creditor and verified by internal or external assessment.

B. A shared appreciation mortgage loan must provide for a periodic statement in accordance with rules adopted by the administrator.

C. A shared appreciation mortgage loan must contain a provision that, within 7 business days of a request from the borrower for information regarding the process for a final termination or settlement of the shared appreciation mortgage loan, the creditor shall provide a detailed and accurate written statement of the payoff or settlement process. If determining a settlement amount requires obtaining a 3rd-party valuation, a creditor is deemed to have complied with this paragraph by providing a written notice of an estimated total amount required to pay the shared appreciation mortgage loan in full, as of a specified date, and advising the borrower of the process and estimated cost for obtaining such 3rd-party valuation. The valuation appraisal under this paragraph must conform to the requirements of subsection 5-C, paragraph A. The written notice of an estimated written amount must itemize and explain all known charges included in the total figure stated and estimate all charges that are subject to change.

D. Upon a consumer's default involving a real estate tax or insurance premium delinquency, if the

shared appreciation mortgage loan lender elects to advance funds to cure the delinquency, the lender shall, at the consumer's request, defer repayment of the amount of the advance until settlement of the loan without the accrual of interest.

Sec. A-22. 9-A MRSA §8-506, sub-§5-C is enacted to read:

5-C. Shared appreciation mortgage loans; requirements for property valuation. The following requirements apply with respect to property valuation.

A. A creditor shall conduct shared appreciation mortgage loan valuation appraisals in a manner substantially similar to the appraisal valuation independence standards set forth in 12 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1026.42.

B. Shared appreciation mortgage loan transaction automated valuation models are subject to substantially similar and applicable quality control standards for automated valuation models issued by the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and published as 89 Federal Register, 64538, effective October 1, 2025, or by rule adopted by the administrator pursuant to section 8-504, subsection 2.

Sec. A-23. 9-A MRSA §8-506, sub-§5-D is enacted to read:

5-D. Shared appreciation mortgage loans; requirements for counseling. A creditor may not make a shared appreciation mortgage loan without first receiving certification from a counselor with a 3rd-party organization approved by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, a housing financing agency of this State or the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection that the borrower or the homeowner has received counseling that includes a review of the borrower's or homeowner's needs and circumstances; homeowner and property eligibility; shared appreciation mortgage loan features and costs; issues and obligations after closing; and financial alternatives to the shared appreciation mortgage loan.

Sec. A-24. 9-A MRSA §8-506, sub-§5-E is enacted to read:

5-E. Shared appreciation mortgage loans; requirement for 3-day right of rescission. A creditor shall offer each shared appreciation mortgage loan borrower a 3-day right of rescission period in a manner substantially similar to the requirements in 12 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1026.23.

Sec. A-25. 9-A MRSA §8-506, sub-§5-F is enacted to read:

5-F. Shared appreciation mortgage loans; required disclosures. Before a shared appreciation mortgage loan agreement is entered into, a shared appreciation mortgage loan lender shall provide the disclosures

established by rule adopted by the administrator under section 8-504, subsection 2.

Sec. A-26. 9-A MRSA §8-506, sub-§5-G is enacted to read:

5-G. Shared appreciation mortgage loans; consequence of no advice of counsel to borrower. The following provisions apply regarding the lack of representation by independent counsel of a borrower.

A. A shared appreciation mortgage loan is presumed to be unconscionable or the result of an unfair or deceptive trade practice unless the borrower was represented by independent counsel in connection with all aspects of the origination of the shared appreciation mortgage loan and in the granting and execution of the mortgage. When the borrower or the borrower's legal counsel successfully raises the presumption that the shared appreciation mortgage loan was unconscionable, or was the result of an unfair or deceptive trade practice, by a preponderance of the evidence that the borrower did not have independent legal advice in connection with the transaction, and when the shared appreciation mortgage loan lender that benefits from the execution of the mortgage fails to rebut the presumption, the borrower or the borrower's legal counsel or personal representative is entitled to avoid the transfer or execution of the mortgage and entitled to the relief in paragraph C.

B. A civil action may be brought to obtain relief under this subsection by the borrower or the borrower's legal representative or personal representative.

C. When a court finds that a shared appreciation mortgage loan was unconscionable or the result of an unfair or deceptive trade practice under paragraph A, the court shall grant appropriate relief enabling the borrower to avoid the execution of the mortgage securing the transaction, including the rescission of the mortgage, and such other relief as the court considers proper. The court shall award reasonable attorney's fees and costs to be paid by the shared appreciation mortgage loan lender, or by any assignee of the mortgage, as found by the court. When the court finds that the shared appreciation mortgage loan's being unconscionable or the result of an unfair or deceptive trade practice in connection with the transaction is a good and valid defense to any suit to enforce the terms of the shared appreciation mortgage loan, the court shall refuse to enforce the terms of the shared appreciation mortgage loan.

Sec. A-27. 9-A MRSA §8-506, sub-§6, ¶K is enacted to read:

K. A violation of this section constitutes a per se violation of Title 5, section 207 and of Title 14, section 6113.

Sec. A-28. Report. No later than February 1, 2029, the Superintendent of Consumer Credit Protection within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health coverage, insurance and financial services matters that includes findings and recommendations regarding the regulation of shared appreciation mortgage loans pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 9-A, including, but not limited to, suggested statutory changes. The committee may submit legislation related to the report to the 134th Legislature in 2029.

PART B

Sec. B-1. Shared appreciation mortgage products subject to Maine Consumer Credit Code. The Legislature adopts the ruling of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection, which took effect October 29, 2025, that a shared appreciation mortgage product is a consumer credit transaction subject to the provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 9-A applicable to mortgage loans and that providers of these products are supervised lenders under that Title. Any shared appreciation mortgage product entered into with a consumer that is secured by a dwelling or residential real estate in this State between October 29, 2025 and the effective date of this Act that does not comply with the provisions of that ruling is void and unenforceable.

Sec. B-2. Retroactivity. This Part applies retroactively to October 29, 2025.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 654

H.P. 313 - L.D. 484

An Act to Authorize Certain Emergency Medical Services Providers to Procure, Possess, Administer and Furnish Controlled Substances

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the federal Drug Enforcement Administration does not believe the laws of the State currently authorize emergency medical services to procure, possess, administer and furnish controlled substances; and

Whereas, timely access to emergency medications is necessary for public health; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §83, sub-§9-A is enacted to read:

9-A. Community paramedicine. "Community paramedicine" means the practice by an emergency medical services provider, primarily in an out-of-hospital setting, of providing episodic patient evaluation, advice and treatment directed at preventing or improving a particular medical condition.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §83, sub-§9-B is enacted to read:

9-B. Community paramedicine clinician. "Community paramedicine clinician" means an emergency medical services person licensed under this chapter who has completed specialized education and training to operate in an expanded role, providing episodic, proactive and preventive health care services in nonemergency settings.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §83, sub-§9-C is enacted to read:

9-C. Community paramedicine service. "Community paramedicine service" means an ambulance service or other nontransporting emergency medical service that provides community paramedicine.

Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §86-A is enacted to read:

§86-A. Controlled substances

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, an ambulance service, nontransporting emergency medical service, community paramedicine service, emergency medical services person and community paramedicine clinician that are licensed by the board, or in the case of a community paramedicine service is authorized by the board, to provide advanced emergency medical treatment or community paramedicine, in accordance with rules adopted by the board, may procure, possess, administer and furnish controlled substances as defined in Title 22, section 2383-B, subsection 3, paragraph A. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 13, 2026.

**CHAPTER 655
H.P. 1458 - L.D. 2170**

**An Act to Correct
Inconsistencies, Conflicts and
Errors in the Laws of Maine**

Emergency preamble. **Whereas**, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, acts of this and previous Legislatures have resulted in certain technical inconsistencies, conflicts and errors in the laws of Maine; and

Whereas, these inconsistencies, conflicts and errors create uncertainties and confusion in interpreting legislative intent; and

Whereas, it is vitally necessary that these uncertainties and this confusion be resolved in order to prevent any injustice or hardship to the citizens of Maine; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

PART A

Sec. A-1. 5 MRSA §3232, first ¶, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. D, §12, is amended to read:

The office may ~~enter into~~ make financial assistance grants under the program only to the extent that funds are available. In making grants, the office shall consider the need for planning in a municipality or multimunicipal region, the proximity of the municipality or multimunicipal region to other areas that are conducting or have completed the planning process and the economic and geographic role of the municipality or multimunicipal region within a regional context. The office shall give priority in making grants to any municipality or multimunicipal region that has adopted a local climate action plan and, if the municipality or multimunicipal region has adopted a comprehensive plan or growth management program, prepared a climate vulnerability assessment ~~pursuant to Title 30-A, section 4326, subsection 1, paragraph L.~~ The office may consider other criteria in making grants, as long as the criteria support the goal of encouraging and facilitating the adoption and implementation of local and multimunicipal growth management programs consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in this subchapter.

Sec. A-2. 5 MRSA §4612, sub-§4, ¶B, as amended by PL 1991, c. 99, §30, is further amended by amending subparagraph (3) to read:

(3) In unlawful public accommodations discrimination, that such discrimination is causing inconvenience to many persons; and

Sec. A-3. 5 MRSA §7051, sub-§7, as amended by PL 2021, c. 601, §2, is further amended to read:

7. Dismissal and disciplinary action. Except as provided in subsection 5, an appointing authority may dismiss, suspend or otherwise discipline an employee in the classified service for cause. This right is subject to the right of appeal and arbitration of grievances set forth in the applicable labor contract, in sections 7081 to 7084 or by civil service rule; and sections 7081 to 7084 apply to any employee who has satisfactorily completed an initial probationary period. This subsection does not apply to unclassified employees listed in section 931, nor does this subsection in any way limit the collective bargaining rights of classified and unclassified employees. This subsection does not apply to an employee appointed to a major policy-influencing position listed in sections 932 to ~~953~~ 952 and sections 958 to 960.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the head of any institution under the control of the Department of Health and Human Services as the appointing authority may suspend with pay any employee who is charged by indictment with the commission of a criminal offense involving acts alleged to have been perpetrated upon any resident or residents of any such institution. Any suspension with pay may be authorized by the appointing authority only when to permit the employee to remain on duty at the institution would be against the best interest of any one or more of the residents of the institution, and authorization for suspension with pay applies only during the pendency of the criminal proceedings in the trial court, but not longer than 30 working days. Sections 7081 to 7084 do not apply to suspension with pay ordered by the appointing authority under this paragraph.

Sec. A-4. 5 MRSA §7064, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2003, c. 177, §1, is further amended to read:

2. Eligibility of unclassified employees for classified service. In addition to any other provisions in this chapter, unclassified employees listed in section 931, subsection 1, paragraph H, and other unclassified employees, except those cited in section 931, subsection 1, paragraphs A to G, and ~~paragraphs I and J~~, and in sections 932 to ~~953~~ 952 and sections 958 to 960, are eligible for appointment to the classified service on the same basis as other members of the classified service.

Sec. A-5. 5 MRSA §13056-E, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. D, §17, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

Subject to the limitations of this subsection, 2 or more municipalities that each meet the requirements of subparagraph (1), divisions (a), (b) ~~or~~ and

(c) may jointly apply for assistance under this section; and

Sec. A-6. 5 MRSA §17804, sub-§5-F, as amended by PL 2021, c. 548, §25, is further amended to read:

5-F. Change of beneficiary. If the recipient of a service retirement benefit has elected an optional method of payment under subsection 3, 4, ~~5~~, 5-A, 5-B, 5-C, 5-D or 5-E and has designated someone other than a spouse or ex-spouse as sole beneficiary, the recipient is permitted a one-time change in the designated beneficiary except as provided in paragraph D, but may not change the already elected payment option or the amount of the benefits under that option, by filing a written designation of the new beneficiary, duly acknowledged, with the chief executive officer on a form provided or specified by the retirement system. The change of beneficiary permitted by this subsection may only be made prior to the death of the prior designated beneficiary.

A. The benefit payable to the recipient and the new beneficiary must be paid under the same payment option. The amount of the recipient's benefit may not change, and the amount of the new beneficiary's benefit must be the same as the amount of the prior beneficiary's benefit.

B. The effective date of the designation of the new beneficiary is the date the designation is received by the chief executive officer. As of the first day of the month following the effective date of the designation of the new beneficiary, the prior beneficiary is no longer entitled to any benefit payment and, if concurrent payment under subsection 5-B has been elected, the new beneficiary's benefit must become effective on the same date.

C. The new beneficiary's entitlement to benefits ceases on the earlier of:

(1) The date of the new beneficiary's death; and

(2) The date established when the amount of the prior beneficiary's benefit was established, which is the initial commencement date of benefits to the retiree increased by the life expectancy of the prior beneficiary computed in years and months using actuarial equivalence assumptions recommended by the system's actuary.

Payment of benefits to the new beneficiary must cease as of the first day of the month following the earlier of subparagraphs (1) and (2).

D. A recipient who exercises a one-time option under this subsection may revert back to the original designated beneficiary, who will be treated as the new beneficiary for purposes of paragraphs A to C.

Sec. A-7. 5 MRSA §18404, sub-§5-F, as amended by PL 2021, c. 548, §41, is further amended to read:

5-F. Change of beneficiary. If the recipient of a service retirement benefit has elected an optional method of payment under subsection 3, 4, 5, 5-A, 5-B, 5-C, 5-D or 5-E and has designated someone other than a spouse or ex-spouse as sole beneficiary, the recipient is permitted a one-time change in the designated beneficiary except as provided in paragraph D, but may not change the already elected payment option or the amount of the benefits under that option, by filing a written designation of the new beneficiary, duly acknowledged with the chief executive officer on a form provided or specified by the retirement system. The change of beneficiary permitted by this subsection may only be made prior to the death of the prior designated beneficiary.

A. The benefit payable to the recipient and the new beneficiary must be paid under the same payment option. The amount of the recipient's benefit may not change, and the amount of the new beneficiary's benefit must be the same as the amount of the prior beneficiary's benefit.

B. The effective date of the designation of the new beneficiary is the date the designation is received by the chief executive officer. As of the first day of the month following the effective date of the designation of the new beneficiary, the prior beneficiary is no longer entitled to any benefit payment and, if concurrent payment under subsection 5-B has been elected, the new beneficiary's benefit must become effective on the same date.

C. The new beneficiary's entitlement to benefits ceases on the earlier of:

- (1) The date of the new beneficiary's death; or
- (2) The date established when the amount of the prior beneficiary's benefit was established, which is the initial commencement date of benefits to the retiree increased by the life expectancy of the prior beneficiary computed in years and months using actuarial equivalence assumptions recommended by the system's actuary.

Payment of benefits to the new beneficiary must cease as of the first day of the month following the earlier of subparagraphs (1) and (2).

D. A recipient who exercises a one-time option under this subsection may revert back to the original designated beneficiary, who will be treated as the new beneficiary for purposes of paragraphs A to C.

Sec. A-8. 6 MRSA §205, sub-§7, as amended by PL 2009, c. 447, §4, is further amended to read:

7. Evidence. The drug concentration in the defendant's blood or the defendant's alcohol level at the time alleged, as shown by the chemical analysis of the defendant's blood, breath or urine or by results of a self-contained, breath-alcohol testing apparatus authorized by subsection 5, is admissible in evidence.

When a person, certified under subsection 5, conducts a chemical analysis of blood or breath to determine alcohol level, the person may issue a certificate stating the results of the analysis. That certificate, when duly signed and sworn to by the certified person, is admissible in evidence in any court of the State. It is prima facie evidence that the person taking a specimen of blood or urine was a person authorized by subsection 5; that the equipment, chemicals and other materials used in the taking of the blood or urine specimen or a breath sample were of a quality appropriate for the purpose of producing reliable test results; that any equipment, chemicals or materials required by subsection 5 to be approved by the Department of Health and Human Services were in fact approved; that the sample tested by the person certified under subsection 5 was in fact the same sample taken from the defendant; and that the drug concentration in the defendant's blood or the defendant's alcohol level was, at the time the blood or breath sample was taken, as stated in the certificate, unless, with 10 days' written notice to the prosecution, the defendant requests that a qualified witness testify as to any of the matters as to which the certificate constitutes prima facie evidence. The notice must specify those matters concerning which the defendant requests testimony.

A person certified under subsection 5 as qualified to operate a self-contained, breath-alcohol testing apparatus to determine the alcohol level may issue a certificate stating the results of the analysis. That certificate, when duly signed and sworn to by the certified person, is admissible in evidence in any court of the State. It is prima facie evidence that the defendant's alcohol level was, at the time the breath sample was taken, as stated in the certificate, unless, with 10 days' written notice to the prosecution, the defendant requests that the operator or other qualified witness testify as to the results of the analysis.

Transfer of sample specimens to and from a laboratory for purposes of analysis ~~is~~ must be by certified or registered mail and, when so made, is deemed to comply with all requirements regarding the continuity of custody of physical evidence.

The failure of a person to comply with the duty to submit to and complete a chemical test under section 204 is admissible in evidence on the issue of whether that person was under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs. If the law enforcement officer having probable cause to believe that the person operated or attempted to operate an aircraft while under the influence of intox-

indicating liquor or drugs fails to give either of the warnings required under subsection 2, the failure of the person to comply with the duty to submit to a chemical test is not admissible, except when a test was required pursuant to subsection 11. If a failure to submit to and complete a chemical test is not admitted into evidence, the court may inform the jury of the fact that no test result is available.

If a test result is not available for a reason other than failing to comply with the duty to submit to and complete a chemical test, the unavailability and the reason are admissible in evidence.

Sec. A-9. 8 MRSA §272-C, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2025, c. 390, Pt. B, §5, is further amended to read:

1. Establishment; deposits; rules. A licensee conducting live racing in the State shall establish a trust account for the benefit of the persons who race horses at that licensee's facility. ~~Except as provided by subsection 3, funds~~ Funds distributed to or retained by the licensee pursuant to sections 287, 289, 290, 292 and 298 and Title 7, section 91, less any administrative assessments pursuant to section 267-A, that must be used to pay or supplement harness racing purses must be deposited in that account and used exclusively to pay harness racing purses. The funds in a trust account established in accordance with this subsection are not considered to be property of the licensee, may not be pledged as security for the debts of the licensee and are not subject to attachment or execution by creditors of the licensee. The commission may adopt rules governing the handling of trust accounts, providing for the reallocation of trust account funds to other licensed commercial tracks in the event that a track ceases operation or cancels a significant number of race days, as determined by the commission, and governing the handling of harness racing purses at any commercial track that does not have a contract with a statewide association of horse owners, trainers and drivers. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. A-10. 11 MRSA §2-103, sub-§(4) is amended to read:

(4). In addition, Article ~~±~~ 1-A contains general definitions and principles of construction and interpretation applicable throughout this Article.

Sec. A-11. 11 MRSA §2-1103, sub-§(4), as enacted by PL 1991, c. 805, §4, is amended to read:

(4). In addition, Article ~~±~~ 1-A contains general definitions and principles of construction and interpretation applicable throughout this Article.

Sec. A-12. 11 MRSA §3-1103, sub-§(4), as enacted by PL 1993, c. 293, Pt. A, §2, is amended to read:

(4). In addition, Article ~~±~~ 1-A contains general definitions and principles of construction and interpretation applicable throughout this Article.

Sec. A-13. 11 MRSA §4-104, sub-§(4) is amended to read:

(4). In addition, Article ~~±~~ 1-A contains general definitions and principles of construction and interpretation applicable throughout this Article.

Sec. A-14. 11 MRSA §4-1105, sub-§(4), as enacted by PL 1991, c. 812, §2, is amended to read:

(4). In addition, Article ~~±~~ 1-A contains general definitions and principles of construction and interpretation applicable throughout this Article.

Sec. A-15. 11 MRSA §5-1102, sub-§(3), as enacted by PL 1997, c. 429, Pt. A, §2 and affected by §4, is amended to read:

(3). Article ~~±~~ 1-A contains certain additional general definitions and principles of construction and interpretation applicable throughout this Article.

Sec. A-16. 11 MRSA §7-1102, sub-§(3), as enacted by PL 2009, c. 324, Pt. A, §2 and affected by §4, is amended to read:

(3). In addition, Article ~~±~~ 1-A contains general definitions and principles of construction and interpretation applicable throughout this Article.

Sec. A-17. 11 MRSA §8-1102, sub-§(3), as enacted by PL 1997, c. 429, Pt. B, §2, is amended to read:

(3). In addition, Article ~~±~~ 1-A contains general definitions and principles of construction and interpretation applicable throughout this Article.

Sec. A-18. 11 MRSA §9-1102, sub-§(72), ¶(f), as amended by PL 2013, c. 317, Pt. A, §7, is further amended to read:

(f). A person that holds a security interest arising under section 2-401, section 2-505, section 2-711, subsection (3), section 2-1508, subsection (5), section 4-210, or ~~5-118~~ section 5-1118.

Sec. A-19. 11 MRSA §9-1102, last ¶, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 699, Pt. A, §2 and affected by §4, is amended to read:

Article ~~±~~ 1-A contains general definitions and principles of construction and interpretation applicable throughout this Article.

Sec. A-20. 12 MRSA §11401, sub-§2, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 333, §12, is amended to read:

C. Establish a 2-day youth deer hunting period, to be held on the Friday and Saturday preceding the Saturday designated as an open day for residents of the State pursuant to this section ~~11401~~.

Sec. A-21. 14 MRSA §4426, first ¶, as amended by PL 2021, c. 382, §3, is further amended to read:

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in 11 United States Code, Section 522(b), a debtor may exempt from property of the debtor's estate under 11 United States Code only that property exempt under 11 United States Code, Section 522(b)(3)(A) and (B), except that any debtor eligible for a residence exemption under section 4422, subsection 1, paragraph ~~A~~ B may exempt the amount allowed in that paragraph.

Sec. A-22. 14 MRSA §6203-H, sub-§4, ¶A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 92, §4, is further amended to read:

A. An option contract for the purchase of real property or rent-to-own real property may be terminated only pursuant to the eviction process set forth in chapter 709 if:

- (1) The vendor has entered into not more than one contract in any calendar year or 2 contracts in any 5-year period;
- (2) The option contract for the purchase of real property or rent-to-own real property does not require an initial payment of more than 4 times the monthly rent charged for the real property;
- (3) The option contract for the purchase of real property or rent-to-own real property requires the vendor to maintain the real property pursuant to the provisions of section 6021, unless a waiver pursuant to the provisions of section 6021, subsection 5 has been entered into, the provisions of section 6021-A and, if applicable, the provisions of Title 10, section 9099, unless a waiver pursuant to Title 10, section 9099, subsection 4 has been entered into; and
- (4) The vendor has otherwise complied with the requirements of this section.

Sec. A-23. 15 MRSA §3301, sub-§7, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 431, §13, is amended to read:

B. The criminal violation of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs or with an excessive alcohol level, as described under Title 29-A, section 2411, and offenses defined in Title 29-A as Class B or C crimes.

Sec. A-24. 22 MRSA §1597-A, sub-§6, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 573, §2, is amended by amending subparagraph (5) to read:

- (5) That, if the court does not grant the minor majority rights for the purpose of consent to the abortion, the court should find that the abortion is in the best interest of the minor and give judicial consent to the abortion; and

Sec. A-25. 22 MRSA §1597-A, sub-§6, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 573, §2, is amended by re-allocating subparagraph (7) to 22 MRSA §1597-A, sub-§6, ¶A, sub-¶6.

Sec. A-26. 22 MRSA §1715, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2017, c. 475, Pt. A, §29, is further amended to read:

1. Access requirements. Any person, including, but not limited to, an affiliated interest as defined in former section 396-L, that is subject to the requirements of this subsection, shall provide the services listed in paragraph C to individuals who are eligible for charity care in accordance with a charity care policy adopted by the affiliate or provider that is consistent with rules applicable to hospitals under section 1716. A person is subject to this subsection if that person:

A. Is either a direct provider of major ambulatory service, as defined in former section 382, subsection 8-A, or is or has been required to obtain a certificate of need under section 329 or former section 304 or 304-A;

B. Provides outpatient services as defined in former section 382, subsection 9-A; and

C. Provides one or more of the following services:

(1) Imaging services, including, but not limited to, magnetic resonance imaging, computerized tomography, mammography and radiology. For purposes of this section, imaging services do not include:

(a) Screening procedures that are not related to the diagnosis or treatment of a specific condition; or

(b) Services when:

(i) The services are owned by a community health center, a physician or group of physicians;

(ii) The services are offered solely to the patients of that center, physician or group of physicians; and

(iii) Referrals for the purpose of performing those services are not accepted from other physicians;

(2) Laboratory services performed by a hospital or by a medical laboratory licensed in accordance with the Maine Medical Laboratory Commission, or licensed by an equivalent out-of-state licensing authority, excluding those licensed laboratories owned by community health centers, a physician or group of physicians where the laboratory services are offered solely to the patients of that center, physician or group of physicians;

(3) Cardiac diagnostic services, including, but not limited to, cardiac catheterization and angiography but excluding electrocardiograms and electrocardiograph stress testing;

(4) Lithotripsy services;

(5) Services provided by free-standing ambulatory surgery facilities certified to participate in the Medicare program; or

(6) Any other service performed in an outpatient setting requiring the purchase of medical equipment costing in the aggregate \$500,000 or more and for which the charge per unit of service is \$250 or more.

Sec. A-27. 22 MRSA §1715, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2025, c. 488, §1 and affected by §8, is further amended to read:

1. Access requirements. Any person, including, but not limited to, an affiliated interest as defined in former section 396-L, that is subject to the requirements of this subsection; shall provide the services listed in paragraph C to individuals who are eligible for charity care in accordance with a charity care policy adopted by the affiliate or provider that is consistent with requirements applicable to hospitals under section 1716-A and any rules adopted pursuant to section 1716-A. A person is subject to this subsection if that person:

A. Is either a direct provider of major ambulatory service, as defined in former section 382, subsection 8-A, or is or has been required to obtain a certificate of need under section 329 or former section 304 or 304-A;

B. Provides outpatient services as defined in former section 382, subsection 9-A; and

C. Provides one or more of the following services:

(1) Imaging services, including, but not limited to, magnetic resonance imaging, computerized tomography, mammography and radiology. For purposes of this section, imaging services do not include:

(a) Screening procedures that are not related to the diagnosis or treatment of a specific condition; or

(b) Services when:

(i) The services are owned by a community health center, a physician or group of physicians;

(ii) The services are offered solely to the patients of that center, physician or group of physicians; and

(iii) Referrals for the purpose of performing those services are not accepted from other physicians;

(2) Laboratory services performed by a hospital or by a medical laboratory licensed by the department or licensed by an equivalent out-of-state licensing authority, excluding those licensed laboratories owned by community health centers, by a physician or by a group of physicians at which the laboratory services are offered solely to the patients of that center, physician or group of physicians;

(3) Cardiac diagnostic services, including, but not limited to, cardiac catheterization and angiography but excluding electrocardiograms and electrocardiograph stress testing;

(4) Lithotripsy services;

(5) Services provided by free-standing ambulatory surgery facilities certified to participate in the Medicare program; or

(6) Any other service performed in an outpatient setting requiring the purchase of medical equipment costing in the aggregate \$500,000 or more and for which the charge per unit of service is \$250 or more.

Sec. A-28. Effective date. That section of this Part that amends the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 1715, subsection 1, as amended by Public Law 2025, chapter 488, section 1 and affected by section 8, takes effect July 1, 2026.

Sec. A-29. 22 MRSA §2842, sub-§2-A, as amended by PL 2009, c. 601, §25 and PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is further amended to read:

2-A. Medical certification. Notwithstanding subsection 2, with respect to a person who dies within the State naturally and for whom the physician, nurse practitioner or physician associate was the attending health care provider, the medical certification of the cause of death may be completed and signed by a physician, nurse practitioner or physician associate authorized to practice at the United States Department of Veterans Affairs at Togus or at another federal medical facility within the State or by a physician, an advanced practice registered nurse or physician associate licensed to practice in New Hampshire, Vermont or Massachusetts who, at the request of the Chief Medical Examiner, is willing to do so.

Sec. A-30. 22 MRSA §2843, 2nd ¶, as amended by PL 2023, c. 676, §11, is further amended to read:

The State Registrar of Vital Statistics or a municipal clerk may issue a permit for final disposition by cremation, burial at sea, use by medical science, natural organic reduction or removal from the State only upon receipt of a certificate by a duly appointed medicolegal death investigator or medical examiner as specified in section 2900-A, subsection 8 or Title 32, section 1405 or section 2900-A, subsection 8.

Sec. A-31. 24-A MRSA §1443-A, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 457, §23 and affected by §55, is amended by amending subparagraph (4) to read:

(4) An insurer or insurance producer or consultant utilizing space in the retail area of a financial institution or credit union authorized to do business in this State or of a financial institution holding company or an institution listed in subparagraph (1) in order to engage in the transaction of insurance when payments for use of the space are made to the ~~that~~ institution pursuant to a space-sharing agreement based directly or indirectly upon a percentage of the volume of business conducted by the insurer, insurance agent, broker or consultant.

Sec. A-32. 24-A MRSA §2003, sub-§7, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 331, §3 and affected by §§16 and 17, is amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read:

(2) If 100% of the insured risk is located out of the state referred to in subparagraph ~~±~~ (1), the state to which the greatest percentage of the insured's taxable premium for that insurance contract is allocated; or

Sec. A-33. 25 MRSA §2803-B, sub-§1, ¶O, as amended by PL 2025, c. 219, §2 and c. 344, §2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

O. By January 1, 2024, the confidentiality of attorney-client communications, which must include, at a minimum, processes to protect and ensure confidentiality of attorney-client communications and processes to be followed in the event that there is a breach of attorney-client confidentiality;

Sec. A-34. 25 MRSA §2803-B, sub-§1, ¶P, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 219, §3, is amended to read:

P. By January 1, 2026, requirements for the law enforcement agency to assist a prosecuting agency in complying with the prosecuting agency's constitutional obligations under *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963) and *Giglio v. United States*, 405 U.S. 150 (1972); ~~and~~

Sec. A-35. 25 MRSA §2803-B, sub-§1, ¶P, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 344, §3, is reallocated to 25 MRSA §2803-B, sub-§1, ¶R.

Sec. A-36. 25 MRSA §2803-B, sub-§1, ¶Q, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 219, §4, is amended to read:

Q. By January 1, 2026, requirements for the law enforcement agency to comply with mandatory disclosures to the Maine Criminal Justice Academy; ~~and~~

Sec. A-37. 26 MRSA §1192-A, sub-§1, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 235, §11, is amended by amending subparagraph (5) to read:

(5) The unemployed individual is performing either a military or civil duty as required by law; ~~and or~~

Sec. A-38. 26 MRSA §2066, sub-§1, ¶F, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 396, §12, is amended to read:

F. Conduct outreach to communities with disproportionately low enrollment in unemployment insurance and reemployment assistance. The program shall provide individual assistance, education and referrals for individuals applying for and making ongoing claims for unemployment compensation, including offering assistance connecting with department staff and coaching on self-advocacy for claimants experiencing barriers to services. The program shall inform individuals about provisions of law that may assist low-income and frequently unemployed individuals disproportionately, including the dislocated worker benefits program under section ~~1043~~ 1196, subsection 5, ~~paragraph B~~ 1-A and section 1191, subsection 4, paragraph A, partial unemployment benefits and reemployment services; and

Sec. A-39. 30-A MRSA §4326, sub-§3-A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. D, §34 and repealed by c. 393, §34, is repealed.

Sec. A-40. 30-A MRSA §4326, sub-§3-B, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 393, §34, is amended to read:

D. A future land use plan is not required to identify growth areas within the municipality or multimunicipal region for residential, commercial or industrial growth if the municipality or multimunicipal region demonstrates, in its comprehensive plan and in accordance with rules adopted by the department pursuant to this article, that:

(1) It is not possible to accommodate future residential, commercial or industrial growth within the municipality or multimunicipal region because of severe physical limitations, including, without limitation, the lack of adequate water supply and sewage disposal services, very shallow soils or limitations imposed by protected natural resources;

(2) The municipality or multimunicipal region has experienced minimal or no residential, commercial or industrial development over the past decade and this condition is expected to continue over the 10-year planning period; or

(3) The municipality or multimunicipal region has no downtown or densely developed area.

A municipality or multimunicipal region exercising the discretion afforded by this paragraph shall review the basis for its demonstration during the periodic revisions undertaken pursuant to Title 5, section ~~4347-A~~ 3233.

Sec. A-41. 30-A MRSA §4346, as repealed by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. D, §35 and amended by c. 393, §§35 and 36, is repealed.

Sec. A-42. 30-A MRSA §4347-A, as repealed by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. D, §35 and amended by c. 393, §§37 to 44, is repealed.

Sec. A-43. 30-A MRSA §4364, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2025, c. 385, §4 and affected by §23 and amended by c. 388, Pt. D, §36, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. Density requirements. A municipality shall allow an affordable housing development where multi-family dwellings are allowed to have a dwelling unit density of at least 2 1/2 times the base density that is otherwise allowed in that location and may not require more than 2 off-street parking spaces for every 3 units. The development must be in a designated growth area of a municipality consistent with Title 5, section 3234, subsection 1, paragraph A or B or the development must be served by a public, special district or other centrally managed water system and a public, special district or other comparable sewer system. The development must comply with minimum lot size requirements in accordance with Title 12, chapter 423-A, as applicable.

Sec. A-44. 30-A MRSA §4364-A, sub-§1, as repealed and replaced by PL 2025, c. 385, §7 and affected by §23 and amended by c. 388, Pt. D, §37, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

1. Use allowed. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, except Title 12, chapter 423-A, for any area in which residential uses are allowed, including as a conditional use, a municipality shall allow at a minimum:

A. Three dwelling units, attached or detached, including accessory dwelling units, per lot; and

B. Four dwelling units, attached or detached, including accessory dwelling units, per lot if the lot is located in a designated growth area within a municipality consistent with Title 5, section 3234, subsection 1, paragraph A or B or served by a public, special district or other centrally managed water system and a public, special district or other comparable sewer system.

A municipality may allow more units than the minimum number required by this subsection.

Sec. A-45. 30-A MRSA §4364-E, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 364, §2 and reallocated by RR 2025, c. 1, Pt. A, §42, is amended to read:

6. Rulemaking. The state agency responsible for administering the Housing Opportunity Program established in Title 5, section ~~13056~~ 3241 may adopt rules to administer and enforce this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. A-46. 32 MRSA §3270-G, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 627, Pt. B, §17 and amended by PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is further amended to read:

4. Consultation. A physician associate shall, as indicated by a patient's condition, the education, competencies and experience of the physician associate and the standards of care, consult with, collaborate with or refer the patient to an appropriate physician or other health care professional. The level of consultation required under this subsection is determined by the practice setting, including a physician employer, physician group practice, or private practice, or by the system of credentialing and granting of privileges of a health care facility. A physician ~~must~~ shall be accessible to the physician associate at all times for consultation. Consultation may occur electronically or through telecommunication and includes communication, task sharing and education among all members of a health care team.

Sec. A-47. 34-B MRSA §3012, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 349, §1, is amended to read:

3. Access to state mental health institute records. In addition to the agency's authority to access records under Title 5, chapter 511 and notwithstanding ~~subsection~~ section 1207, the agency contracted under subsection 2 may access medical records of individuals with serious mental illness who are hospitalized in a state mental health institute as defined in section 3801, subsection 9 when necessary to provide advocacy services as authorized under Title 5.

Sec. A-48. 34-B MRSA §3801, sub-§4-A, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 651, §4, is amended to read:

D. For the purposes of section 3873-A, in view of the person's treatment history, current behavior and inability to make an informed decision, a reasonable likelihood that the person's mental health will deteriorate and that the person will in the foreseeable future pose a likelihood of serious harm as defined in ~~paragraphs~~ paragraph A, B or C.

Sec. A-49. 36 MRSA §1545, first ¶, as amended by PL 2025, c. 113, Pt. D, §81, is further amended to read:

All timber and grass acreage forfeited under section 1544 must be held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people of Maine and must be held by the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry subject to the same powers and responsibilities as apply to other lands in the director's custody.

Sec. A-50. 36 MRSA §1546, first ¶, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 339, §16 and amended by PL 1995, c. 502, Pt. E, §30, PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §7 and PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §24, is further amended to read:

The Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall cause a division to be made, if found necessary from time to time, of the public reserved lots ~~which that~~ have been partially forfeited, and shall set off and hold the forfeited portions for the benefit of the people of Maine, as provided for in section 1545.

Sec. A-51. 36 MRSA §4365-F, as amended by PL 2025, c. 367, §§16 and 17 and affected by §20 and repealed by c. 388, Pt. E, §2 and affected by §6, is repealed.

Sec. A-52. 38 MRSA §3107, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2025, c. 241, §5, is further amended to read:

1. Commingling requirement. If initiators of deposit enter into a commingling agreement pursuant to this section, commingling of beverage containers must be by all containers of like deposit value, product group, material and size. Initiators of deposit may not require dealers or redemption centers to further sort containers that belong to the commingling group. This subsection does not prevent further commingling of containers if requested by the responsible commingling group or the cooperative. An initiator of deposit required pursuant to section 3106, subsection ~~8 or~~ 8-A to pick up beverage containers subject to a commingling agreement also shall pick up all other beverage containers subject to the same agreement. A dealer or redemption center that processes beverage containers using a reverse vending machine or account-based bulk processing program is not required to sort material by color, in accordance with subsection 2, paragraphs E to H, deposit value or size but must comply with the requirements of section 3106, subsection 6.

Sec. A-53. 38 MRSA §3113, first ¶, as amended by PL 2023, c. 482, §32, is further amended to read:

A license issued annually by the department is required before any person may initiate deposits under section 3103, operate a redemption center under section 3109 or act as a contracted agent for the collection of beverage containers under section 3106, subsection ~~8 or~~ 8-A.

Sec. A-54. 39-A MRSA §309, sub-§3, as corrected by RR 2025, c. 1, Pt. B, §10, is amended to read:

3. Witnesses; discovery. All witnesses must be sworn. Sworn written evidence may not be admitted unless the author is available for cross-examination or subject to subpoena; except that sworn statements by a medical doctor or osteopathic physician relating to medical questions, by a psychologist relating to psychological questions, by a chiropractor relating to chiropractic questions, by a certified nurse practitioner who qualifies as an advanced practice registered nurse relating to advanced practice registered nursing questions or by a physician associate relating to ~~physician assistance~~

questions pertaining to the business of a physician associate are admissible in workers' compensation hearings only if notice of the testimony to be used is given and service of a copy of the letter or report is made on the opposing counsel 14 days before the scheduled hearing.

Depositions or subpoenas of health care practitioners who have submitted sworn written evidence are permitted only if the administrative law judge finds that the testimony is sufficiently important to outweigh the delay in the proceeding.

The board may establish procedures for the prefiling of summaries of the testimony of any witness in written form. In all proceedings before the board or its designee, discovery beyond that specified in this section is available only upon application to the board, which may approve the application in the exercise of its discretion.

Sec. A-55. 39-A MRSA §309, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 885, Pt. A, §8 and affected by §§9 to 11, is amended to read:

4. Contempts before board. A person may not, in proceedings before the board: disobey or resist any lawful order, process or writ; misbehave during a hearing or so near the place of hearing as to obstruct the hearing; neglect to produce, after having been ordered to do so, any pertinent document; or refuse to appear after having been subpoenaed or, upon appearing, refuse to be examined according to law.

If any person violates this subsection, the board shall certify the facts to a Justice of the Superior Court in the county where the alleged offense occurred and the justice may serve or cause to be served on that person an order requiring that person to appear before the justice on a day certain to show cause why the person should not be adjudged in contempt by reason of the facts so certified. The justice shall, upon the appearance of that person, in a summary manner, hear the evidence as to the acts complained of and, if it is such as to warrant doing so, punish that person in the same manner and to the same extent as for a contempt committed before the justice, or commit that person on the same conditions as if the doing of the forbidden act had occurred with reference to the process of the Superior Court or in the presence of the justice.

PART B

Sec. B-1. 5 MRSA §3233, sub-§4, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. D, §12, is amended to read:

C. Within ~~35~~ 10 business days after receiving the comprehensive plan, notify the municipality or multimunicipal region if the plan is complete for purposes of review. If the office notifies the municipality or multimunicipal region that the plan is not complete for purposes of review, the office shall indicate in its notice necessary additional data or information;

Sec. B-2. 5 MRSA §3233, sub-§4, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. D, §12, is amended to read:

D. Within ~~40~~ 35 business days of issuing notification that a comprehensive plan is complete for purposes of review, issue findings specifically describing whether the submitted plan is consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, chapter 187, subchapter 2 and identify which inconsistencies in the plan, if any, may directly affect rate of growth, zoning or impact fee ordinances.

(1) In its findings, the office shall clearly indicate its position on any point on which there are significant conflicts among the written comments submitted to the office.

(2) If the office finds that the comprehensive plan was developed in accordance with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, chapter 187, subchapter 2, the office shall issue a finding of consistency for the comprehensive plan.

(3) A finding of inconsistency must identify the goals under Title 30-A, chapter 187, subchapter 2 not adequately addressed, specific sections of the rules relating to comprehensive plan review adopted by the office not adequately addressed and recommendations for resolving the inconsistency;

Sec. B-3. 5 MRSA §3233, sub-§4, ¶F, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. D, §12, is amended to read:

F. Provide ample opportunity for the municipality or multimunicipal region submitting a comprehensive plan to respond to and ~~correct any identified deficiencies in the plan~~ revise the plan to be consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, chapter 187, subchapter 2. A finding of inconsistency for a comprehensive plan may be addressed within 24 months of the date of the finding without addressing any new review standards that are created during that time interval. After 24 months, the plan must be resubmitted in its entirety for state review under the office's most current review standards.

Sec. B-4. 5 MRSA §3233, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. D, §12, is amended by amending the 3rd blocked paragraph to read:

A finding by the office pursuant to paragraph D that a comprehensive plan is consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, chapter 187, subchapter 2 is valid for 12 years from the date of its issuance. A finding by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry issued after January 1, 2013 that a comprehensive plan is consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, chapter 187, subchapter 2 is valid until December

12, 2028 or 12 years after the date of consistency determined by the department, whichever is later. For purposes of Title 30-A, section 4314, subsection 3 and Title 30-A, section 4352, subsection 2, expiration of a finding of consistency pursuant to this subsection does not itself make a comprehensive plan inconsistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in Title 30-A, chapter 187, subchapter 2.

PART C

Sec. C-1. 5 MRSA §4763, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 517, §1, is amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§4763. ~~Prohibited~~ Regulated activities

Sec. C-2. 5 MRSA §7039, as corrected by RR 2001, c. 2, Part A, §9, is amended to read:

§7039. Civil Service Law

The Civil Service Law consists of chapters ~~56-A~~, 65, 67, 68, 69, and 71 and this chapter. Whenever reference is made in statute or rule to the Civil Service Law, the chapters delineated in this section apply.

Sec. C-3. 9-B MRSA §131, sub-§22-B, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 315, §9, is amended to read:

22-B. Insurance agent ~~or agency~~ and insurance producer. "Insurance agent ~~or agency~~" means a person ~~engaged in the business of an insurance agent as defined and "insurance producer" have the same meaning as "insurance producer" in Title 24-A, section 1502 1402, subsection 5.~~

Sec. C-4. 9-B MRSA §131, sub-§22-C, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 315, §9, is repealed.

Sec. C-5. 9-B MRSA §427, sub-§3, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is amended to read:

C. ~~Nothing contained in this~~ This subsection shall be deemed may not be construed to modify or otherwise affect Title 11, section 1-201, subsection 25 or Title 11, section 3-304, nor 1-1202, 3-1302, 3-1304 or 3-1307 or to relieve such a drawee financial institution from any liability imposed upon it by law to the extent of any payment or amount which such that the institution may receive for its benefit from any of such checks drawn or endorsed as described in paragraph A or funds represented thereby by those checks.

Sec. C-6. 9-B MRSA §448, as amended by PL 1999, c. 790, Pt. A, §10 and PL 2007, c. 273, Pt. B, §§5 and 6 and affected by §7 and c. 695, Pt. A, §47, is further amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§448. Insurance agency activities

Sec. C-7. 9-B MRSA §448, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 315, §17, is amended to read:

3. Customer notice that insurance is not federally guaranteed. An institution that engages in insurance ~~agency or brokerage~~ activities authorized under subsection 1 must provide customer notice regarding insurance products in the following manner.

A. The institution shall post conspicuously a notice that is clearly visible to all customers that may purchase insurance products from the institution. The notice must state in clearly understandable language that the insurance is not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or National Credit Union Administration, as applicable;

B. When a prospective purchaser of insurance is directly and personally contacted by the institution, the institution shall orally inform that prospective purchaser of insurance that the insurance product is not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or National Credit Union Administration, as applicable; and

C. Before the sale of an insurance product is completed the institution must obtain a written statement signed by the purchaser of insurance that the purchaser received the oral notice required by paragraph B.

Sec. C-8. 12 MRSA §6025, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1985, c. 785, Pt. B, §67, is further amended to read:

1. Appointment. Applicants for the position of a marine patrol officer who qualify under the officer's code and pass the examination administered by the Bureau of Human Resources may be appointed by the commissioner to hold office under ~~Title 5, chapters 51 to 67~~ the Civil Service Law and under the officer's code.

Sec. C-9. 24-A MRSA §4362, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1969, c. 132, §1 and amended by PL 1973, c. 585, §12, is further amended to read:

3. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no bond shall be required of the superintendent as a prerequisite for the issuance of any injunction or restraining order pursuant to ~~this section~~ subsection 1 or 2.

Sec. C-10. 24-A MRSA §4362, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 17, §3, is amended to read:

4. Notwithstanding subsections 1, and 2 or ~~3~~ or any provision of this chapter to the contrary, a person may not for more than 10 days be restrained, enjoined or prohibited from exercising or enforcing any right or cause of action under any pledge, security, credit, collateral, loan, advance, reimbursement, guarantee agreement or arrangement or any similar agreement, arrangement or other credit enhancement to which a federal home loan bank is a party.

Sec. C-11. 26 MRSA §852, as corrected by RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §34, is amended to read:

§852. Employment of replacements prohibited

A person, partnership, union, agency, firm or corporation or officer, employee or agent thereof may not recruit, procure, supply or refer any person for employment who customarily and repeatedly offers to accept employment in place of any employee involved in a labor, strike or lockout in which that person, partnership, union, agency, firm or corporation is not directly involved.

Sec. C-12. 26 MRSA §853, as corrected by RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §35, is amended to read:

§853. Arrangements

A person, partnership, union, firm or corporation involved in a labor, strike or lockout may not, directly or indirectly, employ in the place of an employee involved in that strike or lockout any person who customarily and repeatedly offers to accept employment in the place of employees involved in a labor strike or lockout or contract or arrange with any other person, partnership, union, agency, firm or corporation to recruit, procure, supply or refer persons for employment who customarily and repeatedly offer to accept employment in place of employees involved in a labor, strike or lockout.

Sec. C-13. 26 MRSA §854, as corrected by RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §36, is amended to read:

§854. Offers

A person who customarily and repeatedly offers to accept employment in place of employees involved in a labor, strike or lockout may not take or offer to take the place of employment of any employee involved in a labor, strike or lockout.

Sec. C-14. 26 MRSA §855, as corrected by RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §37, is amended to read:

§855. Evidence

It is prima facie evidence that a person customarily and repeatedly offers to accept employment in place of employees involved in a labor, strike or lockout if the person has 2 times before offered to take the place of employment of persons involved in labor, strikes or lockouts.

Sec. C-15. 33 MRSA §1603-117, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 699, is amended to read:

(a) A judgment for money against the association, if a lien order is filed with the ~~Register of Deeds~~ register of deeds of the county where the condominium is located, as provided in Title 14, section ~~3132, as it or its equivalent may be amended or modified from time to time~~ 3131, subsection 9, paragraph B, is not a lien on the common elements, but is a lien in favor of the judgment lienholder against all of the units in the condominium at the time the judgment was entered. ~~No other~~ Other property of a unit owner is not subject to the claims of creditors of the association.

Sec. C-16. 34-B MRSA §3613, as repealed and replaced by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. YY, §1 and repealed by c. 390, Pt. A, §55, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§3613. Crisis receiving centers

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "crisis receiving center" means a center that provides immediate and short-term walk-in access to an array of both clinical and nonclinical mental health and substance use disorder crisis stabilization services to all individuals seeking care regardless of acuity or insurance coverage and within bounds of licensing.

2. Department to develop plan and serve as coordinator. The department shall develop a plan for a network of community-based crisis receiving centers across the State to support both clinical and nonclinical mental health and substance use disorder crisis stabilization services. The department shall also coordinate meetings, technical assistance and training and provide other assistance to help create, maintain and, as necessary, expand the network.

3. Guidelines. In carrying out its duties under subsection 2, the department shall:

A. Consult with law enforcement agencies, municipalities, public health experts, behavioral health care providers, other states and others as appropriate;

B. Assess geographical locations for maximization of community impact;

C. Provide technical assistance to persons and entities across the State and providers interested in joining the network;

D. Coordinate regular meetings with crisis receiving centers and provide technical assistance to crisis receiving centers; and

E. Engage in continual process improvement and planning updates.

Sec. C-17. 34-B MRSA §3614, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 675, §9 and reallocated by PL 2025, c. 390, Pt. A, §56, is repealed.

Sec. C-18. 38 MRSA §1303-C, sub-§40, as amended by PL 1989, c. 869, Pt. A, §5 and affected by §21, is further amended to read:

40. Waste facility. "Waste facility" means any land area, structure, location, equipment or combination of them, including dumps, used for handling hazardous, biomedical or solid waste, waste oil, sludge or septage. A land area or structure does not become a waste facility solely because:

A. It is used by its owner for disposing of septage from the owner's residence;

B. It is used to store for 90 days or less hazardous wastes generated on the same premises;

C. It is used by individual homeowners or lessees to open burn leaves, brush, deadwood and tree cuttings accrued from normal maintenance of their residential property, when such burning is permitted under Title 12, section 599 9325, subsection 3 1, paragraph F; or

~~D. It is used by its residential owner to burn highly combustible domestic, household trash such as paper, cardboard cartons or wood boxes, when such burning is permitted under section 599, subsection 3.~~

E. It is used by its residential owner to engage in out-of-door burning of wood wastes as defined in Title 12, section 9324, subsection 7-A and painted or unpainted wood from construction and demolition debris under Title 12, section 9325, subsection 1, paragraph E.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved, except as otherwise indicated.

Effective April 13, 2026, unless otherwise indicated.

CHAPTER 656

H.P. 1499 - L.D. 2222

An Act to Establish Municipal Cost Components for Unorganized Territory Services to Be Rendered in Fiscal Year 2026-27

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, prompt determination and certification of the municipal cost components in the Unorganized Territory Tax District are necessary to the establishment of a mill rate and the levy of the Unorganized Territory Educational and Services Tax; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. Municipal cost components for services rendered. In accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, chapter 115, the Legislature de-

termines that the net municipal cost component for services and reimbursements to be rendered in fiscal year 2026-27 is as follows:

Fiscal Administration - Office of the State Auditor	\$294,273
Education	\$16,828,325
Forest Fire Protection	\$120,000
Human Services - General Assistance	\$50,000
Property Tax Assessment	\$1,451,811
Maine Land Use Planning Commission	\$872,039
TOTAL STATE AGENCIES	\$19,616,448
County Reimbursements for Services	
Aroostook	\$2,878,848
Franklin	\$2,577,768
Hancock	\$219,007
Kennebec	\$37,375
Lincoln	\$65,082
Oxford	\$2,529,750
Penobscot	\$1,978,614
Piscataquis	\$2,112,825
Somerset	\$2,933,989
Washington	\$1,589,670
TOTAL COUNTY SERVICES	\$16,922,928
Unorganized Territories of Washington County Tax Anticipation Note Repayment	\$640,671
COUNTY TAX INCREMENT FINANCING DISTRIBUTIONS FROM FUND	
Tax Increment Financing Payments	\$4,208,306
TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	\$41,388,353
COMPUTATION OF ASSESSMENT	
Requirements	\$41,388,353
Less Revenue Deductions:	
General Revenue	
Municipal Revenue Sharing	\$600,000
Homestead Reimbursement	\$350,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$10,000
Use of Unassigned Fund Balance	\$2,517,668
TOTAL GENERAL REVENUE DEDUCTIONS	\$3,477,668
Education Revenue	
Land Reserved Trust Interest	\$110,000
Tuition and School Transportation Charges	\$150,000
Special - Teacher Retirement	\$341,561
Funding from State	

TOTAL EDUCATION REVENUE	\$601,561
DEDUCTIONS	

TOTAL REVENUE DEDUCTIONS	\$4,079,229

TAX ASSESSMENT BEFORE COUNTY TAXES	\$37,309,124
AND OVERLAY (Title 36, §1602)	

Sec. 2. Transfer of interest earnings; Office of State Auditor, Unorganized Territory Education and Services Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2026, the State Controller shall transfer \$640,671 from the interest earnings on the Federal Expenditures Fund - ARP State Fiscal Recovery Fund to the Office of the State Auditor, Unorganized Territory Education and Services Fund program, Other Special Revenue Funds account for a one-time prepayment for reimbursement of services in the unorganized territories of Washington County. The prepayment must be recovered through the municipal cost component of the unorganized territories of Washington County on or before June 30, 2027. Funding recovered for this purpose must be credited to the Federal Expenditures Fund - ARP State Fiscal Recovery Fund.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 657

S.P. 907 - L.D. 2224

An Act to Reduce Certain Costs Associated with Residential Construction

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §9722, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2025, c. 597, Pt. A, §9, is further amended to read:

2. Membership. The board consists of ~~12~~ 13 members, including the Director of the Efficiency Maine Trust, who serves ex officio and may not vote, and the following ~~11~~ 12 individuals, who are voting members appointed by the Governor:

A. The State Fire Marshal or a designee or a fire chief, recommended by the Maine Fire Chiefs' Association or its successor organization;

B. A municipal code enforcement officer employed by a municipality that is not a service center community under Title 30-A, chapter 187, recommended by the Maine Municipal Association or its successor organization;

C. A municipal code enforcement officer employed by a service center community under Title 30-A, chapter 187, recommended by the Maine Service Centers Coalition or its successor organization;

D. A residential builder recommended by a statewide or regional association of home builders and remodelers;

E. A commercial builder recommended by a statewide association of general contractors;

F. An architect licensed in the State who is accredited by a nationally recognized organization that administers credentialing programs related to environmentally sound building practices and standards, recommended by a statewide chapter of a national institute of architects;

G. A structural engineer licensed in the State, recommended by a statewide association of structural engineers;

H. A historic preservation representative, recommended by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, with experience implementing the standards for the treatment of historic properties set forth in 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 68 (2007), who is:

- (1) An architect licensed in the State;
- (2) A structural engineer licensed in the State; or
- (3) A builder;

I. An energy efficiency representative, recommended by the Commissioner of Energy Resources, who has experience or expertise in the design or implementation of energy codes or in the application of energy efficiency measures in residential or commercial construction;

J. A mechanical engineer licensed in the State, recommended by a statewide association of mechanical engineers; ~~and~~

K. A lumber material dealer or supplier, recommended by a statewide association of lumber dealers in the State; and

L. An affordable housing expert, recommended by a statewide association representing affordable housing interests.

A member appointed under this subsection must have at least 5 years' experience in the field that member is nominated to represent and must be employed in that field.

Sec. 2. Technical Building Codes and Standards Board; hoistway fire safety rulemaking; report. By September 1, 2026, the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board, established in the

Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 5-A, shall initiate rulemaking to remove any requirements in the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code for smoke and draft protection assemblies for elevator hoistway doors and remove requirements for 2-way emergency video communication systems in elevators. The board shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters on the outcome of rulemaking required by this section by January 15, 2027. The joint standing committee is authorized to submit legislation based on the board's report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Sec. 3. Office of State Fire Marshal to update standards in accordance with National Fire Protection Association standards update. The Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal shall update the state-adopted National Fire Protection Association standards by adopting the 2025 edition of the National Fire Protection Association 72: National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code.

Sec. 4. Office of State Fire Marshal to convene working group to study costs and life safety impacts of fire sprinklers and limited use limited application elevators; report. The Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal shall convene a working group, referred to in this section as "the working group," to study the housing and life safety impacts of residential fire sprinklers and the accessibility and life safety impacts of permitting limited use limited application elevators in 2-story and 3-story buildings. In conducting its work, the working group shall explore ways to lower the costs associated with the requirement that construction of residential housing include fire sprinkler systems.

1. The State Fire Marshal or the State Fire Marshal's designee shall invite the participation in the working group of the following persons: a representative from the fire sprinkler industry; a municipal fire safety officer; a representative from the housing development industry; and any additional persons considered necessary by the State Fire Marshal to ensure comprehensive stakeholder representation.

2. The working group shall:

A. Conduct a comprehensive review of the existing sprinkler system requirements for residential buildings with 3 or more units and the affiliated costs of the sprinkler systems;

B. Collect and analyze data on the housing and life safety impacts of residential fire sprinkler systems, including, but not limited to, the frequency of the presence of sprinkler systems in reported house fires and the estimated impact on financial loss and life safety impact;

C. Explore innovative incentives to reduce the associated costs of installing sprinkler systems in residential construction;

D. Develop recommendations for legislative and regulatory changes to reduce the costs of installing required residential sprinkler systems;

E. Conduct a comprehensive review of the existing elevator requirements and the affiliated costs for residential buildings with 4 or more units;

F. Collect and analyze data on the accessibility and life safety impacts of limited use limited application elevators in buildings with fewer than 4 stories; and

G. If determined appropriate by working group members, develop recommendations for legislative and regulatory changes to the codes and standards permitting limited use limited application elevators.

3. The Office of the State Fire Marshal shall provide staff assistance to the working group.

4. By January 15, 2027, the Office of the State Fire Marshal shall submit a report on the working group's findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters. The joint standing committee is authorized to submit legislation based on the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Sec. 5. Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation to report on rulemaking. No later than January 15, 2027, the Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters regarding the status of the adoption of rules for the elevator and tramway safety program within the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, section 15205-A, subsection 2. The committee is authorized to report out legislation related to the report required by this section to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 658

H.P. 1498 - L.D. 2223

An Act to Increase Funding for Construction Plan Reviews and Clarify Rule-making Authority for Municipal Reviews of Development

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2448-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2011, c. 94, §3, is further amended to read:

2. Registration. A municipality shall comply with all rules adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this section as a condition of registration. The commissioner shall register municipalities to grant permits for projects under subsection 1 if the commissioner finds that the municipality meets all of the following criteria.

A. A municipal building official has been appointed pursuant to section 2351-A.

B. The municipality has an employee that is certified as a plan reviewer by the National Fire Protection Association.

C. The municipality has adopted by reference the fire codes adopted by the Office of the State Fire Marshal pursuant to sections 2452 and 2465.

D. The municipality has adequate resources to administer and enforce the provisions of the fire codes under paragraph C.

E. The procedures for public hearing and notification have been established including:

(1) Notice to the commissioner upon receipt of an application, including a description of the project;

(2) Notice of issuance and denial to the applicant and commissioner, including the reason for denial;

(3) Public notification of the application and any hearings; and

(4) Procedures for public hearing.

F. The procedures for appeal of local decisions by aggrieved parties are defined.

G. A registration form, provided by the commissioner, has been completed and submitted by the municipality, demonstrating compliance with the criteria under this subsection.

H. The municipality is currently enforcing the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.

The Department of Public Safety shall publish on its publicly accessible website a list of those municipalities that are registered pursuant to this subsection.

Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §2448-A, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Memoranda of understanding. The commissioner may enter into a memorandum of understanding with any municipality to facilitate the purposes of this section.

Sec. 3. 25 MRSA §2448-A, sub-§11 is enacted to read:

11. Rulemaking. The commissioner may adopt rules to implement, administer and enforce the provisions of this section, including, but not limited to, procedures for registration, suspension and revocation of registrations, notifications, technical assistance and appeals. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 4. 25 MRSA §2450, first ¶, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. MMMMM, §1, is further amended to read:

The Commissioner of Public Safety shall adopt, in accordance with requirements of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, a schedule of fees for the examination of all plans for construction, reconstruction or repairs submitted to the Department of Public Safety. The fee schedule for new construction, reconstruction, repairs or renovations is ~~1.5/10~~ 1/5 of 1% of the cost to construct or reconstruct the portion of the project that is subject to State Fire Marshal review. Except for projects reviewed by a municipality pursuant to section 2448-A, the fees must be credited to a special revenue account to defray expenses in carrying out this section. Any balance of the fees may not lapse, but must be carried forward as a continuing account to be expended for the same purpose in the following fiscal years. For projects reviewed by a municipality that include occupied spaces, a 1¢ fee per square foot must be remitted to the Department of Public Safety and a 4¢ fee per square foot must be paid to the municipality.

Sec. 5. 32 MRSA §1377, first ¶, as amended by PL 1997, c. 728, §36, is further amended to read:

Prior to construction of any fire sprinkler system, or prior to an addition involving more than 20 new sprinkler heads to a fire sprinkler system, regulated by the National Fire Protection Association, Pamphlet No. 13, as amended, a fire sprinkler system contractor shall obtain a permit from the commissioner ~~who or a municipality registered pursuant to Title 25, section 2448-A.~~ The commissioner or the registered municipality shall review the plan for construction or addition and charge a reasonable fee for the review and permitting process. All plans to be submitted by a contractor to the Department of Public Safety must be reviewed, approved and

signed by the certified responsible managing supervisor retained by the contractor.

Sec. 6. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF

Fire Marshal - Office of 0327

Initiative: Provides funding for 4 Public Safety Inspector II positions and related All Other costs to conduct reviews of fire sprinkler system plans.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	4.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL		
Personal Services	\$0	\$429,600
All Other	\$0	\$53,400
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$483,000

Fire Marshal - Office of 0327

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for 4 vehicles for Public Safety Inspector II positions.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$226,600
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$226,600

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$709,600
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$709,600

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 659

H.P. 1496 - L.D. 2219

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Certain Existing Public Records Exceptions

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §1577, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2003, c. 393, §6, is further amended to read:

2. Access to records Permissible disclosure. ~~The following persons or agencies may have access to DNA~~

records may be disclosed to the following persons or agencies:

- A. Local, county, state and federal criminal justice and law enforcement agencies, including forensic laboratories serving the agencies, for identification purposes that further official criminal investigations;
- B. The FBI for storage and maintenance of CODIS;
- C. Medical examiners and coroners for the purpose of identifying remains; and
- D. A person who has been identified and charged with a criminal offense or a juvenile crime as a result of a search of DNA records stored in the state DNA data base. A Disclosure to a person who has been identified and charged with a criminal offense or a juvenile crime has access only is limited to that person's records and any other records that person is entitled to under the Maine Rules of Evidence Unified Criminal Procedure.

Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §685, sub-§3, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 536, §§1 and 2 and affected by c. 604, §§2 and 3, is amended to read:

A. Unless the employee or applicant consents, all information acquired by an employer in the testing process is confidential and may not be ~~released~~ disclosed to any person other than the employee or applicant who is tested, any necessary personnel of the employer and a provider of rehabilitation or treatment services under subsection 2, paragraph C. This paragraph does not prevent:

- (1) The ~~release~~ disclosure of this information when required or permitted by state or federal law, including ~~release~~ disclosure under section 683, subsection 8, paragraph D; or
- (2) The use of this information in any grievance procedure, administrative hearing or civil action relating to the imposition of the test or the use of test results.

Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §253, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

§253. Confidentiality of nongovernment vehicle records

Upon receiving a written request by an appropriate criminal justice official and showing cause that it is in the best interest of public safety, the Secretary of State may determine that records of a nongovernment vehicle ~~may be held~~ are confidential for a specific period of time, which may not exceed the expiration of the current registration.

Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §1301, sub-§6-A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 257, §13, is further amended to read:

6-A. Confidentiality. Except as required by 18 United States Code, Section 2721(b) or as needed to implement the federal National Voter Registration Act of 1993, the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 or other federal election law, the Secretary of State may not ~~disseminate~~ disclose information collected under subsection 6. For every willful violation of this subsection, a person commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$500 may be adjudged.

Sec. 5. 29-A MRSA §2251, sub-§7-A, ¶B, as amended by PL 2023, c. 235, §9, is further amended to read:

B. Except as provided in paragraph B-1 and Title 16, section 805-A, subsection 1, paragraph F, ~~the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police may not publicly disseminate~~ personally identifying accident report data that are contained in an accident report database maintained, administered or contributed to by the Bureau of State Police are confidential. ~~Such data are not public records for the purposes of Title 1, chapter 13.~~

Sec. 6. 29-A MRSA §2251, sub-§7-A, ¶B-1, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 654, §8, is amended to read:

B-1. The Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police may ~~disseminate~~ disclose a vehicle registration plate number contained in an accident report database maintained, administered or contributed to by the Bureau of State Police to a person only if that person provides the Bureau of State Police an affidavit stating that the person will not:

- (1) Use a vehicle registration plate number to identify or contact a person; or
- (2) ~~Disseminate~~ Disclose a vehicle registration plate number to another person.

Sec. 7. 29-A MRSA §2251, sub-§7-A, ¶C, as amended by PL 2011, c. 662, §19, is further amended to read:

C. ~~The Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police may publicly disseminate nonpersonally~~ Nonpersonally identifying accident report data that are contained in an accident report database maintained, administered or contributed to by the Bureau of State Police are not confidential. The cost of furnishing a copy of such data is not subject to the limitations of Title 1, section 408-A.

Sec. 8. 32 MRSA §2600-A, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 214, §1, is amended to read:

§2600-A. Confidentiality of personal information of applicant or licensee

An applicant or licensee shall provide the board with a current professional address and telephone number, which will be their public contact address, and a personal residence address ~~and~~ telephone number and e-mail address. An applicant's or licensee's personal residence address ~~and~~ telephone number is and e-mail address are confidential information and may not be disclosed except as permitted by this section or as required by law, ~~unless~~. If the personal residence address and telephone number have been provided as the public contact address, ~~the personal residence address and telephone number are not confidential~~. Personal health information submitted as part of any application is confidential information and may not be disclosed except as permitted by this section or as required by law. The personal health information and personal residence address ~~and~~ telephone number and e-mail address may be provided to other governmental licensing or disciplinary authorities or to any health care providers located within or outside this State that are concerned with granting, limiting or denying a physician's employment or privileges.

Sec. 9. 32 MRSA §2600-E, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 499, §2, is amended to read:

1. Request for record; redaction. When the board receives a request to inspect or copy all or part of the record of an applicant or licensee, the board shall redact confidential information ~~that is not public~~ before making the record available for inspection or copying.

Sec. 10. 32 MRSA §6080, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 662, §2, is amended to read:

1. Confidentiality and prohibited disclosure. Except as otherwise provided in ~~subsection 2~~ this section, all information or reports obtained by the administrator from an applicant for a license, licensee or authorized delegate and all information contained in or related to an examination, investigation, operating report or condition report prepared by, on behalf of or for the use of the administrator, or financial statements, balance sheets or authorized delegate information, are confidential and are not subject to disclosure under Title 1, chapter 13.

Sec. 11. 32 MRSA §6080, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 662, §2, is amended to read:

2. Authorized disclosure. The administrator may disclose confidential information ~~not otherwise subject to disclosure under subsection 1~~ to representatives of state or federal agencies who certify in a record that they will maintain the confidentiality of the information or if the administrator finds that the release is reasonably necessary for the protection and interest of the public.

Sec. 12. 32 MRSA §16808, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 17, §1, is amended to read:

§16808. Records

A broker-dealer or investment adviser shall provide access to or copies of records that are relevant to the suspected or attempted financial exploitation of an eligible adult to the Department of Health and Human Services and to a law enforcement agency as part of a referral to the department or to a law enforcement agency or upon request of the department or a law enforcement agency pursuant to an investigation. The records may include historical records and records relating to recent transactions that may constitute financial exploitation of an eligible adult. All records made available to agencies under this section are ~~not public records for purposes of Title 1, chapter 13, subchapter 1~~ confidential. ~~Nothing in this section limits does not limit or otherwise impedes~~ impede the authority of the administrator to access or examine the books and records of broker-dealers and investment advisers as otherwise provided by law.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 660

S.P. 899 - L.D. 2211

An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Automotive Right to Repair Working Group

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-G, sub-§5-B is enacted to read:

5-B.

<u>Commerce and Trade</u>	<u>Motor Vehicle Right to Repair Commission</u>	<u>Not Authorized</u>	<u>29-A MRSA §1810, sub-§2-A</u>

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §1810, sub-§1, as enacted by IB 2023, c. 3, §3, is amended to read:

1. Access to diagnostic systems. Access to the vehicle on-board diagnostic systems of all motor vehicles, ~~including commercial motor vehicles and heavy duty vehicles having a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 14,000 pounds,~~ must be standardized and made accessible to motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities and the access may not require authorization by the motor vehicle manufacturer, directly or indirectly, unless that authorization is standardized across all makes and models of motor vehicles sold in this State ~~and is administered by the independent entity described in subsection 2.~~

Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §1810, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Definition. For the purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "owner-

authorized independent repair facility" means an independent repair facility that has been authorized by a motor vehicle owner to receive or access diagnostic and repair information or other mechanical data pertaining to or emanating from the owner's motor vehicle for the purpose of diagnosing or repairing the motor vehicle.

Sec. 4. 29-A MRSA §1810, sub-§2, as enacted by IB 2023, c. 3, §3, is repealed.

Sec. 5. 29-A MRSA §1810, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Motor Vehicle Right to Repair Commission. This subsection governs the composition, activities and duties of the Motor Vehicle Right to Repair Commission, as established in Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 5-B and referred to in this section as "the commission."

A. The commission consists of the following 12 members, appointed by the Governor:

- (1) Three members representing motor vehicle manufacturers, at least one of whom must represent an organization of motor vehicle manufacturers and at least one of whom must represent a manufacturer of heavy duty vehicles;
- (2) One member representing aftermarket parts manufacturers;
- (3) One member representing diagnostic tool manufacturers;
- (4) One member representing aftermarket parts distributors and retailers;
- (5) Three members representing independent repair facilities in the State, at least one of whom must be an owner or operator of an independent repair facility specializing in motor vehicle repair and at least one of whom must be an owner or operator of an independent repair facility specializing in heavy duty vehicle repair;
- (6) One member representing new motor vehicle dealers in the State;
- (7) One member with expertise in automotive cybersecurity matters; and
- (8) One member representing the public, who must be a resident of the State and who serves as the chair of the commission.

In making appointments under this paragraph, the Governor may take into consideration any nominations for appointments that are timely made by industry stakeholders or trade associations.

B. Members of the commission are appointed to 3-year terms. The commission shall meet at least quarterly but may meet more frequently at the

chair's discretion. The Attorney General may provide administrative support to the commission, within the limits of existing resources.

C. The commission:

- (1) Shall monitor and assess implementation of and motor vehicle manufacturers' compliance with the requirements of this section;
- (2) Shall attempt to informally resolve any complaints from motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities alleging motor vehicle manufacturer noncompliance with the requirements of this section, and, if a complaint cannot be resolved informally, consider whether to refer the matter to the Attorney General for potential enforcement action;
- (3) Shall designate one or more technical experts with whom the Attorney General may consult in assessing enforcement referrals under subparagraph (2) and maintaining enforcement actions under subsection 8; and
- (4) May issue recommendations for best practices for motor vehicle manufacturers to use in providing access to motor vehicle data and may solicit input from stakeholders and other interested parties regarding privacy issues associated with the disclosure of motor vehicle-generated data.

D. By January 15, 2028, and annually thereafter, the commission shall submit to the Governor, the Attorney General and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business matters a report that:

- (1) Describes the commission's activities during the preceding year;
- (2) Describes any implementation or compliance issues that the commission has identified during the preceding year; and
- (3) Includes any recommendations for proposed changes to this section to address any implementation or compliance issues, including any recommendations that propose providing the commission with additional authority.

After reviewing the report, the joint standing committee may report out legislation relating to the report to any regular or special session held in the same year in which the report was received pursuant to this paragraph.

Sec. 6. 29-A MRSA §1810, sub-§3, as enacted by IB 2023, c. 3, §3, is amended to read:

3. Model year 2002 or later motor vehicles; diagnostic repair tools, parts, software and components. For model year 2002 or later motor vehicles, in-

cluding commercial motor vehicles and heavy duty vehicles having a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 14,000 pounds, each a manufacturer of motor vehicles sold in this State shall make available for purchase under fair and reasonable terms by motor vehicle owners and independent repair facilities all diagnostic repair tools, parts, software and components incorporating the same diagnostic, functional repair and wireless capabilities that the motor vehicle manufacturer makes available to its authorized repair shops. Each motor vehicle manufacturer shall:

A. Provide diagnostic repair information to each aftermarket scan tool company and each 3rd-party service information provider with whom the motor vehicle manufacturer has appropriate licensing, contractual or confidentiality agreements for the sole purpose of building aftermarket diagnostic tools and 3rd-party service information publications and systems. ~~Once a A motor vehicle manufacturer that makes information available pursuant to this paragraph, the manufacturer is considered to have~~ has satisfied its obligations under this paragraph and thereafter is not responsible for the content and functionality of aftermarket diagnostic tools or service information systems;

B. Make available for purchase by owners of motor vehicles and by independent repair facilities the same diagnostic and repair information, including repair technical updates, that the motor vehicle manufacturer makes available to its authorized repair shops through the motor vehicle manufacturer's Internet-based diagnostic and repair information system; and

C. Provide access to the manufacturer's diagnostic and repair information system for purchase by owners of motor vehicles and independent repair facilities on a daily, monthly and yearly subscription basis and upon fair and reasonable terms.

All parts, tools, software and other components necessary to complete a full repair of the vehicle, as referenced in this subsection, must be ~~included and~~ provided to owners of motor vehicles and ~~authorized owner-authorized~~ independent repair ~~shops~~ facilities.

Sec. 7. 29-A MRSA §1810, sub-§4, as enacted by IB 2023, c. 3, §3, is amended to read:

4. Model year 2002-2017 motor vehicles; access to on-board diagnostic and repair information system. For model year 2002-2017 motor vehicles, ~~including commercial motor vehicles and heavy duty vehicles having a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 14,000 pounds, a motor vehicle manufacturer shall provide a motor vehicle owner or an owner-authorized independent repair facility with access to a vehicle's on-board diagnostic and repair information system must be the same for an owner or an independent repair facility as that~~ to the same extent that access to a vehicle's on-

board diagnostic and repair information system is provided to a new vehicle dealer.

Sec. 8. 29-A MRSA §1810, sub-§5, as enacted by IB 2023, c. 3, §3, is amended to read:

5. Model year 2018 and or later motor vehicles; access to on-board diagnostic and repair information system. For model year 2018 ~~and or~~ later motor vehicles, ~~including commercial motor vehicles and heavy duty vehicles having a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 14,000 pounds, a motor vehicle manufacturer shall provide access to the on-board diagnostic and repair information system must be available through use of an off-the-shelf personal computer with sufficient memory, processor speed, connectivity and other capabilities as specified by the motor vehicle manufacturer and:~~

A. A nonproprietary vehicle interface device that complies with SAE International standard J2534, SAE International standard J1939, commonly referred to as SAE J2534 and SAE J1939, the International Organization for Standardization standard 22900, commonly referred to as ISO 22900, or any successor to SAE J2534, SAE J1939 or ISO 22900 as may be accepted or published by SAE International or the International Organization for Standardization, as appropriate;

B. An on-board diagnostic and repair information system integrated into and entirely self-contained within the vehicle, including, but not limited to, service information systems integrated into an on-board display; ~~and or~~

C. A system that provides direct access to on-board diagnostic and repair information through a nonproprietary vehicle interface, such as ethernet, universal serial bus or digital versatile disc.

Each motor vehicle manufacturer shall provide access to the same on-board diagnostic and repair information available to ~~their the motor vehicle manufacturer's~~ dealers, including technical updates to such on-board systems, through such nonproprietary interfaces as referenced in this subsection. All parts, tools, software and other components necessary to complete a full repair of a vehicle, as referenced in this subsection, must be ~~included and~~ provided to motor vehicle owners and ~~authorized owner-authorized~~ independent repair ~~shops~~ facilities.

Sec. 9. 29-A MRSA §1810, sub-§6, as enacted by IB 2023, c. 3, §3, is amended to read:

6. Required equipment Owner-authorization access platform. Not later than ~~one year from the effective date of this section~~ September 1, 2027, a manufacturer of motor vehicles sold in this State, ~~including commercial motor vehicles and heavy duty vehicles having a gross vehicle weight rating of more than 14,000 pounds, that uses a telematics system is required~~

to equip vehicles sold in this State with an interoperable, ~~and~~ standardized and owner-authorized ~~owner-authorization~~ access platform across all of the motor vehicle manufacturer's makes and models. The platform must be capable of securely communicating all mechanical data emanating directly from the motor vehicle via direct data connection to the platform. The platform must be directly accessible by the motor vehicle owner through a mobile-based application and, upon the authorization of the owner, all mechanical data must be directly accessible by an independent repair facility or a licensed dealer as described in section 851, subsections 2 and 9, limited to the time to complete the repair or for a period of time agreed to by the motor vehicle owner for the purposes of maintaining, diagnosing and repairing the motor vehicle. Access must include the ability to receive data and send commands to in-vehicle components if needed for purposes of maintenance, diagnostics and repair. The platform must provide a motor vehicle owner or owner-authorized independent repair facility access to the same data the motor vehicle manufacturer makes available to its authorized repair shops. All parts, tools, software and other components necessary to complete a full repair of the vehicle, as referenced in this subsection, must be ~~included and~~ provided to a motor vehicle owners owner and authorized independent repair shops facility authorized by a motor vehicle owner.

Sec. 10. 29-A MRSA §1810, sub-§8, as enacted by IB 2023, c. 3, §3, is amended to read:

8. Enforcement. If the ~~independent entity described by subsection 2~~ commission has reason to believe that a motor vehicle manufacturer has violated any provision of this section, the ~~independent entity commission~~ shall notify the Attorney General. ~~The~~ In response to a referral from the commission pursuant to subsection 2-A, paragraph C, subparagraph (2), or in any other instance for which the Attorney General believes this section may have been violated, the Attorney General ~~shall promptly may~~ may institute any actions or proceedings the Attorney General considers appropriate. ~~The independent entity, through the Attorney General, may apply to an action in the Superior Court of any county of the State to enforce any lawful order made or action taken by the independent entity pursuant to this section. The Attorney General may seek injunctive relief and a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 for each violation of this section.~~

A motor vehicle owner or owner-authorized independent repair facility ~~authorized by an owner~~ who has been denied access to mechanical data in violation of this section may initiate a civil action seeking any remedies under law. Each denial of access is compensable by an award of treble damages or \$10,000, whichever amount is greater.

Sec. 11. Staggered terms. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 1810, subsection 2-A, paragraph B, of the members initially appointed to the Motor Vehicle Right to Repair Commission, 4 members must be appointed to an initial term of one year, 4 members must be appointed to an initial term of 2 years and 4 members must be appointed to an initial term of 3 years.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 661

H.P. 1481 - L.D. 2202

An Act to Require Notice to the Attorney General Prior to the Merger of Certain Health Care Entities as Recommended by the Commission to Evaluate the Scope of Regulatory Review and Oversight over Health Care Transactions That Impact the Delivery of Health Care Services in the State

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1102-B is enacted to read:

§1102-B. Premiermer notification by health care entities

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Additional documentary material" means the additional documentary material filed with a Hart-Scott-Rodino form.

B. "Electronic" means relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic or similar capabilities.

C. "Filing threshold" means the minimum size of a transaction that requires the transaction to be reported under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act in effect when a person files a premerger notification.

D. "Hart-Scott-Rodino Act" means 15 United States Code, Section 18a, as amended.

E. "Hart-Scott-Rodino form" means the form filed with a premerger notification, excluding additional documentary material.

F. "Health care entity" means a health care provider, a health care facility or a provider organization. "Health care entity" does not include a nursing facility as defined by Title 22, section 328, subsection 18.

G. "Health care facility" means a licensed institution providing health care services or a health care setting, including, but not limited to, hospitals and other licensed inpatient facilities; health systems consisting of one or more health care entities that are jointly owned or managed; ambulatory surgical or treatment centers; residential treatment centers; diagnostic, laboratory and imaging centers; free-standing emergency facilities; outpatient clinics; and rehabilitation and other therapeutic health settings.

H. "Health care provider" means a person, corporation, partnership, governmental unit, state institution, medical practice or other entity qualified or licensed under state law to perform or provide health care services to persons in the State.

I. "Premerger notification" means a notification filed under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act with the Federal Trade Commission or the United States Department of Justice, Antitrust Division or a successor agency.

J. "Provider organization" means any corporation, partnership, business trust, association or organized group of persons that is in the business of health care delivery or management, whether incorporated or not, that represents one or more health care providers in contracting with carriers for the payment of health care services. "Provider organization" includes, but is not limited to, physician organizations, physician-hospital organizations, independent practice associations, health care provider networks, accountable care organizations and management services organizations and any other organization that contracts with carriers for payment for health care services.

2. Notice requirement. A health care entity filing a premerger notification shall concurrently file a complete electronic copy of the Hart-Scott-Rodino form with the Attorney General if:

A. The health care entity has its principal place of business in this State; or

B. The health care entity or a person the health care entity controls directly or indirectly had annual revenue in this State in the most recent calendar year preceding the filing of at least 20% of the filing threshold of the goods or services involved in the transaction.

A health care entity that files a Hart-Scott-Rodino form under this subsection shall include with the filing a complete electronic copy of the additional documentary material. The Attorney General may not charge a fee connected with filing or providing the Hart-Scott-Rodino form or additional documentary material under this subsection.

3. Confidentiality. Any information provided to the Attorney General under this section is confidential, except that the Attorney General may:

A. Subject to a protective order entered by an agency, court or judicial officer, disclose a Hart-Scott-Rodino form, additional documentary material or other information listed in subsection 2 in an administrative proceeding or judicial action if the proposed merger is relevant to the proceeding or action;

B. Share information with the Federal Trade Commission or the United States Department of Justice, Antitrust Division or a successor agency; or

C. Share information with the attorney general of another state that has enacted a substantively equivalent statute that includes confidentiality provisions at least as protective as the confidentiality provisions of this subsection. At least 2 business days before making a disclosure under this paragraph, the Attorney General shall give notice of the disclosure to the health care entity that filed or provided the Hart-Scott-Rodino form or additional documentary material under subsection 2.

4. Civil penalty. The failure to provide notice under subsection 2 constitutes a civil violation for which a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 per day of non-compliance of a health care entity may be adjudged.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 662

H.P. 1469 - L.D. 2188

An Act to Amend Certain State Tax Laws

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

PART A

Sec. A-1. 36 MRSA §111, sub-§2, as repealed and replaced by PL 2011, c. 380, Pt. J, §1, is amended to read:

2. Notice. "Notice" means written notification served personally, sent by certified mail or sent by first-class mail to the last known address of the person for whom the notification is intended. A person's last known address is the person's address as reported on the person's most recently filed Maine tax return or as otherwise specified by the person in written correspondence on file with the bureau, unless the bureau determines that a different address is the most current address for the person, in which case the bureau must use that address. Notice by first-class mail is deemed to be received 3 7 days after the mailing, excluding Sundays and legal holidays. If the State Tax Assessor is required

by a provision of this Title to give notice by certified mail and attempts to do so but the mailing is returned with the notation "unclaimed" or "refused" or a similar notation, the assessor may then give notice by sending the notification by first-class mail. In the case of a joint income tax return, notice may be a single joint notice except that, if the assessor is notified by either spouse that separate residences have been established, the assessor must mail a joint notice to each spouse. If the person for whom notification is intended is deceased or under a legal disability, and the assessor knows of the existence of a fiduciary relationship with respect to that person, notice must be sent by first-class mail to the last known address of the fiduciary.

Sec. A-2. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§1, ¶KK, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 388, Pt. A, §5, is amended to read:

KK. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2015 but before January 1, 2025:

(1) An amount equal to the net increase in depreciation attributable to the depreciation deduction claimed by the taxpayer under the Code, Section 168(k) with respect to property placed in service in the State during the taxable year for which a credit is claimed under section 5219-NN for that taxable year; and

(2) An amount equal to the net increase in depreciation attributable to the depreciation deduction claimed by the taxpayer under the Code, Section 168(k) with respect to property for which a credit is not claimed under section 5219-NN.

Sec. A-3. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§1, ¶QQ is enacted to read:

QQ. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, an amount equal to the net increase in depreciation attributable to the depreciation deduction claimed by the taxpayer under the Code, Section 168(k).

Sec. A-4. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§2, ¶M-3, as corrected by RR 2025, c. 1, Pt. A, §55, is amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) For individuals filing as single individuals and for married individuals filing separate returns, \$125,000;

Sec. A-5. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§2, ¶M-3, as corrected by RR 2025, c. 1, Pt. A, §55, is amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read:

(2) For individuals filing as heads of households, \$187,500; or

Sec. A-6. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§2, ¶M-3, as corrected by RR 2025, c. 1, Pt. A, §55, is amended by amending subparagraph (3) to read:

(3) For individuals filing married joint returns or as surviving spouses, \$250,000; ~~or~~

Sec. A-7. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§2, ¶M-3, as corrected by RR 2025, c. 1, Pt. A, §55, is amended by repealing subparagraph (4).

Sec. A-8. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§2, ¶RR, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 527, Pt. A, §2 and reallocated by RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §70, is amended to read:

RR. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2020, an amount equal to the net increase in the depreciation deduction allowable under the Code, Sections 167 and 168 that would have been applicable to that property had the depreciation deduction under the Code, Section 168(k) not been claimed with respect to such property placed in service during the taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2020 for which an addition was required under subsection 1, paragraph KK and, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, under subsection 1, paragraph QQ for the taxable year.

Upon the taxable disposition of property to which this paragraph applies, the amount of any gain or loss includable in federal adjusted gross income must be adjusted for Maine income tax purposes by an amount equal to the difference between the addition modification for such property under subsection 1, ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs KK and QQ and the subtraction modifications allowed pursuant to this paragraph.

The total amount of subtraction claimed under this paragraph for all tax years may not exceed the addition modification under subsection 1, paragraph KK for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2020 and, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, under subsection 1, paragraph QQ for the same property.

Sec. A-9. 36 MRSA §5200-A, sub-§1, ¶CC, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 388, Pt. A, §11, is amended to read:

CC. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2015 but before January 1, 2025:

(1) An amount equal to the net increase in depreciation attributable to the depreciation deduction claimed by the taxpayer under the Code, Section 168(k) with respect to property placed in service in the State during the taxable year for which a credit is claimed under section 5219-NN for that taxable year; and

(2) An amount equal to the net increase in depreciation attributable to the depreciation deduction claimed by the taxpayer under the Code, Section 168(k) with respect to property for which a credit is not claimed under section 5219-NN.

Sec. A-10. 36 MRSA §5200-A, sub-§1, ¶II is enacted to read:

II. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, an amount equal to the net increase in depreciation attributable to the depreciation deduction claimed by the taxpayer under the Code, Section 168(k).

Sec. A-11. 36 MRSA §5200-A, sub-§2, ¶FF, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 527, Pt. A, §4, is amended to read:

FF. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2020, an amount equal to the net increase in the depreciation deduction allowable under the Code, Sections 167 and 168 that would have been applicable to that property had the depreciation deduction under the Code, Section 168(k) not been claimed with respect to such property placed in service during the taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2020 for which an addition was required under subsection 1, paragraph CC and, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, under subsection 1, paragraph II for the taxable year.

Upon the taxable disposition of property to which this paragraph applies, the amount of any gain or loss includable in federal taxable income must be adjusted for Maine income tax purposes by an amount equal to the difference between the addition modification for such property under subsection 1, ~~paragraph paragraphs CC and II~~ and the subtraction modifications allowed pursuant to this paragraph.

The total amount of subtraction claimed under this paragraph for all tax years may not exceed the addition modification under subsection 1, paragraph CC for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2020 and, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, under subsection 1, paragraph II for the same property.

Sec. A-12. 36 MRSA §5295, sub-§4, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 336, §2, is amended to read:

B. Explain that a taxpayer may choose to wait for the enactment by the Legislature of legislation that addresses federal income tax law changes by filing under extension pursuant to section 5231, ~~subsection 4;~~

PART B

Sec. B-1. 36 MRSA §1752, sub-§6-K, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. G, §22 and affected by §48, is amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

"Mobility-enhancing equipment" does not include durable medical equipment. "Mobility-enhancing equipment" includes crutches and wheelchairs.

Sec. B-2. 36 MRSA §1760, sub-§5-A, as repealed and replaced by PL 2017, c. 170, Pt. C, §4 and affected by §9, is amended to read:

5-A. Prosthetic or orthotic devices. Sales of:

A. Prosthetic or orthotic devices sold by means of an order issued by a health care practitioner as defined in Title 24, section 2502, subsection 1-A who is licensed under Title 32; ~~and,~~

~~B. Crutches and wheelchairs for the use of sick, injured or disabled persons and not for rental.~~

Sec. B-3. 36 MRSA §1760, sub-§58, as amended by PL 2003, c. 588, §8, is repealed.

Sec. B-4. 36 MRSA §1760, sub-§74, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 438, §46, is amended to read:

A. Tangible personal property that becomes an ingredient or component part of tangible personal property produced for later sale or lease, ~~other than lease for use in this State~~, or that becomes an ingredient or component part of tangible personal property produced pursuant to a contract with the Federal Government or an agency of the Federal Government; and

Sec. B-5. 36 MRSA §1760, sub-§74, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 438, §46, is amended to read:

B. Tangible personal property, other than fuel or electricity, that is consumed or destroyed or loses its identity directly and primarily in the production of tangible personal property for later sale or lease, ~~other than lease for use in this State~~, or that is consumed or destroyed or loses its identity directly and primarily in the production of tangible personal property produced pursuant to a contract with the Federal Government or an agency of the Federal Government.

Sec. B-6. 36 MRSA §4403, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. E, §5 and affected by §6, is further amended to read:

1. Smokeless tobacco products before January 5, 2026. Before January 5, 2026, a tax is imposed on smokeless tobacco products, including chewing tobacco and snuff, at the rate of:

A. On amounts of smokeless tobacco products packaged for sale to the consumer in a package that contains one ounce or more of smokeless tobacco products, \$2.02 per ounce and prorated; and

B. On smokeless tobacco products packaged for sale to the consumer in a package that contains less than one ounce of smokeless tobacco products, \$2.02 per package.

Beginning January 2, 2020, the tax rates in this subsection are subject to adjustment pursuant to subsection 5.

Sec. B-7. 36 MRSA §4403, sub-§1-A, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. E, §5 and affected by §6, is amended to read:

1-A. Smokeless tobacco products on or after January 5, 2026. Beginning January 5, 2026, a tax is imposed on smokeless tobacco products, including chewing tobacco and snuff, at the rate of:

A. On amounts of smokeless tobacco products packaged for sale to the consumer in a package that contains one ounce or more of smokeless tobacco products, \$3.54 per ounce and prorated; and

B. On smokeless tobacco products packaged for sale to the consumer in a package that contains less than one ounce of smokeless tobacco products, \$3.54 per package.

The tax rates in this subsection are subject to adjustment pursuant to subsection 5.

PART C

Sec. C-1. 36 MRSA §502, first ¶, as amended by PL 1997, c. 216, §1, is further amended to read:

All real estate within the State, all personal property of residents of the State and all personal property within the State of persons not residents of the State is subject to taxation on the first day of each April as provided; and the status of all taxpayers and of such taxable property must be fixed as of that date. Upon receipt of a declaration of value under section 4641-D reflecting a change of ownership in real property, the assessor may change the records of the municipality to reflect the identity of the new owner, if notice of tax liabilities is sent both to the new owner and to the owner of record as of the April 1st when the liability accrued. The taxable year is from April 1st to ~~April 1st~~ March 31st. Notwithstanding this section, proration of taxes must be over the period specified in section 558.

Sec. C-2. 36 MRSA §943, 4th ¶, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 351, §1, is amended to read:

If the party named on the tax lien mortgage has sold or otherwise conveyed the property to another person and provides proof of payment of that party's own pro rata share of taxes due assessed for the tax year subject to the lien pursuant to a written property tax proration agreement, the municipal treasurer or the treasurer's designee ~~of record~~ shall prepare and record, upon request from the party named on the tax lien mortgage, a discharge of the tax lien mortgage against that party in the same manner as is now provided for the discharge of real estate mortgages, except that a facsimile signature of the treasurer or treasurer's assignee may be used. The discharge under this paragraph is only for the seller certificate that names that party and states that the party has paid that party's own pro rata share of the taxes owed and does not owe property taxes in connection with the tax lien mortgage. The discharge of the tax lien must

include a statement that the assignee, following the release of the property, did not owe property taxes as to the released property. The assignee of the discharge party requesting the certificate is responsible for the cost of recording the discharge certificate. The assignee of the discharge must be limited to the seller. Only a party named on the tax lien mortgage who has sold or otherwise disposed of the property that is the subject of the tax lien mortgage may request a certificate prepared and recorded under this paragraph. This section does not limit a municipality's remedies to collect unpaid real estate taxes through other means.

Sec. C-3. 36 MRSA §948, first ¶ is amended to read:

When taxes are assessed under section 713, the lien upon real estate ~~shall must~~ be enforced ~~as provided in sections 941 to 943 according to the procedures provided in this subchapter~~; except that if real estate ~~shall have~~ has been transferred to a bona fide purchaser for value since the assessment was omitted or invalidly made with the transfer duly recorded, prior to the date of the supplemental assessment, the lien ~~shall terminate~~ terminates.

Sec. C-4. 36 MRSA §949, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 53, §1, is repealed.

Sec. C-5. 36 MRSA §1281, first ¶, as amended by PL 2023, c. 579, §2, is further amended to read:

Annually, after January 15th but no later than January 31st, the State Tax Assessor shall send by mail to the last known address of each owner of real estate subject to assessment under section 1602, including supplementary taxes assessed under section 1331, upon which taxes remain unpaid a notice in writing, containing a description of the real estate assessed and the amount of unpaid taxes and interest, and alleging that a lien is claimed on that real estate for payment of those taxes, interests and costs, with a demand that payment be made by the next February 21st. For property that constitutes a homestead for which a property tax exemption is claimed under chapter 105, subchapter 4-B, the State Tax Assessor shall include in the written notice ~~written notice~~ to the owner named on the tax lien mortgage that that owner may be eligible to file an application for tax abatement under section 841, subsection 2, indicating that the State Tax Assessor, upon request, will assist the owner in requesting an abatement and provide information regarding the procedures for making such a request. The notice must also indicate that the owner may seek assistance from an advisor who can help the owner work with the State Tax Assessor to avoid tax lien foreclosure and provide information regarding ways to contact sources of assistance including legal services providers described in Title 4, section 18-A, subsection 1, paragraph B. The Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection, by July 15th annually, shall post on a publicly ac-

cessible website information on accessing sources of assistance, and that information may be used by the State Tax Assessor in providing the information required in the notice. Before posting this information, the bureau shall consider input, if any, received from legal services providers, counselors and state and federal agencies involved in foreclosure prevention matters. If the owners of any such real estate are unknown, instead of sending the notices by mail, the assessor shall cause the information required in this section on that real estate to be advertised in the state paper and in a newspaper, if any, of general circulation in the county in which the real estate lies. Such a statement or advertisement is sufficient legal notice of delinquent taxes. If those taxes and interest to date of payment and costs are not paid by February 21st, the State Tax Assessor shall record by March 15th, in the registry of deeds of the county or registry district where the real estate lies, a certificate signed by the assessor, setting forth the name or names of the owners according to the last state valuation, or the valuation established in accordance with section 1331; the description of the real estate assessed as contained in the last state valuation, or the valuation established in accordance with section 1331; the amount of unpaid taxes and interest; the amount of costs; and a statement that demand for payment of those taxes has been made, and that those taxes, interest and costs remain unpaid. The costs charged by the register of deeds for the filing may not exceed the fees established by Title 33, section 751.

Sec. C-6. 36 MRSA §1283, as amended by PL 2017, c. 375, Pt. F, §§2 and 3 and affected by §4, is further amended to read:

§1283. Supervision, administration and sale of real estate

A copy of the lien certificate ~~shall~~ must be filed in the office of the State Tax Assessor. On the 30th day of March annually, whenever the State ~~shall have~~ has acquired title to real estate assessed for any taxes assessed under chapter 115, the State Tax Assessor shall certify to the State Controller the amount of unpaid taxes, interest and costs then outstanding. Unpaid taxes and interest and costs on the books of the State ~~shall~~ must be charged against the Unorganized Territory Education and Services Fund.

Whenever the State acquires title to real estate under this subchapter, except real estate that is a permanent residence, as defined in section 681, the State Tax Assessor shall cause an inventory to be made of all the real estate. The inventory must contain a description of the real estate, amount of accrued taxes by years and any other information necessary in the administration and supervision of the real estate. A copy of the inventory must be furnished to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife prior to the convening of the Legislature. The ~~assessor~~ State Tax Assessor

shall report annually to the Legislature not later than 15 days after it convenes. The report must contain a copy of the inventory of real estate then owned by the State and such recommendations as to the disposition of this real estate the ~~assessor~~ State Tax Assessor, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife may wish to make. Whenever the State acquires title to real estate that is a permanent residence, as defined in section 681, the State Tax Assessor may cause an inventory to be made of that real estate; that inventory must comply with the requirements of this paragraph.

The State Tax Assessor shall, after authorization by the Legislature, sell and convey any ~~such~~ real estate upon which a tax lien mortgage has been foreclosed pursuant to this chapter; but shall in all cases of sales, except sales to the former owners of the real estate, give public notice of the proposal to sell such real estate and shall ask for competitive bids and shall sell to the highest bidder, with the right of rejecting all bids using the sale process provided under section 943-C. Sales of such real estate or any stumpage on that real estate may not be made by the State Tax Assessor except by authorization of the Legislature. Notwithstanding any provisions of this chapter to the contrary, if the State Tax Assessor has not yet conveyed such real estate, the State Tax Assessor may convey the real estate to the prior owner under the authorization of this section if the tax, interest and costs are satisfied by way of full payment, compromise or abatement.

The supervision, administration, utilization and vindication of the rights of the State in such real estate ~~shall be~~ are vested in the State Tax Assessor until title is conveyed or otherwise disposed of by the Legislature.

~~All money received from the sale or use of such real estate shall be credited to the Unorganized Territory Education and Services Fund.~~

This section ~~shall apply~~ applies to real estate acquired through tax sales and owned by the State.

Sec. C-7. 36 MRSA §2723-A, sub-§5-A, as amended by PL 1997, c. 24, Pt. C, §6, is further amended to read:

5-A. Computing tax. This amount must be multiplied by 40% and the ~~sum~~ product must then be divided by the total number of adjusted acres of commercial forest land, rounded to the nearest 1/10 of a cent and multiplied by the number of adjusted acres of commercial forest land owned by each taxpayer to determine the amount of tax for which each owner of commercial forest land is liable.

Sec. C-8. 36 MRSA §6252, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2021, c. 483, Pt. AA, §7 and affected by §21, is further amended to read:

2. Fee simple estate. The individual claiming a deferral must, solely or together with the individual's

spouse, own the fee simple estate or be purchasing the fee simple estate under a recorded instrument of sale, or 2 or more individuals must together own or be purchasing the fee simple estate with rights of survivorship under a recorded instrument of sale if all owners live in the homestead. For purposes of this subsection, property held in a revocable living trust for the benefit of the taxpayer is deemed to be a fee simple estate owned by the taxpayer.

Sec. C-9. 36 MRSA §6254, sub-§2-B, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 713, §4, is amended to read:

2-B. Sale; legislative authorization. After authorization by the Legislature, the State Tax Assessor shall; sell or convey any ~~such~~ real estate upon which a tax lien mortgage has been foreclosed pursuant to this chapter, but shall in all cases of sales, except sales to former owners of the real estate, give public notice of the proposal to sell the real estate and shall ask for competitive bids and sell to the highest bidder with the right of rejecting all bids. Sales of any such real estate may not be made by the State Tax Assessor except by authorization of the Legislature using the sale process provided under section 943-C.

The supervision, administration, utilization and vindication of the right of the State in any such real estate is vested in the State Tax Assessor until the title is conveyed or otherwise disposed of by the Legislature.

PART D

Sec. D-1. 36 MRSA §507, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 432, §1 and affected by §2, is amended to read:

1. Reductions to tax. The property tax bill must contain a statement or calculation that demonstrates the amount or percentage by which the taxpayer's tax has been reduced by the distribution of state-municipal revenue sharing, state reimbursement for the Maine resident homestead property tax exemption and state aid for education. ~~The State Tax Assessor shall annually provide each municipality with the amount of state municipal revenue sharing and state aid for education subject to identification under this section.~~

Sec. D-2. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§2, ¶L, as amended by PL 2003, c. 705, §11 and affected by §14, is repealed.

Sec. D-3. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§2, ¶QQ, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 348, §3, is amended to read:

QQ. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2020, to the extent included in federal adjusted gross income, any earnings on funds in an account established under a qualified ABLE program that complies with the requirements of the federal Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014, Public Law 113-295.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 663

H.P. 1467 - L.D. 2180

An Act to Make Changes to the Laws Regarding the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Human Resources and the State Civil Service Appeals Board

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

PART A

Sec. A-1. 4 MRSA §807, sub-§3, ¶U, as amended by PL 2025, c. 97, §2, is further amended to read:

U. Practice, pursuant to a rule of the Supreme Judicial Court, by a law student enrolled in a law school accredited by the American Bar Association; ~~or~~

Sec. A-2. 4 MRSA §807, sub-§3, ¶V, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 97, §3, is amended to read:

V. An attorney certified by the judge advocate general of that attorney's respective military branch representing Maine National Guard members in proceedings conducted pursuant to Title 37-B, section 415-A;

Sec. A-3. 4 MRSA §807, sub-§3, ¶W is enacted to read:

W. A person who is not an attorney but is representing the State before the State Civil Service Appeals Board as described in Title 5, section 7081 on a reclassification, reallocation or reorganization appeal; or

Sec. A-4. 4 MRSA §807, sub-§3, ¶X is enacted to read:

X. A person who is not an attorney but is representing the State before an arbitrator related to a grievance filed under a collective bargaining agreement.

PART B

Sec. B-1. 5 MRSA §7083, as corrected by RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. B, §§73 to 76, is amended to read:

§7083. Procedure for settlement

A grievance or dispute between a state employee and the agency of the State by whom the state employee is employed must be entertained by the appeals board upon the application of the employee, as long as there has been compliance with the following requirements:

1. Adjust dispute. ~~That the employee aggrieved or the employee's representative, or both, have attempted to adjust the dispute through oral communication with the employee's immediate supervisor within 7 working days of the time that the employee is aware of the grievable incident. The immediate supervisor is then required to render an oral decision to the employee within 3 working days;~~

2. Grievance in writing. ~~If the employee is dissatisfied with the oral decision of the employee's immediate supervisor, the employee or the employee's representative, or both, may, before the end of the 10th working day following the day of the oral decision, present the grievance to the employee's supervisor again, this time in written form. The supervisor is then required to make a decision in writing and present it to the employee within 10 working days;~~

3. Appeal Submission of grievance or dispute to department or agency head. ~~If the employee is dissatisfied with the supervisor's written decision, the employee or the employee's representative, or both, then may, before the end of the 20th working day following receipt of the decision, appeal in writing to the department head. The Within 21 days of the employee becoming aware of the grievance or dispute, the employee or the employee's representative, or both, shall submit the grievance or dispute in writing to the department or agency head describing the employee's desired resolution. Within 21 days of receiving the employee's written notice of the grievance or dispute, the department or agency head shall meet with the employee or the employee's designated representative, or both, within 20 working days of receipt of the employee's notice of dissatisfaction and attempt to adjust the dispute. Within 5 working days of meeting with the employee or the employee's representative, or both, the department or agency head shall render a decision in writing to the aggrieved employee and or the employee's representative, or both.~~

If the department or agency head issues a written decision after conducting a due process meeting with the employee or the employee's representative, or both, at which the employee was afforded an opportunity to present information relating to proposed disciplinary action issued by the department or agency head, the written decision must be treated as the final written decision of the department or agency head for the purposes of this subsection. Upon receipt of the written decision following the due process meeting, no further action by the employee is required at the department or agency level, and the employee may appeal the written decision to the officer pursuant to subsection 4 if the employee is a classified employee or the employee may appeal the written decision directly to the appeals board pursuant to subsection 5 if the employee is an unclassified employee;

4. Appeal to State Human Resources Officer. ~~If the classified employee is dissatisfied with the written decision following the meeting with of the department or agency head, the employee or the employee's representative, or both, may appeal in writing to the State Human Resources Officer within 7 working days of meeting with the department head 21 days of receiving the written decision. The officer shall within 10 working 21 days reply in writing to the aggrieved employee, or the employee's representative, or both, and the department or agency head involved stating the officer's decision, based on the Civil Service Law and rules;~~

5. Submission to board. ~~In the event the grievance is not satisfactorily adjusted under subsections 1 to 3 and 4, within the time limits in those subsections, the dispute may be submitted to the appeals board within 10 working 21 days following receipt of the officer's written decision of the last relevant written decision from the employer pursuant to subsection 3 or 4. The appeals board shall investigate the matters in controversy, shall hear all interested persons who come before it and shall make a written decision, which is binding on the parties involved. The appeals board's written decision must be issued within 30 working days after the hearing on the dispute is concluded, unless both parties agree that an extension of the time limit should be allowed; and~~

6. Procedure. Any member of the appeals board may administer oaths and subpoena and require the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers, public records and other relevant documentary evidence or certified copies of the evidence by the department or agency head pertinent to the dispute and shall do so if requested in writing by any party to the dispute or the party's representative. A witness summonsed by subpoena is entitled to witness fees and travel allowance in the amount allowed for appearance in District Court, the costs of which must be advanced by the party requesting the subpoena prior to issuance of the subpoena. A state employee subpoenaed under this subsection may not lose pay to which the employee would otherwise be entitled.

Sec. B-2. 5 MRSA §7084, sub-§1, as corrected by RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. B, §77, is amended to read:

1. Application for extension. The chair of the appeals board may extend any time limit specified in section 7083, subsections 4 3 to 4 5, upon written application of either party, as long as the application is submitted within the time provided for in the applicable step. Failure of an employee to pursue a grievance within the prescribed time limits constitutes an acceptance of the last response by the department or agency head. Failure of the department or agency head to respond within the stipulated time limits provided for in the applicable step constitutes an automatic waiver of that step and the employee may proceed to the next step as outlined in this section.

A. At least one day prior to the ~~presentation sub-~~mission of the employee's grievance to the ~~employ-~~ee's supervisor department or agency head, the employee's representative, if any, may have access to the work location of the employee involved during the working hours for the purpose of investigating the grievance.

B. The department ~~or~~ agency head may designate a representative, with authority to take appropriate action, who must be at the deputy or assistant department ~~or~~ agency head or labor specialist level to represent the department ~~or~~ agency head in section 7083, subsections ~~2 and 3~~ and 4.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 664

H.P. 1465 - L.D. 2177

An Act to Update and Improve the MaineCare Reimbursement System

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1708, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2021, c. 29, Pt. R, §1, is further amended to read:

3. Compensation for nursing homes. A nursing home, as defined under section 1812-A, or any portion of a hospital or institution operated as a nursing home, when the State is liable for payment for care, must be reimbursed at a rate established by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to ~~this subsection~~ section 3173-J. ~~The department may not establish a so-called "flat rate."~~ This subsection applies to all funds, including federal funds, paid by any agency of the State to a nursing home for patient care. The department shall establish rules concerning reimbursement that:

A. Take into account the costs of providing care and services in conformity with applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations and quality and safety standards;

B. Are reasonable and adequate to meet the costs incurred by efficiently and economically operated facilities;

C. Are consistent with federal requirements relative to limits on reimbursement under the federal Social Security Act, Title XIX; and

~~D. Ensure that any calculation of an occupancy percentage or other basis for adjusting the rate of reimbursement for nursing facility services to reduce the amount paid in response to a decrease in the number of residents in the facility or the percentage of the facility's occupied beds excludes all beds that the facility has removed from service for~~

~~all or part of the relevant fiscal period in accordance with section 333. If the excluded beds are converted to residential care beds or another program for which the department provides reimbursement, nothing in this paragraph precludes the department from including those beds for purposes of any occupancy standard applicable to the residential care or other program pursuant to duly adopted rules of the department;~~

~~E. Contain an annual inflation adjustment that:~~

- ~~(1) Recognizes regional variations in labor costs and the rates of increase in labor costs determined pursuant to the principles of reimbursement and establishes at least 4 regions for purposes of annual inflation adjustments; and~~
- ~~(2) Uses the applicable regional inflation factor as established by a national economic research organization selected by the department to adjust costs other than labor costs or fixed costs; and~~

~~F. Establish a nursing facility's base year every 2 years and increase the rate of reimbursement beginning July 1, 2014 and every year thereafter until June 30, 2018. For the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018, the base year for each facility is its fiscal year that ended in the calendar year 2016. For state fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2019, subsequent rebasing must be based on the most recent cost report filings available. The department may provide a mechanism for subsequent adjustments to base year costs to reflect any material difference between as filed cost reports used in rebasing and subsequent determinations of audited, allowable costs for the same fiscal period. The department's rules must provide that, beginning in the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018, the rates set for each rebasing year must include an inflation adjustment for a cost of living percentage change in nursing facility reimbursement each year in accordance with the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index nursing homes and adult day care services index.~~

~~Any rebasing done pursuant to this paragraph may not result in a nursing facility receiving a reimbursement rate that is lower than the rate in effect on June 30, 2018.~~

G. Establish that nursing facility reimbursement will be rebased for rates effective January 1, 2028, and thereafter rebasing must occur in accordance with section 3173-J.

Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §1720, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 242, §1, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §3173-J, as amended by PL 2023, c. 238, §1, is further amended to read:

§3173-J. Rate-setting system for development and maintenance of sustainable, efficient and value-oriented MaineCare payment models and rates reimbursement of MaineCare-covered services

This section establishes a rate-setting system for the development and maintenance of ~~MaineCare payment models and rates~~ reimbursement of MaineCare-covered services that ~~comply~~ complies with the requirement in 42 United States Code, Section 1396a that rates be consistent with efficiency, economy and quality of care; that ~~are~~ is adequate to support MaineCare member access to services; and that ~~are~~ is equitable and data-driven.

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Alternative payment model" means a health care payment model that uses financial incentives to promote or leverage greater value for patients, purchasers, payers or providers and that connects at least a portion of reimbursement to performance on defined quality measures.

B. "MaineCare section of policy" means a set of MaineCare-covered services, as categorized by the department through the adoption of rules that specify the parameters for coverage.

B-1. "Payment model" means the method that the department uses to reimburse providers for health care services, including whether the reimbursement is paid on a fee-for-service basis or another basis such as per member, per month or an estimated basis that is cost settled.

C. "Rate determination" means a process conducted by the department to establish the payment model, associated reimbursement rate methodology, base and, if applicable, the rate amount or payment model for a MaineCare section of policy or for a specific covered service, whether through adoption or adaptation of a benchmark rate or payment model from another payer or ~~development~~ through a rate study.

D. "Rate study" means an analysis conducted by the department or its contracted vendor to develop a recommended ~~rate payment model, associated reimbursement methodology and resulting base rate amount and payment model based on the service model and cost components for the service amounts for current or potential MaineCare-covered services.~~ A rate study relies on data col-

lected as part of the analysis conducted by the department to inform the cost of providing services and resulting rates rather than relying on a benchmark of existing rates or payment models used by other payers.

E. "Reimbursement methodology" means the method for determining the rate or reimbursement amount under the payment model. Examples of reimbursement methodologies include using standardized assumptions for determining service cost components, such as staffing levels, wages based on required qualifications, benefits and program administration, to determine a reimbursement rate per unit of service; using cost-based reimbursement, under which the MaineCare program determines the percentage it will pay of reported allowable costs; and adjusting reimbursements for patient acuity or the relative duration or intensity of the service.

2. Rate-setting system principles and processes.

The department shall establish MaineCare provider payment models, including reimbursement rates, including those paid through fee for service and alternative payment models. ~~The rates must be established methodologies and rate amounts, where applicable, in accordance with the following principles and processes and adopted through rulemaking as described in subsection 3. Changes to rates required by the Federal Government to assist with emergency or extraordinary circumstances or rate reductions required by the Legislature for the purpose of responding to projected MaineCare budget shortfalls are not subject to this section.~~ The department shall:

A. Develop annually a schedule of rate determination by MaineCare section of policy in consultation with the MaineCare Rate Reform Expert Technical Advisory Panel established under subsection 5 as follows:

(1) Post the rate determination schedule on its publicly accessible website, including the date of the most recent rate review and any discussion of issues related to member access by section of MaineCare policy and a description of how the most recent rate review and discussion of issues related to member access impacted the proposed and final rate determination schedule;

(2) Provide an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the rate determination schedule and make available a summary of these comments on its publicly accessible website; and

(3) Conduct off-schedule rate determinations as the department finds appropriate;

B. Conduct or contract for, every 4 years, a comprehensive benchmarking report to compare

MaineCare rates for all services to those paid by Medicare, at least 5 comparison Medicaid states and any appropriate Maine commercial payers. The department shall provide public notice of the initiation of the comprehensive benchmarking process, provide an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the draft report and make available a summary of these comments alongside the final report;

C. No less frequently than once every 5 years, conduct a rate determination ~~process~~ for each MaineCare section of policy or for a specific covered service, in accordance with the following procedures:

(1) Provide public notice of initiation of the rate determination for a MaineCare section of policy or for a specific covered service;

(2) Consider and, when appropriate, adopt alternative payment models that use financial incentives to promote or leverage greater value for the MaineCare program. This consideration must include a review of research on any available national models or best practices ~~regarding payment models~~ for reimbursement related to the service;

(3) Determine whether ~~a Medicare rate is available for the service and whether the Medicare rate represents the most appropriate benchmark and payment model covers a specific service and whether the Medicare reimbursement methodology is appropriate for a specific covered service~~;

(4) In the absence of ~~a an appropriate Medicare rate comparison, determine whether a rate from a review non-Medicare payer source sources, including, but not limited to, commercial health care rates payers in the State or other states' Medicaid rates, is available for the service and whether this alternate payer rate represents the most appropriate benchmark and payment model agencies~~. The department shall ~~determine an appropriate percentage of the benchmark rate for the service, taking take~~ into consideration the findings of the benchmarking report conducted in accordance with paragraph B;

(5) Conduct a rate study for every service for which ~~a benchmark rate or payment model in accordance with an appropriate reimbursement methodology or comparison under sub-paragraph (3) or (4) either is unavailable or is inconsistent with the goals of efficiency, economy and quality of care to support member access~~. Each rate study must include the following:

(a) A review of data, which must include:

(i) An assessment as to whether the delivery of service and associated requirements have changed since the previous rate study, if available, to determine if the rate payment model or reimbursement methodology ~~needs to~~ should be revised;

(ii) The collection of data applicable to the rate determination on provider costs and cost-related aspects of the delivery of service and associated requirements through existing cost reports, provider surveys and other available data sources; and

(iii) Research on any available national models or best practices regarding cost-related aspects of the delivery of service and associated requirements; and

(b) Developing or updating rates payment models or reimbursement methodologies by considering the following:

(i) The appropriateness of adoption of a change in payment model or reimbursement methodology consistent with the purposes of this section;

(ii) The current rate assumptions and their appropriateness given current provider costs, best practices or changes in the delivery of service and associated requirements;

(iii) The findings for related services of any comprehensive benchmarking report under paragraph B; and

(iv) The degree to which services are dependent on MaineCare reimbursement, including, but not limited to, cost factors, such as average wage, that may be reflective of restraints of MaineCare reimbursement versus costs of the broader marketplace; and

(6) Upon completion of the rate determination process, present the department's rationale and recommendations for rate the payment model, associated reimbursement methodology, resulting base rate amount and payment model amounts, if applicable, for public comment prior to the rule-making process; convene a meeting of interested providers and other interested members of the public to discuss the recommendations and hear comments; ~~and~~ respond in writing to comments with an explanation of whether and how feedback was incorporated into the final rate determination; and report on the overall fiscal cost associated

with implementation under this subparagraph; and

D. Ensure that base rate amounts and other components of the reimbursement methodology developed under paragraph C are updated to keep pace with changes in the costs of delivering the service by:

(1) For rates benchmarked to Medicare rates according to paragraph C, subparagraph (3), referencing Medicare rates for the most current year available, updated at least annually, and reviewing the current established percentage benchmark, as appropriate, taking into consideration the findings of the most recent benchmarking report conducted in accordance with paragraph B;

(2) For rates benchmarked to an alternate payer source in accordance with paragraph C, subparagraph (4), updating rates to the most current year of data for that payer source at least once every 2 years and reviewing the current established percentage benchmark, as appropriate, taking into consideration the findings of the benchmarking report conducted in accordance with paragraph B; and

(3) For base rates determined through a rate study in accordance with paragraph C, subparagraph (5), providing an annual cost-of-living adjustment effective on a consistent date to be established by the department for each service that has not received a rate adjustment within the 12 months prior to the effective date of the cost-of-living adjustment and for which the department determines benchmarking in accordance with paragraph C, subparagraph (3) or (4) is not appropriate or advisable. In establishing and implementing cost-of-living adjustments, the department shall:

(a) Use inflation indices determined established through rulemaking to reflect a reasonable cost of providing services for different categories of services rather than reflecting other factors, such as private sector price increases or cost-shifting from different payers; and

(b) Maximize use of a single, consistent and general cost-of-living adjustment index for services for which the costs of direct care staffing are the primary driver of overall cost increases, consistent with the cost-of-living adjustment applied to the minimum wage laws, in order to ensure that the cost of living adjustment reflects increases to provider costs for delivering the service rather than other factors, such as private sector price increases or cost-

shifting from different payers under Title 26, section 664, subsection 1. The department shall:

(i) Apply this adjustment to services provided by essential support workers as defined in section 7401, subsection 3; and

(ii) For any services for which the department applies an adjustment equal to the increase in minimum wage, apply the adjustment to the reimbursement rate between 6 and 12 months after the minimum wage increase goes into effect.

(c) Publish, by January 1st, on the department's publicly accessible website, based on available data, the estimated cost of the cost-of-living adjustments to be applied in the subsequent fiscal year.

3. Rulemaking for establishment of rate payment model and reimbursement methodology. ~~In addition to the requirements of Title 5, chapter 375, rulemaking for MaineCare provider reimbursement rate methodologies must comply with the following. The department shall:~~

A. Establishment of a rate Conduct rulemaking to establish a payment model and reimbursement methodology for a new MaineCare section of policy or specific new service within a MaineCare section of policy or make changes to an existing rate payment model or reimbursement methodology must be adopted through rulemaking in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection must describe the payment model and reimbursement methodology but do not need to include codes, modifiers, reimbursement rates or any other information that the department includes in its centralized master index of rates posted on its publicly accessible website pursuant to subsection 7. Rulemaking is not required for the addition or deletion of new billing codes or to specify rates for specific billing codes if there is no change in the overall payment model or reimbursement methodology and the rates are posted in accordance with this section. Changes in rates resulting from application of the reimbursement methodology, including adjustments as a result of changes in the value or amount of components of the reimbursement methodology or changes to billing codes, do not require rulemaking as long as the reimbursement methodology remains the same; and

B. For services the department benchmarks to Medicare or other available payer rates for reimbursement, the department shall adopt a rule speci-

fying the percentage, frequency of benchmark updates for alternate payer sources and other aspects of the benchmark methodology. Additional rulemaking is not required for rate changes tied to the adopted benchmark methodology, or for the addition of new billing codes, unless the department changes the benchmarking percentage or methodology.

~~C. No later than July 1, 2023, the department shall adopt a rule specifying the appropriate cost of living adjustment methodology for different types of services in accordance with subsection 2, paragraph D, subparagraph (3). Additional rulemaking is not required for rate increases tied to annual cost of living adjustment increases unless the department changes the cost of living adjustment methodology.~~

Rulemaking is not required for rate adjustments tied to annual cost-of-living adjustment increases unless the department changes the cost-of-living adjustment methodology.

Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection may incorporate by reference any part of a code, standard, rule, regulation or schedule or any other source considered appropriate by the department. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are not subject to Title 5, section 8056, subsection 2-A, as long as the rules identify the incorporated matter by title or source, as appropriate.

Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A unless rules to adopt MaineCare reimbursement rates are designated as major substantive rules in another section of law.

4. Funding. The department may use funds from the MaineCare Stabilization Fund established in section 3174-KK in order to fund the ~~rate reimbursement~~ adjustments made in accordance with this section when funding may be needed in addition to appropriations associated with separate initiatives. Adjustments to reimbursements made using the MaineCare Stabilization Fund are not considered permanent until ongoing appropriations and allocations funding the adjustments are made.

5. MaineCare Rate Reform Expert Technical Advisory Panel. The MaineCare Rate Reform Expert Technical Advisory Panel, referred to in this subsection as "the panel," is established for the purpose of advising the commissioner by providing technical, nonpartisan, 3rd-party expertise to inform the department's planned schedule and actions on rate assumptions, payment models and other related technical matters. The panel may not propose rates or methodologies. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall serve as chair.

A. The panel includes the following members:

- (1) A representative from the Maine Health Data Organization;
- (2) A representative from the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance;
- ~~(3) A representative from the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation;~~
- (4) A representative from the department's division of licensing and certification;
- (5) A representative from the Office of Affordable Health Care;
- (6) A representative from the Department of Labor; and
- (7) A representative from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

B. The panel shall:

- (1) Review annual schedules of MaineCare sections of policy scheduled for rate determinations under subsection 2, paragraph A;
- (2) Review common assumptions and recommendations from rate determinations under subsection 2, paragraph C;
- (3) Review findings from benchmarking reports to inform the appropriateness of MaineCare ~~rate~~ reimbursement levels across services; and
- (4) Advise on other related technical matters, as appropriate.

C. The panel shall meet at least ~~twice~~ once per year and as otherwise convened by the commissioner. Meetings of the panel are public, and the panel shall provide public notice of each meeting and an opportunity for public comment.

6. MaineCare Advisory Committee. The MaineCare Advisory Committee, required by 42 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 431.12 and further described in department rules, and referred to in this subsection as "the committee," shall participate in the department's rate-setting system in accordance with this subsection.

A. The committee must include a permanent rate system subcommittee that allows broad participation by the full spectrum of types of MaineCare providers. Participation in the rate system subcommittee may not be limited by number or type of stakeholder in order to allow for participation by any stakeholder affected by MaineCare reimbursement policy and interested in participating in the work of the subcommittee.

B. At each meeting of the committee or rate system subcommittee, if requested by the chair of the com-

mittee or rate system subcommittee, the department shall provide updates on the department's planned and completed activities under this section for discussion and advisement, including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) Schedule and status of rate determination, planned and in progress, by MaineCare section of policy;
- (2) Status of and plans for comprehensive benchmarking studies; and
- (3) Contemplated rulemaking to establish ~~rate methodology payment models and reimbursement methodologies~~ resulting from rate determination processes.

C. The rate system subcommittee may formulate and present recommendations to the committee pertaining to the department's activities under this section.

7. Index of MaineCare rates by service code; publicly accessible website. The department shall maintain and annually update a centralized master index of rates by service code and post this index on its publicly accessible website. The index must contain the following:

- A. The service code, including any modifiers that affect reimbursement;
- B. The current year rate;
- C. The source for the rate, including, but not limited to, Medicare or alternate payer benchmark, rate study or other source, and the year and the author of the review, study or report that justified the rate;
- D. The year the base rate was last updated prior to the application of any subsequent cost-of-living adjustments;
- E. Whether the rate is subject to cost-of-living adjustments and, if so, the identity of the benchmark index;
- F. The section of MaineCare policy pursuant to which the rate was adopted; and
- G. The target date for the next rate review.

In addition to the index, the department shall post on its publicly accessible website all rate studies, benchmark reports and other materials used by the department to develop the rates and payment models.

8. Notice prior to implementation. For planned rate changes that do not require rulemaking as described in subsection 3, the department shall provide notice prior to implementation, of no less than 30 calendar days for cost-of-living adjustments and no less than 7 calendar days for Medicare fee schedule changes or the

addition of new service codes, to stakeholders who request to receive such notice.

Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §7403, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 398, Pt. AAAA, §1, is repealed.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 665

H.P. 1427 - L.D. 2112

An Act to Authorize Municipalities to Form Community Choice Aggregation Programs to Procure Electricity

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3202, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 316, §3, is amended to read:

3. Aggregation permitted; limitation. When retail access begins, consumers of electricity may aggregate their purchases of generation service in any manner they choose. If a public entity serves as an aggregator, it may not require consumers of electricity within its jurisdiction to purchase generation service from that entity except as provided in section 3219.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3219 is enacted to read:

§3219. Community choice aggregation program

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Community choice aggregation program" means a program through which a municipality or group of municipalities located in the service territory of an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility aggregates the electric load of residential customers and small commercial electricity customers within the jurisdiction of the municipality or group of municipalities to procure electricity on their behalf.

B. "Competitive electricity provider service agreement" means a form agreement that is developed by the commission by rule in accordance with subsection 10, paragraph G and that is signed by an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility and a program supplier.

C. "Default service" means the standard-offer service provided in accordance with section 3212.

D. "Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians" has the same meaning as in Title 30, section 6203, subsection 2.

E. "Mi'kmaq Nation" has the same meaning as in Title 30, section 7203, subsection 4.

F. "Passamaquoddy Tribe" has the same meaning as in Title 30, section 6203, subsection 7.

G. "Penobscot Nation" has the same meaning as in Title 30, section 6203, subsection 10.

H. "Program consultant" means a person acting as a broker or aggregator and licensed as a competitive electricity provider in accordance with section 3203 that is engaged by a municipality or group of municipalities to assist with the development and operation of a community choice aggregation program.

I. "Program supplier" means a competitive electricity provider licensed in accordance with section 3203 that has executed a competitive electricity provider service agreement and is providing electricity to customers under a community choice aggregation program.

2. Community choice aggregation program; plan approval. A municipality or group of municipalities may implement a community choice aggregation program in accordance with the requirements of this section.

A. A municipality or group of municipalities may adopt a community choice aggregation program plan if the adoption is approved by a majority vote of each municipality's legislative body or governing board and the adoption of the plan is approved by a majority of voters in each municipality adopting the plan.

B. If a municipality or group of municipalities has adopted a plan in accordance with paragraph A, the municipality or group of municipalities may submit the plan to the commission for approval.

C. The commission shall review and approve or reject a plan submitted for approval in accordance with paragraph B. Pursuant to subsection 10, the commission shall adopt rules to establish requirements for community choice aggregation program plans, including, but not limited to, requirements for a municipality or a group of municipalities to conduct targeted outreach in the municipality's or group of municipalities' jurisdiction to ensure that customers are aware of their rights, benefits of the community choice aggregation program and opt-out options.

D. If the commission rejects a community choice aggregation program plan, the municipality or group of municipalities may amend the plan to address deficiencies identified by the commission and resubmit the plan to the commission without complying with the requirements of paragraph A as long as the amendments to the plan are not material in nature as determined by the commission.

E. If the commission approves a community choice aggregation program plan, the municipality or group of municipalities shall comply with the notification requirements in subsections 3 and 4 before implementing the community choice aggregation program.

A municipality or group of municipalities may not implement a community choice aggregation program unless the plan has been approved by the commission.

3. Community choice aggregation program; regulatory notice. After receiving community choice aggregation program plan approval from the commission in accordance with subsection 2 and prior to implementing the community choice aggregation program, a municipality shall provide written notice to the commission, the Public Advocate, the Department of Energy Resources and an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility serving customers within the community choice aggregation program service area in accordance with rules adopted by the commission pursuant to subsection 10, paragraph H.

4. Customer notice. A municipality or group of municipalities that receives commission approval for a community choice aggregation program plan under subsection 2 shall send all default service customers, other than customers described in subsection 5, paragraph B, subparagraphs (1), (2) and (4), within the municipality's or group of municipalities' jurisdiction at least one written notice via first-class mail and publish one notice in a newspaper of general circulation informing the customers of the following:

A. The community choice aggregation program details;

B. The right to opt out of the community choice aggregation program without penalty; and

C. The process and deadlines for opting out of the community choice aggregation program.

The notice required by this subsection must be provided to each default service customer prior to the time the customer is initially enrolled in the community choice aggregation program and must be sent in accordance with time frames established by the commission by rule pursuant to subsection 10, paragraph D.

5. Community choice aggregation program; implementation. Except as provided in paragraph B, subparagraphs (1), (2) and (4), after receiving community choice aggregation program plan approval from the commission and complying with the regulatory notice requirements in subsection 3 and the customer notice requirements in subsection 4, all default service customers within the municipality's or group of municipalities' jurisdiction may be automatically enrolled in the community choice aggregation program unless they affirmatively opt out.

A. A municipality or group of municipalities may elect not to provide service to a customer under a community choice aggregation program based on the customer's utility payment history.

B. A customer may not be automatically enrolled in a community choice aggregation program and must affirmatively opt in in order to participate in the community choice aggregation program if the customer:

(1) Is participating in net energy billing pursuant to section 3209-A or 3209-B;

(2) Is participating in a front of the meter distributed energy resource program pursuant to section 3209-I;

(3) Is receiving generation service from a competitive electricity provider; or

(4) Is receiving financial assistance for low-income households in accordance with section 3214, subsection 2 or participating in an arrearage management program pursuant to section 3214, subsection 2-A.

C. A customer receiving financial assistance for low-income households in accordance with section 3214, subsection 2 or participating in an arrearage management program pursuant to section 3214, subsection 2-A may not receive electricity supply under a community choice aggregation program if the customer would pay a supply rate under the community choice aggregation program that is at any time higher than the default service supply rate.

D. A customer may be unenrolled from a community choice aggregation program and returned to default service for nonpayment of electricity services provided under the community choice aggregation program.

E. The approval of a plan by the commission as described in subsection 2 constitutes a default service customer's authorization for the program consultant or program supplier to provide service as required by section 3203, subsection 4-A, paragraph A.

F. If a customer not automatically enrolled opts in to a community choice aggregation program, the customer is responsible for sharing the customer's electricity account information with the program consultant or program supplier.

G. If a customer has a contract to receive generation service from a competitive electricity provider and opts in to a community choice aggregation program, the customer is responsible for notifying the competitive electricity provider that the customer is terminating the contract to opt in to the community choice aggregation program.

H. A program consultant or program supplier, with the approval of the municipality or group of municipalities that has implemented the community choice aggregation program, may communicate with customers receiving service under the community choice aggregation program regarding the community choice aggregation program and any energy-related products or services that may be available to those customers.

6. Protections for low-income and electric assistance program customers. The following protections apply to low-income customers and electric assistance program customers enrolled in a community choice aggregation program.

A. Enrollment in a community choice aggregation program does not affect a customer's eligibility for or receipt of benefits under an electric assistance program or any other low-income assistance program administered by the State.

B. All discounts, credits and protections afforded to low-income customers under an arrearage management program pursuant to section 3214, subsection 2-A continue to apply without interruption or modification.

C. An investor-owned transmission and distribution utility or a municipality may not charge a customer enrolled in an electric assistance program or any other low-income assistance program administered by the State any additional fees, charges or penalties as a result of participation in a community choice aggregation program.

7. Billing and collection; data sharing. If a municipality or group of municipalities implements a community choice aggregation program plan approved by the commission under subsection 2, the investor-owned transmission and distribution utility serving customers enrolled in the community choice aggregation program shall:

A. Provide the program consultant or program supplier with the same options for billing as those available to competitive electricity providers providing generation service to retail customers pursuant to section 3203;

B. Remit payments in the same manner as required for competitive electricity providers providing generation service in accordance with rules adopted by the commission pursuant to section 3203; and

C. Within a time frame established by the commission by rule, after a request by a program consultant or program supplier, provide to the program consultant, the program supplier or an authorized agent of the program consultant or program supplier, in standardized machine-readable format, all customer-specific data reasonably necessary to

price, notify customers of and implement a community choice aggregation program. The commission shall establish by rule the customer-specific data that must be provided by an investor-owned utility, which must include, but is not limited to:

- (1) Customer name and account number;
- (2) Service address and mailing address;
- (3) Customer class and applicable rate schedule;
- (4) Twelve months of historical electricity usage data at the level of detail available to the transmission and distribution utility obtained using the utility's available automated electronic data or produced directly by the utility with the cost of production to be paid by the requester;
- (5) Capacity tag data or other peak demand obligation data used for resource adequacy or capacity procurement;
- (6) Twelve months of aggregated payment history for electricity customers in the municipality or group of municipalities;
- (7) Whether an electricity customer is receiving default service or supply from a competitive electricity provider;
- (8) Whether an electricity customer participates in net energy billing pursuant to section 3209-A or 3209-B or a front of the meter distributed energy resource program pursuant to section 3209-I or otherwise exports energy to the electric grid; and
- (9) Any additional customer or account information required by the commission by rule to support aggregation pricing, customer notification, enrollment or community choice aggregation program implementation.

Transmission and distribution services remain with the investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities, which must be paid for according to rate schedules approved by the applicable regulatory authority.

8. Confidentiality. Program consultants and program suppliers are subject to the confidentiality requirement established in section 3203, subsection 4-A, paragraph B.

9. Tribal community choice aggregation programs. The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Mi'kmaq Nation, the Penobscot Nation or the Passamaquoddy Tribe may establish a community choice aggregation program in accordance with this section. The rights applicable to municipalities as provided in this section apply to any community choice aggregation programs that may be established by the Houlton Band

of Maliseet Indians, the Mi'kmaq Nation, the Penobscot Nation or the Passamaquoddy Tribe.

10. Rulemaking. The commission shall initiate rulemaking for the implementation of this section no later than January 1, 2027. The rules must include, but are not limited to, rules establishing:

A. The process by which a municipality or group of municipalities may:

- (1) Establish a community choice aggregation program under subsection 2, paragraph A; and
- (2) Seek approval from the commission under subsection 2, paragraph B;

B. Standards for commission approval of a community choice aggregation program plan under subsection 2, paragraph C;

C. Opt-in procedures for customers identified in subsection 5, paragraph B and opt-out procedures for default service customers;

D. Timing and notice requirements related to the automatic enrollment of default service customers in a community choice aggregation program;

E. Consumer protection and transparency requirements;

F. Requirements for data sharing by a transmission and distribution utility in accordance with subsection 7, paragraph C, to ensure that data is provided in a timely fashion and updated as necessary to support the ongoing administration of a community choice aggregation program;

G. A standard competitive electricity provider service agreement to be used by a program supplier and an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to provide for the ongoing sharing of data as described in subsection 7, paragraph C;

H. The timing for providing regulatory notice as required by subsection 3;

I. A process, which may include the establishment of a fee to be paid by a program consultant, a program supplier or a municipality or group of municipalities implementing a community choice aggregation program, to ensure that an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility will not incur any costs to implement the requirements of this section; and

J. Provisions to minimize to the greatest extent practicable impacts to default service.

Notwithstanding Title 5, section 8071, rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 666
H.P. 1425 - L.D. 2110

**An Act to Update Employer
Substance Use Testing Policy
Requirements**

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §681, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §105, is further amended to read:

C. Ensure that an employee with substance use disorder receives an opportunity for rehabilitation and treatment of the disease and returns to work as quickly as possible; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §681, sub-§1, ¶D, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 832, §1, is amended to read:

D. Eliminate drug use in the workplace; ~~and~~

Sec. 3. 26 MRSA §681, sub-§1, ¶E is enacted to read:

E. Protect employees in the State from injuries and illnesses caused by impairment in the workplace.

Sec. 4. 26 MRSA §681, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §105, is further amended to read:

2. Employer discretion. This subchapter does not require or encourage employers to conduct substance use testing of employees or applicants. An employer ~~who~~ that chooses to conduct such testing is limited by this subchapter, but may establish policies that are supplemental to and not inconsistent with this subchapter. An employer that chooses to conduct testing pursuant to this subchapter shall follow the procedures of the employer's substance use testing policy fully once a test has been initiated.

Sec. 5. 26 MRSA §681, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §105, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

~~A With the approval of the Department of Labor, a labor organization with a collective bargaining agreement effective in the State may conduct a program of substance use testing of its members. The program may include testing of new members and periodic testing of all members. It may not include random testing of members. The program may be voluntary. The results may not be used to preclude referral to a job where testing is not required or to otherwise discipline a member. Sample collection and testing must be done in accordance with this subchapter. Approval of the Department of Labor is not required.~~

Sec. 6. 26 MRSA §681, sub-§8, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §105, is further amended to read:

8. ~~Nuclear power plants; federal law~~ Federally mandated substance use testing program. The following limitations apply to the application of this subchapter.

~~A. This subchapter does not apply to nuclear electrical generating facilities and their employees, including independent contractors and employees of independent contractors who are working at nuclear electrical generating facilities.~~

C. This subchapter does not apply to any employer subject to a federally mandated substance use testing program, including, but not limited to, testing mandated by the federal Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991, Public Law 102-143, Title V, its applicants for employment and its employees, including independent contractors and employees of independent contractors who are working for or at the facilities of an employer ~~who~~ that is subject to such a federally mandated substance use testing program. To qualify for the limitation under this paragraph, the employer must have at least one employee located in the State for whom substance use testing is federally mandated, and the employer, in conducting any substance use testing of applicants or employees for whom substance use testing is not federally mandated, shall follow the same federal regulations applicable to the testing of employees for whom substance use testing is federally mandated.

Sec. 7. 26 MRSA §682, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Criteria-based testing. "Criteria-based testing" or "criteria-based," with respect to substance use testing, means that the frequency of substance use testing and the selection of persons being tested are based on a set event, such as an employment anniversary or promotion. "Criteria-based testing" includes client-required or site-specific testing based on criteria unrelated to substance use, such as when a client requires testing prior to work on a project or specific site.

Sec. 8. 26 MRSA §682, sub-§3-A, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §106, is repealed.

Sec. 9. 26 MRSA §682, sub-§3-B is enacted to read:

3-B. Legitimate medical explanation. "Legitimate medical explanation" means an explanation provided by an employee that justifies a confirmed positive result on a test for a tested-for substance. "Legitimate medical explanation" includes:

A. Use of a controlled substance with a valid prescription, prescribed for a legitimate medical purpose in a quantity appropriate for the condition and expected duration with levels consistent with prescribed amounts; or

B. Legal use of cannabis pursuant to the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act.

Sec. 10. 26 MRSA §682, sub-§3-C is enacted to read:

3-C. Medical review officer. "Medical review officer" means a person who is a licensed physician and who is responsible for receiving and reviewing laboratory results generated by an employer's substance use testing program and evaluating medical explanations for certain substance use test results.

Sec. 11. 26 MRSA §682, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §106, is further amended to read:

5. Positive Non-negative test result. "Positive Non-negative test result" means a test result that indicates the presence of a substance in the tested sample above the cutoff level of the test but that has not been confirmed by a confirmation test.

A. "Confirmed positive result" means a confirmation test result that indicates the presence of a substance above the cutoff level in the tested sample.

Sec. 12. 26 MRSA §682, sub-§5-A is enacted to read:

5-A. Observable behavior. "Observable behavior" means observable physical, behavioral or psychological signs that can be seen, heard, smelled or otherwise observed that provide a reasonable suspicion that an employee is impaired by substance use, including signs regarding appearance, behavior, speech or odor that are usually associated with substance use.

Sec. 13. 26 MRSA §682, sub-§5-B is enacted to read:

5-B. Random testing. "Random testing" or "random" means a neutral selection method by which all employees have an equal chance of being selected for substance use testing.

Sec. 14. 26 MRSA §682, sub-§6, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §106, is further amended to read:

6. Probable cause Reasonable suspicion. "Probable cause Reasonable suspicion" means ~~a reasonable ground for belief in the existence of facts that induce a person to believe specific and articulable facts that, taken together with rational inferences from those facts, reasonably support the belief that an employee may be under the influence of a substance, provided except that the existence of probable cause reasonable suspicion may not be based exclusively on any of the following:~~

A. Information received from an anonymous informant;

B. Any information tending to indicate that an employee may have possessed or used a substance off

duty, except when the employee is observed possessing or ingesting any substance either while on the employer's premises or in the proximity of the employer's premises during or immediately before the employee's working hours; or

C. A single work-related accident without the employee also exhibiting observable behavior indicating impairment at the time of the accident.

Sec. 15. 26 MRSA §682, sub-§7, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §106, is further amended to read:

7. Substance use test. "Substance use test" means any test procedure designed to take and analyze body fluids or materials from the body for the purpose of detecting the presence of substances. ~~"Substance use test" does not include tests designed to determine blood alcohol concentration levels from a sample of an individual's breath.~~

A. "Screening test" means an initial substance use test performed through the use of immunoassay technology or a federally recognized substance use test, or a test technology of similar or greater accuracy and reliability approved by the Department of Health and Human Services under rules adopted under section 687, and that is used as a preliminary step in detecting the presence of substances.

(1) A screening test of an applicant's or employee's urine or saliva may be performed at the point of collection through the use of a noninstrumented point of collection test device ~~approved~~ cleared by the federal Food and Drug Administration. Section 683, subsection 5-A governs the use of such tests.

B. "Confirmation test" means a 2nd substance use test that is used to verify the presence of a substance indicated by an initial ~~positive non-negative~~ screening test result and is a federally recognized substance use test or is performed through the use of liquid or gas chromatography-mass spectrometry.

C. "Federally recognized substance use test" means any substance use test recognized by the federal Food and Drug Administration as accurate and reliable through the administration's clearance or approval process.

Sec. 16. 26 MRSA §683, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107 and PL 2021, c. 669, §5, is further amended to read:

2. Written policy. Before establishing any substance use testing program, an employer shall develop ~~or, as required in section 684, subsection 3, paragraph C, appoint an employee committee to develop~~ a written policy in compliance with this subchapter providing for, at a minimum:

A. The procedure and consequences of an employee's voluntary admission of a substance use problem and any available assistance, including the availability and procedure of the employer's employee assistance program;

B. When substance use testing may occur. The written policy must describe:

- (1) Which positions, if any, will be subject to testing, including any positions subject to random or ~~arbitrary~~ criteria-based testing under section 684, subsection 3. For applicant testing and ~~probable cause~~ reasonable suspicion testing of employees, an employer may designate that all positions are subject to testing; and
- (2) The procedure to be followed in selecting employees to be tested on a random or ~~arbitrary~~ criteria-based basis under section 684, subsection 3;

C. The collection of samples.

(1) The collection of any sample for use in a substance use test must be conducted in a medical facility and supervised by a licensed physician or nurse. A medical facility includes a first aid station located at the work site.

(2) An employer may not require an employee or applicant to remove any clothing for the purpose of collecting a urine sample, except that:

(a) An employer may require that an employee or applicant leave any personal belongings other than clothing and any unnecessary coat, jacket or similar outer garments outside the collection area; ~~or~~

~~(b) If it is the standard practice of an off-site medical facility to require the removal of clothing when collecting a urine sample for any purpose, the physician or nurse supervising the collection of the sample in that facility may require the employee or applicant to remove their clothing.~~

(3) An employee or applicant may not be required to provide a urine sample while being observed, directly or indirectly, by another individual.

(4) The employer may take additional actions necessary to ensure the integrity of a urine sample if the sample collector or testing laboratory determines that the sample may have been substituted, adulterated, diluted or otherwise tampered with in an attempt to influence test results. The Department of Health and Human Services shall adopt rules governing when those additional actions are justified and the scope of those actions. These rules may

not permit the direct or indirect observation of the collection of a urine sample. If an employee or applicant is found to have twice substituted, adulterated, diluted or otherwise tampered with the employee's or applicant's urine sample, as determined under the rules adopted by the department, the employee or applicant is deemed to have refused to submit to a substance use test.

(5) If the employer proposes to use the type of screening test described in section 682, subsection 7, paragraph A, subparagraph (1), the employer's policy must include:

(a) Procedures to ensure the confidentiality of test results as required in section 685, subsection 3; and

(b) Procedures for training persons performing the test in the proper manner of collecting samples and reading results, maintaining a proper chain of custody and complying with other applicable provisions of this subchapter;

D. The storage of samples before testing sufficient to inhibit deterioration of the sample;

E. The chain of custody of samples sufficient to protect the sample from tampering and to verify the identity of each sample and test result;

F. The substances to be tested for;

G. The cutoff levels for both screening tests and confirmation tests at which the presence of a substance in a sample is considered a ~~positive~~ non-negative test result.

(1) Cutoff levels for confirmation tests for cannabis may not be lower than 15 nanograms of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol-9-carboxylic acid per milliliter for urine samples.

(2) The Department of Health and Human Services shall adopt rules under section 687 regulating screening test and confirmation test cutoff levels for other substances, including those substances tested for in blood samples under subsection 5, paragraph B, to ensure that levels are set within known tolerances of test methods and above mere trace amounts. An employer may request that the Department of Health and Human Services establish a cutoff level for any substance for which the department has not established a cutoff level;

~~(3) Notwithstanding subparagraphs (1) and (2), if the Department of Health and Human Services does not have established cutoff levels or procedures for any specific federally recognized substance use test, the minimum cutoff levels and procedures that apply are those~~

set forth in the Federal Register, Volume 69, No. 71, sections 3.4 to 3.7 on pages 19697 and 19698;

H. The consequences of a confirmed positive ~~substance use test~~ result;

I. The consequences for refusal to submit to a substance use test;

J. Opportunities and procedures for rehabilitation following a confirmed positive result;

K. A procedure under which an employee or applicant who receives a confirmed positive result may appeal and contest the accuracy of that result. The policy must include a mechanism that provides an opportunity to appeal at no cost to the appellant; and

L. Any other matters required by rules adopted by the Department of Labor under section 687.

An employer shall consult with the employer's employees in the development of any portion of a substance use testing policy under this subsection that relates to the employees. The employer is not required to consult with the employees on those portions of a policy that relate only to applicants. The employer shall send a copy of the final written policy to the Department of Labor for review under section 686. The employer may not implement the policy until the Department of Labor approves the policy. The employer shall send a copy of any proposed change in an approved written policy to the Department of Labor for review under section 686. The employer may not implement the change until the Department of Labor approves the change.

Sec. 17. 26 MRSA §683, sub-§5, ¶B, as amended by PL 2019, c. 627, Pt. B, §7; PL 2021, c. 669, §5; and PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is further amended to read:

B. In the case of an employee, have a blood sample taken from the employee by a licensed physician, licensed physician associate, ~~or~~ registered nurse or ~~a other person certified by the Department of Health and Human Services trained and qualified~~ to draw blood samples. The employer shall have this sample tested for the presence of alcohol or cannabis metabolites, if those substances are to be tested for under the employer's written policy. If the employee requests that a blood sample be taken as provided in this paragraph, the employer may not test any other sample from the employee for the presence of these substances. The employer shall ensure that the testing facility and confirmation testing laboratory used by the employer accepts and has the ability to test blood samples.

(1) The Department of Health and Human Services may identify, by rules adopted under section 687, other substances for which an employee may request that a blood sample, instead of a urine sample, be tested ~~instead of a~~

~~urine sample~~ if the department determines that a sufficient correlation exists between the presence of the substance in an individual's blood and its effect upon the individual's performance.

(2) An employer may not require, request or suggest that any employee or applicant provide a blood sample for substance use testing purposes nor may any employer conduct a substance use test upon a blood sample except as provided in this paragraph.

(3) Applicants do not have the right to require the employer to test a blood sample as provided in this paragraph.

Sec. 18. 26 MRSA §683, sub-§5-A, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107, is further amended to read:

5-A. Point of collection screening test. Except as provided in this subsection, all provisions of this subchapter regulating screening tests apply to noninstrumented point of collection test devices described in section 682, subsection 7, paragraph A, subparagraph (1).

A. A noninstrumented point of collection test described in section 682, subsection 7, paragraph A, subparagraph (1) may be performed at the point of collection rather than in a laboratory. Subsections 6 and 7 and subsection 8, paragraphs A to C do not apply to such screening tests. Subsection 5 applies only to a sample that results in a ~~positive non-negative~~ test result.

B. Any sample that results in a negative test result must be destroyed. Any sample that results in a ~~positive non-negative~~ test result must be sent to a qualified testing laboratory consistent with subsections 6 to 8 for confirmation testing.

C. A person who performs a point of collection screening test or a confirmation test may release the results of that test only as follows.

(1) For a point of collection screening test ~~that results in a preliminary positive or negative test result,~~ the person performing the test shall release the test result to the employee who is the subject of the test immediately.

(2) For a point of collection screening test that results in a preliminary ~~positive non-negative~~ test result, the person performing the test may not release the test result to the employer until after the result of the confirmation test has been determined.

(3) ~~For a point of collection screening test that results in a preliminary negative test result, the person performing the test may not release the test result to the employer until after the result~~

~~of a confirmation test would have been determined if one had been performed.~~

(4) For a confirmation test, the person performing the test shall release the result immediately to the employee who is the subject of the test and to the employer.

Sec. 19. 26 MRSA §683, sub-§6, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107, is further amended to read:

6. Qualified testing laboratories required. ~~An~~ Except as provided in subsection 5-A, an employer may not ~~administer or perform any screening tests or substance use test administered tests to any of that employer's employees. An employer may perform screening tests administered to applicants if the employer's testing facilities unless the employer's testing facilities comply with the requirements for testing laboratories under this subsection. Except as provided in subsection 5-A, any substance use test administered under this subchapter must be performed in a qualified testing laboratory that complies with a qualified testing laboratory under this subsection.~~

B. The laboratory must have written testing procedures and procedures to ensure a clear chain of custody.

C. The laboratory must demonstrate satisfactory performance in the proficiency testing program of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the College of American ~~Pathology~~ Pathologists or the ~~American~~ Association for ~~Clinical Chemistry~~ Diagnosics and Laboratory Medicine or a successor organization.

D. The laboratory must comply with rules adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services under section 687. These rules must ensure that:

(1) The laboratory possesses all licenses or certifications that the department finds necessary or desirable to ensure reliable and accurate test results;

(2) The laboratory follows proper quality control procedures, including, but not limited to:

(a) The use of internal quality controls during each substance use test conducted under this subchapter, including the use of blind samples and samples of known concentrations that are used to check the performance and calibration of testing equipment;

(b) The internal review and certification process for test results, including the qualifications of the person who performs that function in the testing laboratory; and

(c) Security measures implemented by the testing laboratory; and

(3) Other necessary and proper actions are taken to ensure reliable and accurate test results.

Sec. 20. 26 MRSA §683, sub-§7, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107, is further amended to read:

7. Testing procedure. A testing laboratory shall perform a screening test on each sample submitted by the employer for only those substances that the employer requests to be identified. If a screening test result is negative, no further test may be conducted on that sample. If a screening test result is ~~positive~~ a non-negative test result, a confirmation test must be performed on that sample. A testing laboratory shall retain all confirmed positive samples for one year in a manner that will inhibit deterioration of the samples and allow subsequent retesting. All other samples must be disposed of immediately after testing.

Sec. 21. 26 MRSA §683, sub-§7-A is enacted to read:

7-A. Medical review officer. A medical review officer must have knowledge and clinical experience of controlled substance use disorders and be knowledgeable in deviations of substance use testing specimens and causes of invalid testing results. The medical review officer shall act independently in carrying out any testing reviews pursuant to this section.

Sec. 22. 26 MRSA §683, sub-§8, ¶A, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107, is further amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read:

(2) Any confirmed positive results on any tested sample.

(a) Unless the employee or applicant consents, test results may not be reported in numerical or quantitative form but must state only that the test result was ~~positive~~ a confirmed positive result, with or without a legitimate medical explanation, or negative. This division does not apply if the test or the test ~~results become~~ result becomes the subject of any grievance procedure, administrative proceeding or civil action.

(b) A testing laboratory and the employer shall ensure that an employee's unconfirmed ~~positive screening~~ non-negative test result ~~on a screening test~~ cannot be determined by the employer in any manner, including, but not limited to, the method of billing the employer for the tests performed by the laboratory and the time within which results are provided to the employer. This division does not apply to test results for applicants;

Sec. 23. 26 MRSA §683, sub-§8, ¶B, as amended by PL 1989, c. 832, §9, is further amended to read:

B. The employer shall promptly notify the employee or applicant tested of the test result. Upon request of an employee or applicant, the employer shall promptly provide a legible copy of the laboratory report to the employee or applicant. Within 3 working days after notice of a confirmed positive ~~test~~ result, the employee or applicant may submit information to the employer explaining or contesting the results.

Sec. 24. 26 MRSA §683, sub-§8, ¶B-1 is enacted to read:

B-1. An applicant or employee must be given the opportunity to contest a non-negative test result by discussing with the medical review officer or confirmation testing laboratory representative any legitimate medical explanation for the non-negative test result. If the medical review officer or laboratory representative determines that there is a legitimate medical explanation for the non-negative test result, the result must be reported to the employer as a confirmed positive result with a legitimate medical explanation. If the medical review officer or laboratory representative determines that there is no legitimate medical explanation for the non-negative test result, the result must be reported to the employer as a confirmed positive result.

Sec. 25. 26 MRSA §683, sub-§8, ¶D, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §107, is further amended to read:

D. Every employer whose policy is approved by the Department of Labor under section 686 shall annually send to the department a compilation of the results of all substance use tests administered by that employer in the previous calendar year. This report must provide separate categories for employees and applicants and must be presented in statistical form so that no person who was tested by that employer can be identified from the report. The report must include a separate category for any tests conducted on a random or ~~arbitrary~~ criteria-based basis under section 684, subsection 3.

Sec. 26. 26 MRSA §683, sub-§8, ¶E is enacted to read:

E. A confirmed positive result may be reported to an employer only by a medical review officer. The medical review officer shall contact the employee or applicant and, if necessary, the employee's or applicant's physician to review each confirmed positive result or any test found to be adulterated, substituted or otherwise invalid to determine whether or not there is a legitimate medical explanation for the result. Any exchange between the

employee or applicant and the medical review officer is not subject to the physician-patient privilege, but the medical review officer shall protect the confidentiality of the substance use testing information as otherwise provided in this subchapter. The medical review officer may not disclose the presence or absence of any physical or mental condition of the employee or applicant or the presence or absence of any substances other than those allowed to be tested for under the Department of Health and Human Services laboratory testing rules.

Sec. 27. 26 MRSA §684, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §108, is further amended to read:

2. ~~Probable cause~~ Reasonable suspicion testing of employees. An employer may require, request or suggest that an employee submit to a substance use test if the employer has ~~probable cause~~ reasonable suspicion to ~~test the employee~~ believe that, based on observable behaviors, the employee may be impaired.

A. The employee's immediate supervisor, other supervisory personnel, a licensed physician or nurse, or the employer's security personnel must make the determination of ~~probable cause~~ reasonable suspicion.

B. The supervisor or other person must state, in writing, the facts upon which the determination made under paragraph A is based and provide a copy of the statement to the employee prior to the test's being conducted.

Sec. 28. 26 MRSA §684, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §108, is further amended to read:

3. Random or ~~arbitrary~~ criteria-based testing of employees. In addition to testing employees on a ~~probable cause~~ reasonable suspicion basis under subsection 2, an employer may require, request or suggest that an employee submit to a substance use test on a random or ~~arbitrary~~ criteria-based basis if:

A. The employer and the employee have bargained for provisions in a collective bargaining agreement, either before or after ~~the effective date of this subchapter~~ September 30, 1989, that provide for random or ~~arbitrary~~ criteria-based testing of employees. A random or ~~arbitrary~~ criteria-based testing program that would result from implementation of an employer's last best offer is not considered a provision bargained for in a collective bargaining agreement for purposes of this section;

B. The employee works in a position the nature of which would create an unreasonable threat to the health or safety of the public or the employee's coworkers if the employee were under the influ-

ence of a substance. It is the intent of the Legislature that the requirements of this paragraph be narrowly construed; or

C. The employer has established a random or ~~arbitrary criteria-based~~ testing program under this paragraph that applies to all employees, except as provided in subparagraph (4), regardless of position.

(1) An employer may establish a testing program under this paragraph only if the employer has 50 or more employees who are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement.

~~(2) The written policy required by section 683, subsection 2 with respect to a testing program under this paragraph must be developed by a committee of at least 10 of the employer's employees. The employer shall appoint members to the committee from a cross-section of employees who are eligible to be tested. The committee must include a medical professional who is trained in procedures for testing for substances. If no such person is employed by the employer, the employer shall obtain the services of such a person to serve as a member of the committee created under this subparagraph.~~

(2-A) An employer may establish a testing program under this paragraph if the employer is required to test employees to retain a contract.

~~(3) The written policy developed under subparagraph (2) required by section 683, subsection 2 must also require that selection of employees for testing be performed by a person or entity not subject to the employer's influence, such as a medical review officer. Selection must be made from a list, provided by the employer, of all employees subject to testing under this paragraph. The list may not contain information that would identify the employee to the person or entity making the selection.~~

(4) Employees who are covered by a collective bargaining agreement are not included in testing programs pursuant to this paragraph unless they agree to be included pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement as described under paragraph A.

(5) Before initiating a testing program under this paragraph, the employer shall obtain from the Department of Labor approval of the policy ~~developed by the employee committee, as required in section 686. If the employer does not approve of the written policy developed by the employee committee, the employer may decide not to submit the policy to the department and not to establish the testing program.~~

~~The employer may not change the written policy without approval of the employee committee.~~

~~(6) The employer may not discharge, suspend, demote, discipline or otherwise discriminate with regard to compensation or working conditions against an employee for participating or refusing to participate in an employee committee created pursuant to this paragraph.~~

Sec. 29. 26 MRSA §684, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §108, is further amended to read:

5. Testing upon return to work. If an employee who has received a confirmed positive result returns to work with the same employer, whether or not the employee has participated in a rehabilitation program under section 685, subsection 2, the employer may require, request or suggest that the employee submit to a one unannounced subsequent substance use test anytime between 90 days and one year after the date of the employee's prior test. A test may be administered under this subsection in addition to any tests conducted under subsections 2 and 3. An employer may require, request or suggest that an employee submit to a substance use test during the first 90 days after the date of the employee's prior test only as provided in subsections 2 and 3.

Sec. 30. 26 MRSA §685, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 1995, c. 324, §7, is further amended to read:

A. Subject to any limitation of the Maine Human Rights Act or any other state law, including laws relating to the medical use of cannabis, or federal law, an employer may use a confirmed positive result or refusal to submit to a test as a factor in any of the following decisions:

- (1) Refusal to hire an applicant for employment or refusal to place an applicant on a roster of eligibility;
- (2) Discharge of an employee;
- (3) Discipline of an employee; or
- (4) Change in the employee's work assignment.

Sec. 31. 26 MRSA §685, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §109, is further amended to read:

B. Before taking any action described in paragraph A in the case of an employee who receives an initial confirmed positive result, an employer shall provide the employee with an opportunity to participate for up to 6 months 12 weeks in a rehabilitation program designed to enable the employee to avoid future use of a substance and to participate in an employee assistance program, if the employer has such a program. The employer may take any action

described in paragraph A if the employee receives a subsequent confirmed positive result from a test administered by the employer under this subchapter.

Sec. 32. 26 MRSA §685, sub-§2, ¶C, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §109, is further amended by amending subparagraph (1), division (a) to read:

(a) Except to the extent that costs are covered by a group health insurance plan, the costs of the public or private rehabilitation program ~~must be equally divided between the employer and employee if the employer has more than 20 full-time employees~~ are the sole responsibility of the employee. This requirement does not apply to municipalities or other political subdivisions of the State or to any employer when the employee is tested because of the alcohol and controlled substance testing mandated by the federal Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991, Public Law 102-143, Title V. If necessary, the employer shall assist in financing the cost share of the employee through a payroll deduction plan.

Sec. 33. 26 MRSA §685, sub-§2, ¶C, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §109, is further amended by repealing subparagraph (1), division (b).

Sec. 34. 26 MRSA §685, sub-§2, ¶C, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §109, is further amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read:

(2) An employer may not take any action described in paragraph A while an employee is participating in a rehabilitation program, except as provided in subparagraph (2-A) and except that an employer may change the employee's work assignment or suspend the employee from active duty to reduce any possible safety hazard. Except as provided in subparagraph (2-A), an employee's pay or benefits may not be reduced while an employee is participating in a rehabilitation program, provided that the employer is not required to pay the employee for periods in which the employee is unavailable for work for the purposes of rehabilitation ~~or while the employee is medically disqualified~~. The employee may apply normal sick leave and vacation time, if any, for these periods.

Sec. 35. 26 MRSA §685, sub-§2, ¶C, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §109, is further amended by amending subparagraph (2-A) to read:

(2-A) A rehabilitation or treatment provider shall promptly notify the employer if the em-

ployee fails to comply with the prescribed rehabilitation program before the expiration of the ~~6-month~~ 12-week period provided in paragraph B. Upon receipt of this notice, the employer may take any action described in paragraph A.

Sec. 36. 26 MRSA §685, sub-§2, ¶C, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §109, is further amended by amending subparagraph (3) to read:

(3) Except as provided in ~~divisions~~ division (a) ~~and (b)~~, upon successfully completing the rehabilitation program, as determined by the rehabilitation or treatment provider after consultation with the employer, the employee is entitled to return to the employee's previous job with full pay and benefits unless conditions unrelated to the employee's previous confirmed positive result make the employee's return impossible. Reinstatement of the employee may not conflict with any provision of a collective bargaining agreement between the employer and a labor organization that is the collective bargaining representative of the unit of which the employee is or would be a part. If the rehabilitation or treatment provider determines that the employee has not successfully completed the rehabilitation program within ~~6 months~~ 12 weeks after starting the program, the employer may take any action described in paragraph A.

(a) If the employee who has completed rehabilitation previously worked in an employment position subject to random or ~~arbitrary~~ criteria-based testing under an employer's written policy, the employer may refuse to allow the employee to return to the previous job if the employer believes that the employee may pose an unreasonable safety hazard because of the nature of the position. The employer shall attempt to find suitable work for the employee immediately after refusing the employee's return to the previous position. A reduction may not be made in the employee's previous benefits or rate of pay while the employee is awaiting reassignment to work or working in a position other than the previous job. The employee must be reinstated to the previous position or to another position with an equivalent rate of pay and benefits and with no loss of seniority within 6 months after returning to work in any capacity with the employer unless the employee has received a subsequent confirmed positive result within that time from a test administered under this subchapter or unless conditions unre-

lated to the employee's previous confirmed positive test result make that reinstatement or reassignment impossible. Placement of the employee in suitable work and reinstatement may not conflict with any provision of a collective bargaining agreement between the employer and a labor organization that is the collective bargaining representative of the unit of which the employee is or would be a part.

~~(b) Notwithstanding division (a), if an employee who has successfully completed rehabilitation is medically disqualified, the employer is not required to reinstate the employee or find suitable work for the employee during the period of disqualification. The employer is not required to compensate the employee during the period of disqualification. Immediately after the employee's medical disqualification ceases, the employer's obligations under division (a) attach as if the employee had successfully completed rehabilitation on that date.~~

Sec. 37. 26 MRSA §686, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 536, §§1 and 2 and affected by c. 604, §§2 and 3, is amended to read:

B. The department may request additional information from an employer when necessary to determine whether an employment position meets the requirements of section 684, subsection 3. The department ~~shall~~ may not approve any written policy that provides for random or ~~arbitrary~~ criteria-based testing of any employment position that the employer has failed to demonstrate meets the requirements of section 684, subsection 3.

Sec. 38. 26 MRSA §686, sub-§1, ¶B-1 is enacted to read:

B-1. An employer shall notify the department in writing if the employer intends to discontinue an approved substance use testing policy. The notice must include the anticipated effective date of the discontinuation. Once the discontinuation is approved by the department, the employer must be put into an inactive status and may not conduct substance use testing, unless mandated by federal law to test employees. An employer that has discontinued an approved substance use testing policy shall notify the department in writing if the employer chooses to reinstate a prior approved substance use testing policy.

Sec. 39. 26 MRSA §686, sub-§2, ¶D, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 49, §1, is amended to read:

D. The rules may establish model applicant policies and employee ~~probable cause~~ reasonable suspicion policies and provide for expedited approval

and registration for employers adopting such model policies. The rules adopted under this paragraph are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter ~~H-A~~ 2-A.

Sec. 40. 26 MRSA §690, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §113, is further amended to read:

3. Random or ~~arbitrary~~ criteria-based testing. Indicate those employers whose substance use testing policies permit random or ~~arbitrary~~ criteria-based testing under section 684, subsection 3, and describe the employment positions subject to such random or ~~arbitrary~~ criteria-based testing;

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 667

H.P. 1420 - L.D. 2105

An Act to Update Maine's Mandated Reporting Laws

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4002, sub-§5-E is enacted to read:

5-E. Health care practitioner. "Health care practitioner" means a physician or any other person certified, registered or licensed in the healing arts, including, but not limited to, a nurse, nurse practitioner, podiatrist, optometrist, chiropractor, dentist, dental hygienist, dental assistant, physician associate and emergency medical services provider.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4002, sub-§6-A, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 495, §16, is amended to read:

6-A. Licensed mental health professional. "Licensed mental health professional" means a psychiatrist, licensed psychologist, licensed clinical social worker ~~or~~, certified social worker or community service provider as defined in Title 5, section 20003, subsection 4.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §4009, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 733, §18, is repealed.

Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §4011-A, sub-§1, as corrected by RR 2025, c. 1, Pt. B, §4, is amended to read:

1. Required report to department. The following adult persons shall immediately, within no more than 24 hours, report or cause a report to be made to the department when the person knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been or is likely to be abused or neglected or that a suspicious child death has occurred:

~~A. When acting in a professional capacity:~~

- ~~(1) An allopathic or osteopathic physician, resident or intern;~~
- ~~(2) An emergency medical services person;~~
- ~~(3) A medical examiner;~~
- ~~(4) A physician associate;~~
- ~~(5) A dentist;~~
- ~~(6) A dental hygienist;~~
- ~~(7) A dental assistant;~~
- ~~(8) A chiropractor;~~
- ~~(9) A podiatrist;~~
- ~~(10) A registered or licensed practical nurse;~~
- ~~(11) A teacher;~~
- ~~(12) A guidance counselor;~~
- ~~(13) A school official;~~
- ~~(14) A youth camp administrator or counselor;~~
- ~~(15) A social worker;~~
- ~~(16) A court-appointed special advocate or guardian ad litem for the child;~~
- ~~(17) A homemaker;~~
- ~~(18) A home health aide;~~
- ~~(19) A medical or social service worker;~~
- ~~(20) A psychologist;~~
- ~~(21) Child care personnel;~~
- ~~(22) A mental health professional;~~
- ~~(23) A law enforcement official;~~
- ~~(24) A state or municipal fire inspector;~~
- ~~(25) A municipal code enforcement official;~~
- ~~(26) A commercial film and photographic print processor;~~
- ~~(27) A clergy member acquiring the information as a result of clerical professional work except for information received during confidential communications;~~
- ~~(28) A chair of a professional licensing board that has jurisdiction over mandated reporters;~~
- ~~(29) A humane agent employed by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry;~~
- ~~(30) A sexual assault counselor;~~
- ~~(31) A family or domestic violence victim advocate; and~~
- ~~(32) A school bus driver or school bus attendant;~~

A-1. When acting in a professional capacity:

- (1) School personnel;
- (2) A health care practitioner;
- (3) A medical examiner;
- (4) A youth camp administrator or counselor;
- (5) Child care personnel;
- (6) A social worker;
- (7) A court-appointed special advocate or guardian ad litem for the child;
- (8) A sexual assault counselor;
- (9) A family or domestic violence victim advocate;
- (10) A licensed mental health professional;
- (11) A law enforcement official;
- (12) A municipal code enforcement official; and
- (13) A person affiliated with a church or other religious institution, including, but not limited to, a member of the clergy, who serves in an administrative capacity or has otherwise assumed a position of trust or responsibility regardless of whether the person receives compensation for that role.

~~B. Any person who has assumed full, intermittent or occasional responsibility for the care or custody of the child, regardless of whether the person receives compensation; and~~

~~C. Any person affiliated with a church or religious institution who serves in an administrative capacity or has otherwise assumed a position of trust or responsibility to the members of that church or religious institution, while acting in that capacity, regardless of whether the person receives compensation.~~

Whenever possible, the person with first-hand information about suspected child abuse or neglect shall make the report.

Whenever a person is required to report in a capacity as a member of the staff of a medical or public or private institution, agency or facility, that person immediately shall notify either the person in charge of the institution, agency or facility or a designated agent who then shall cause a report to be made. If a designated agent is required to make the report, that designated agent is responsible for meeting the requirements of this section. The staff also may make a report directly to the department. The institution, agency or facility may establish internal procedures to facilitate reporting, as long as those procedures are not inconsistent with this subsection.

If a person required to report notifies either the person in charge of the institution, agency or facility or the designated agent, the notifying person shall acknowledge in writing that the institution, agency or facility has provided confirmation to the notifying person that another individual from the institution, agency or facility has made a report to the department. The confirmation must include, at a minimum, the name of the individual making the report to the department, the date and time of the report and a summary of the information conveyed. If the notifying person does not receive the confirmation from the institution, agency or facility within 24 hours of the notification, the notifying person immediately shall make a report directly to the department.

This subsection may not be construed to prohibit a person required to report under this subsection from seeking consultation to determine if a report to the department is required.

An employer may not take any action to prevent or discourage an employee from making a report.

Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §4011-A, sub-§1-A, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 139, §2, is repealed.

Sec. 6. 22 MRSA §4011-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2015, c. 117, §2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. Required report to district attorney. When a mandated report is made to the department under subsection 1, the department shall report to the appropriate district attorney's office any instance in which the reported child abuse or neglect or suspicious child death is caused by a person not responsible for the child. A person required to report under subsection 1 may also report directly to the appropriate district attorney's office.

Sec. 7. 22 MRSA §4011-A, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2007, c. 586, §13, is repealed.

Sec. 8. 22 MRSA §4011-A, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Mental health treatment. When a licensed mental health professional is required to report under subsection 1 and the reportable information comes from the treatment of a person responsible for the child or the child who is the subject of the report, the licensed mental health professional may include in the licensed mental health professional's report a request that the department consider the impact of any resulting investigation or action on the licensed mental health professional's ongoing treatment of the person who is the subject of the report. The department shall take reasonable steps to engage with the licensed mental health professional to avoid impairing, to the extent possible, the licensed mental health professional's ongoing ability to treat the person who is the subject of the report.

Sec. 9. 22 MRSA §4011-A, sub-§8, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 274, §7, is repealed.

Sec. 10. 22 MRSA §4011-A, sub-§9, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 407, §1, is amended to read:

9. Training requirement. A person required to make a report under subsection 1 shall complete at least once every 4 ½ years mandated reporter training approved by the department.

Sec. 11. 22 MRSA §4011-A, sub-§10 is enacted to read:

10. Authority of licensing board. This section may not be construed to limit the authority of an appropriate licensing board to take action related to a violation of this section.

Sec. 12. 22 MRSA §4011-C, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 353, §5, is amended to read:

2. Report. When a health care provider suspects that an infant has been abused or neglected, the provider shall report to the department in accordance with section 4011-A, subsection 1, paragraph A-A-1. If the infant has a family care plan developed under section 4004-C, subsection 2, a copy of the family care plan must accompany the report.

Sec. 13. 22 MRSA §4011-C, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 353, §5, is amended to read:

3. Definition. For purposes of this section, "health care provider" means a person described in section 4011-A, subsection 1, paragraph A, subparagraphs (1) to (10), (15), (17) to (20) and (22) licensed under Title 32, chapter 31, 36, 48, 56, 81 or 83 or any person who assists in the delivery or birth of a child for compensation, including, but not limited to, a midwife.

Sec. 14. 22 MRSA §4021, sub-§3, ¶C, as amended by PL 2023, c. 248, §3, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

~~Violation of this paragraph subjects any person involved in the violation, including individual school personnel, to the penalty provided in section 4009. This section does not apply to out-of-home abuse and neglect allegations as covered under subchapter 18.~~

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 668

H.P. 1418 - L.D. 2103

An Act Requiring Hospitals to Adopt Cybersecurity Plans

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1832, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 254, §1 and affected by §2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§1832. Safety and security in hospitals; cybersecurity

1. Safety and security plan. A hospital licensed under this chapter shall, on an annual basis, adopt a safety and security plan to protect the patients, visitors and employees of the hospital from aggressive and violent behavior. The safety and security plan must include a process for hospitals to receive and record incidents and threats of violent behavior occurring at or arising out of employment at the hospital. The safety and security plan must prohibit a representative or employee of the hospital from interfering with a person making a report as provided in the plan.

2. Cybersecurity plan. A hospital licensed under this chapter shall adopt a cybersecurity plan. The cybersecurity plan must be consistent with best practices established by the United States Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency; the United States Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology; and the Healthcare and Public Health Sector Coordinating Council or its successor organization. The cybersecurity plan must be consistent with applicable federal laws and regulations, including the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. The hospital shall review the cybersecurity plan at least once per year and, if requested by the department, immediately submit the most current plan to the department.

A. As used in this subsection, the following terms have the following meanings.

(1) "Cybersecurity" means the process of preventing unauthorized modification, misuse or denial of use, or the unauthorized use, of information that is stored, accessed or transferred from an electronic device to an external recipient.

(2) "Cybersecurity intrusion" means an unwanted intrusion into a computer system that impacts patient care, protected health information or hospital security.

(3) "Security incident" means the attempted or successful unauthorized access, use, disclosure, modification or destruction of information or interference with system operations in a computer system.

(4) "Security incident response plan" means the part of a cybersecurity plan adopted by a hospital detailing how a hospital employee must report suspected or known security incidents and how a hospital will respond to suspected or known security incidents.

B. The cybersecurity plan must include, at a minimum:

(1) A provision for the timely notification, by electronic means and by mail, of a cybersecurity intrusion to appropriate parties, including, but not limited to, law enforcement agencies, patients, municipalities, state regulators, media and hospital employees. The hospital shall include in all public communications related to the cybersecurity intrusion information regarding patient rights and the contact information for registering a patient complaint;

(2) A backup communication response provision that ensures continuity of care for patients in the event of a disruption of hospital computer systems caused by a cybersecurity intrusion or a natural or human-made disaster and that includes a complaint process for patients who are experiencing challenges accessing medical care and a system to triage patient complaints, including:

(a) A requirement that emergent concerns receive a response within 48 hours of the submission of the complaint and that nonemergent concerns receive a response within 7 days of the submission of the complaint. For the purposes of this division, "emergent concern" means a condition that requires immediate attention or action due to its serious or life-threatening nature; and

(b) A requirement for the timely management of complaints related to prescriptions;

(3) A provision requiring that all manually charted records be timely integrated into the hospital's electronic record system;

(4) A provision to ensure proper triage of hospital services in the event of a disruption of hospital computer systems, including:

(a) A provision for the appropriate triage of all hospital services, including elective procedures, based on hospital capacities and patient needs;

(b) A provision for the diversion of hospital services as necessary, including assisting patients in arranging emergency and nonemergency transportation services to access health care not available at the hospital as a result of the cybersecurity intrusion; and

(c) A requirement for the hospital to enter into written agreements with a sufficient number of other health care providers to facilitate continuity of care for patients during the disruption;

(5) A written security incident response plan documenting how hospital employees are to report suspected or known security incidents and how the hospital will respond clinically to suspected or known security incidents. The security incident response plan must include provisions detailing how hospital employees can effectively communicate with one another and with outside medical providers in the event hospital electronic systems are not operative. The security incident response plan must be made available to all hospital employees;

(6) A provision for, at a minimum, annual cybersecurity training for hospital employees, hospital board members and organizations affiliated with the hospital, including new employee and annual training for all hospital employees who use electronic health record systems for patient care. The training must include information relating to the management of patient records in the event of unplanned downtime of the hospital's electronic health record system, including training on paper charting;

(7) A requirement that the hospital perform an annual test involving all hospital shifts and units of downtime procedures for the hospital's cybersecurity plan and a requirement that all downtime paperwork be reviewed and updated at the time of the annual test. This requirement is waived if the hospital experiences a security incident during the prior year and conducted a post-incident review in accordance with subparagraph (11). For the purposes of this subparagraph, "downtime paperwork" means documentation a hospital maintains to ensure care can be documented manually when a hospital's computer systems are not operative;

(8) Written procedures for testing and revising the cybersecurity plan, including:

(a) A requirement that the hospital perform an annual review of the criticality of its information systems and technology assets to determine the priority for restoration;

(b) A requirement that the hospital perform a tabletop simulation of a security incident resulting in the disruption of hospital computer systems; and

(c) A requirement that the hospital perform continuous vulnerability scans and annual penetration testing to identify network vulnerabilities;

(9) A provision for timely restoration of communication with the state-designated statewide

health information exchange described in section 1711-C, subsection 18. This subparagraph does not impose additional duties, standards or regulatory obligations on the state-designated statewide health information exchange;

(10) A provision requiring the review of the hospital's response to any security incidents that have taken place at the hospital since January 1, 2024. As part of the review, the hospital shall produce a report that includes a part that describes the lessons learned from the security incidents and a description of any actions taken by the hospital to prevent future security incidents and to mitigate the harm caused by similar events. The report must include information regarding the involvement of security consultants, law enforcement and cybersecurity insurance providers; and

(11) A provision requiring the hospital to conduct a timely post-incident review of any security incident experienced by the hospital. The review must include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the hospital's cybersecurity plan and timely revision of any required updates to the plan.

C. The cybersecurity plan must be developed and maintained with the input of an annual working group convened by the hospital that includes health care workers employed by the hospital and those workers' labor unions.

D. A hospital licensed under this chapter shall maintain physical copies of all forms and other paperwork required to maintain continuity of care during a disruption of hospital computer systems.

E. A hospital licensed under this chapter shall annually submit the hospital's cybersecurity plan to an audit by an independent, certified cybersecurity auditor or certified cybersecurity expert to determine the adequacy of the cybersecurity plan and identify any necessary improvements to the plan and processes. The hospital shall submit a high-level summary of the results of each audit to the department upon the request of the department.

F. A hospital licensed under this chapter shall make available to hospital employees and the public information regarding how to file a complaint under the complaint process developed pursuant to paragraph B, subparagraph (2), including by posting this information in public areas of the hospital.

G. In the event of a cybersecurity incident, a hospital licensed under this chapter shall coordinate with personnel from the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and shall allow such personnel access to the hospital facility. The State shall indemnify and hold the hospital harmless for

the actions of state personnel related to the cybersecurity incident response.

H. A cybersecurity plan submitted to the department under this section and the high-level summary of the results of an audit submitted to the department in accordance with paragraph E are confidential only to the extent that release of information contained in the record could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the physical safety of government personnel or the public, as determined by the department.

3. Statutory construction. This section may not be construed or applied to be less restrictive than or in a manner that conflicts with applicable federal law and related regulations. This section may be construed or applied to be more restrictive than federal law.

4. Effective date. This section takes effect January 1, 2027.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 669

H.P. 1405 - L.D. 2090

An Act to Modify Probationary Periods for Dispatchers

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §7051, sub-§5, as corrected by RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. B, §21 and affected by §50, is amended to read:

5. Probationary period; permanent appointments. All original appointments to the classified service and all subsequent promotional appointments within the classified service must be for a probationary period. The duration of the probationary period, which may not be for less than 6 months in any case, is determined by the officer in consultation with the director or commissioner of the agency, ~~but in no case may it be for less than 6 months~~ except that in the case of dispatchers, the probationary period may be extended for more than 6 months as determined by the director or commissioner of the agency, unless otherwise provided for in a collective bargaining agreement. An agency that employs a dispatcher shall adopt a written policy regarding the length of the probationary period for dispatchers and disclose the policy to the dispatcher at the time of hire. For the purposes of this subsection, "dispatcher" has the same meaning as in section 18313, subsection 1.

A. An employee during the probationary period must be reviewed at the end of the employee's 3rd month of employment by the employee's supervisor. The supervisor and the employee shall mutually discuss the job tasks and the performance of

the employee, including any necessary improvements.

B. An employee during the probationary period must be included in the payroll of the department in which the employee has been hired at the time of the commencement of the employee's duties. An employee during the probationary period must be compensated in the same manner as a permanent full-time employee, as long as the employee has been hired in accordance with all applicable laws and procedures.

C. During the probationary period, an employee is not entitled to a pre-disciplinary hearing and may be dismissed, suspended or otherwise disciplined without cause. Dismissal, suspension or any other disciplinary action against an employee during the probationary period is not subject to the grievance and arbitration provision of the collective bargaining agreement.

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §2701, first ¶, as amended by PL 1993, c. 744, §15, is further amended to read:

Except as specifically provided otherwise by charter or ordinance, any reference to cause and hearing in this Part only applies to an employee who has completed a reasonable probation period established by the municipality. Periods of probation may not exceed 6 calendar months or the length of time in effect in a municipality on January 1, 1984, whichever is greater, except in the case of police officers, who upon being hired shall complete an employment probationary period that lasts for at least one year after graduation from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy or the date the board waives the basic training requirement, and except in the case of dispatchers, who upon being hired shall complete an employment probationary period that lasts for at least 6 months except as otherwise provided for in a collective bargaining agreement. An agency that employs a dispatcher shall adopt a written policy regarding the length of the probationary period for dispatchers and disclose the policy to the dispatcher at the time of hire. For the purposes of this paragraph, "dispatcher" has the same meaning as in Title 5, section 18313, subsection 1.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 670

H.P. 1396 - L.D. 2081

An Act to Provide Health Care Cost Reimbursement for Retired Law Enforcement Canines

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA c. 203 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 203

**RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT CANINE
HEALTH CARE**

§1821. Health care cost reimbursement for retired law enforcement canines

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Agency head" means the chief official of a state law enforcement agency, including, but not limited to, the Chief of the State Police, the State Fire Marshal, the Game Warden Colonel or the Commissioner of Public Safety.

B. "Applicant" means a handler of a retired law enforcement canine or an individual who adopts a retired law enforcement canine.

C. "Law enforcement canine" means a canine that has been:

(1) Certified by a nationally recognized or state-recognized law enforcement canine certification organization; and

(2) Trained and actively deployed in a law enforcement capacity by a state law enforcement agency.

D. "Retired law enforcement canine" means a law enforcement canine that no longer serves in active law enforcement duty and:

(1) Served a minimum of 5 years in active law enforcement duty with one or more state law enforcement agencies; or

(2) Served less than 5 years in active law enforcement duty with one or more state law enforcement agencies and was retired from service due to a medical condition diagnosed by a veterinarian licensed in accordance with Title 32, section 4860 and approved by the canine's last employing agency head.

2. Retired Law Enforcement K-9 Health Care Fund. The Retired Law Enforcement K-9 Health Care Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established in and administered by the Department of Public Safety. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Interest earned by the fund must be credited to the fund. Any unexpended balances remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year do not lapse and must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

A. The fund must be used to reimburse applicants for veterinary health care costs for eligible retired law enforcement canines. Reimbursable services include:

(1) Routine preventive care;

(2) Treatment of illness or injury; and

(3) Medications and surgical procedures necessary to maintain the retired law enforcement canine's quality of life.

B. Reimbursement is limited to \$5,000 per eligible law enforcement canine for the life of the canine, subject to available appropriations and submittal of documentation required under subsections 3 and 4. An agency head may, at the agency head's sole discretion, provide additional reimbursement from the agency's legislatively authorized budget, including, but not limited to, a designated subfund or line-item allocation. There is no limit on the amount a law enforcement agency may reimburse from its own funds.

3. Eligibility. To qualify for reimbursement under this section:

A. A canine must be a retired law enforcement canine;

B. The applicant must reside in the State;

C. The canine may not be in active service with any state or local law enforcement agency; and

D. A completed application must be submitted to the Department of Public Safety that includes:

(1) A diagnosis by a veterinarian licensed in accordance with Title 32, section 4860; and

(2) Proof of veterinary expenses incurred.

4. Funding sources. The fund consists of:

A. Appropriations and allocations from the Legislature;

B. Contributions from private sources, including donations, grants and endowments; and

C. Fines or fees collected by state law enforcement agencies and allocated by the Legislature.

If appropriations and allocations from the Legislature are insufficient, a law enforcement agency may use funds from its legislatively authorized budget, including agency-specific subfunds or designated line-item allocations, to reimburse veterinary expenses for a retired law enforcement canine that served in that agency. Such a reimbursement is at the sole discretion of the agency head.

5. Rulemaking. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall adopt rules to implement this section. The rules must:

A. Establish reimbursement guidelines;

B. Establish application procedures;

C. Ensure equitable distribution of funds; and

D. Identify procedures for maintaining records of disbursements.

Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF

Retired Law Enforcement K-9 Health Care Fund N571

Initiative: Establishes the Retired Law Enforcement K-9 Health Care Fund.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$500

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 671

S.P. 845 - L.D. 2058

An Act to Clarify the Requirement That Municipal and County Jails Be Available at All Times for Detention of Arrested Persons

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §1502, 6th ¶, as amended by PL 1989, c. 757, is further amended to read:

Municipal and county jails shall at all times be available for detention of persons arrested by state or any other law enforcement officers, unless the persons are detained solely for a civil violation of federal immigration laws. In those municipalities where full-time supervision of the jail is not provided by the municipality, full responsibility for the safekeeping and welfare of any person detained ~~shall rest~~ rests solely with the arresting officer. Expense of any municipality or any damage to the jail resulting from the use of its jail by any arresting officer ~~shall~~ must be reimbursed to the municipality by the law enforcement agency for which the arresting officer is acting.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 672

H.P. 1355 - L.D. 2025

An Act to Create a Limited-purpose License for Aquaculture Nursery and Husbandry Activities and to Clarify the Aquaculture Lease Amendment Process

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6072, sub-§10, as amended by PL 2021, c. 581, §1, is further amended to read:

10. Notification of granted leases. After the granting of a lease:

B. The department shall notify all riparian owners, intervenors and the municipality in which the lease is located that a lease has been granted. The notice must include a description of the area and how a copy of the lease may be obtained; and

C. The lessee shall mark the leased area in a manner prescribed by the commissioner; and

~~D. The lessee shall annually submit to the department a seeding and harvesting report for the past year and a seeding and harvesting plan for the coming year. Upon written request, the department shall provide a copy of the report to the municipality or municipalities in which or adjacent to which the lease is located. The seeding and harvesting reports submitted by a lessee under this paragraph are considered confidential statistics for the purposes of section 6173. A copy of a report provided to a municipality pursuant to this paragraph is confidential.~~

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6072, sub-§13, ¶G, as amended by PL 2021, c. 52, §8, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §6072, sub-§19 is enacted to read:

19. Reports retained by department. Seeding and harvesting reports that were submitted to the department under former subsection 10, paragraph D and former section 6072-C, subsection 10 and were confidential at the time the reports were submitted to the department remain confidential until those reports are no longer retained by the department pursuant to any records retention schedule adopted pursuant to Title 5, section 95-C, subsection 2.

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §6072-A, sub-§20, as amended by PL 2011, c. 93, §6, is further amended to read:

20. Extension of commercial lease. If a person who holds a limited-purpose lease for commercial aquaculture

uaculture research and development submits an application under section 6072 for that lease area or a portion of that area before the expiration of that limited-purpose lease, or within 30 days after the expiration of that limited-purpose lease and accompanied by a nonrefundable late fee of \$500, and if the commissioner's decision under section 6072 occurs after the expiration of that limited-purpose lease, the lease remains in effect until the commissioner makes a decision. If the commissioner grants that person a lease under section 6072, that person's limited-purpose lease remains in effect until the effective date of the lease issued under section 6072. The late fee may be waived by the commissioner if a substantial illness or a medical condition prevents the leaseholder from submitting the application within 30 days after the date of expiration of the limited-purpose lease. The applicant shall provide the commissioner with documentation from a physician describing the substantial illness or medical condition. If the commissioner denies that person a lease under section 6072, that person's limited-purpose lease remains in effect until 30 days after the commissioner's decision. The commissioner may not process applications under section 6072, subsection 12-D received more than 30 days after the expiration of a limited-purpose lease, and the leaseholder is responsible for removing all gear and equipment from the lease site within 120 days.

Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §6072-C, sub-§10, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 509, §8, is repealed.

Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §6072-C, sub-§11 is enacted to read:

11. Inspection. The department shall inspect a limited-purpose aquaculture license issued under this section and the activities conducted under that license on an annual basis.

Sec. 7. 12 MRSA §6072-D, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 660, Pt. A, §16, is amended to read:

4. Uses of fund. The commissioner may make expenditures from the fund to develop and manage effective and cost-efficient water quality licensing and monitoring criteria, analyze and evaluate monitoring data, process lease applications, aquaculture lease and licensing application processing and make information about aquaculture available to the public. Expenditures may also be used to improve agency management of existing aquaculture sites, including conducting education and outreach about compliance and inspection.

Sec. 8. 12 MRSA §6072-E is enacted to read:

§6072-E. Limited-purpose license for aquaculture nursery and husbandry activities

1. License required. A person may not engage in the activities authorized under this section without a current limited-purpose license for aquaculture nursery and husbandry activities or a lease issued under this Part

authorizing the activities. For the purposes of this section, "husbandry" means specific activities designed to care for, manage and improve marine organisms. "Husbandry" is distinct from culture, which includes the production and development of marine organisms.

2. Licensed activities. The holder of a limited-purpose license for aquaculture nursery and husbandry activities may:

A. Place marine organisms in early life stages, before sale to another person or before further deployment to an aquaculture site pursuant to section 6072, 6072-A, 6072-B or 6072-C, in aquaculture gear or equipment at a site below the mean low-water mark in the coastal waters of the State to engage in certain aquaculture activities that meet the criteria established in subsection 3 and in rules adopted by the commissioner;

B. Conduct husbandry activities specific in nature and short in duration, before further deployment to an aquaculture site pursuant to section 6072, 6072-A or 6072-B or a license pursuant to 6072-C, using aquaculture gear or equipment at a site below the mean low-water mark in the coastal waters of the State to engage in certain aquaculture activities that meet the criteria established in subsection 3 and in rules adopted by the commissioner; and

C. Deploy marine organisms in early life stages to a site other than the aquaculture site identified in the lease pursuant to section 6072, 6072-A, 6072-B or 6072-C if the lease holder is a municipal shellfish management committee established pursuant to section 6671 or a municipal officer for a municipal project.

3. Criteria. The commissioner, or staff designated in writing by the commissioner, may issue a limited-purpose license for aquaculture nursery and husbandry activities if:

A. The proposed activity generates no discharge into coastal waters;

B. The applicant has an existing aquaculture lease pursuant to section 6072, 6072-A or 6072-B or a license pursuant to 6072-C, unless the applicant is a municipal shellfish management committee established pursuant to section 6671 or a municipal officer for a municipal project;

C. The applicant is using a source of stock approved by the commissioner;

D. The applicant proposes to use aquaculture gear or equipment approved by the commissioner under the rules adopted pursuant to subsection 11;

E. The gear or equipment, excluding mooring equipment, does not cover more than 1,600 square feet of area and does not present an unreasonable impediment to safe navigation;

F. The proposed activity does not unreasonably interfere with the ingress and egress of riparian owners; and

G. The proposed activity does not unreasonably interfere with fishing or other uses of the area taking into consideration the number and density of aquaculture leases and licensed aquaculture activities in that area.

4. License limitations. The issuance of a limited-purpose license for aquaculture nursery and husbandry activities does not constitute the issuance of:

A. A lease of an area in, on or under the coastal waters of the State; or

B. Any other necessary permit or license from a state, federal or municipal authority required for a specified activity.

5. Preference. If a person applies to lease an area that is the subject of a limited-purpose license for aquaculture nursery and husbandry activities, the department shall notify the holder of the limited-purpose license for aquaculture nursery and husbandry activities. If the holder of the limited-purpose license for aquaculture nursery and husbandry activities documents to the department that that holder wants to lease the area, preference must be given as follows:

A. First, to the person that holds the limited-purpose license for aquaculture nursery and husbandry activities in the area and that submitted an application for a lease under section 6072 for the area; and

B. Second, to the person that applied to lease the area but does not hold a limited-purpose license for aquaculture nursery and husbandry activities in the area.

6. Application. The application for a limited-purpose license for aquaculture nursery and husbandry activities must:

A. Be written on forms supplied by the commissioner;

B. Identify the species to be cultivated;

C. Describe the proposed source of organisms to be grown using the approved aquaculture gear or equipment;

D. Describe the location of the approved aquaculture gear or equipment deployment by coordinates or metes and bounds;

E. Include a clear set of plans that includes at a minimum:

(1) A location plan with an overhead plan view showing the aquaculture gear and equipment deployed at the proposed location. The area occupied by the gear and equipment must be

drawn to scale on the plan. The location plan must include a north arrow, ebb and flood directions, any federal or local channels and anchorages, any nearby structures and property lines for all riparian owners within 300 feet; and

(2) Two gear and equipment drawings, one with an overhead plan view and one with a cross-sectional elevation view of the approved aquaculture gear and equipment proposed to be used. The gear and equipment drawings must be clearly dimensioned and include, at a minimum, mean high-water and mean low-water marks and the dimensions, profiles and materials used in the construction, deployment and securing of the approved aquaculture gear and equipment;

F. Include documentation that riparian owners within 300 feet of the proposed activity have been notified of the license application and proposed activity; and

G. Include documentation that the municipality has been notified of the license application.

License sites that are used for nursery and husbandry activities must also include in the application a detailed description of specific activities to be conducted on the site and the duration a marine organism will be located at the site for specific nursery and husbandry activities. The maximum duration may not exceed 6 months.

7. Fee. Except as provided in subsection 8, the application fee for a limited-purpose license for aquaculture nursery and husbandry activities is \$400. The application fee is nonrefundable. All fees collected under this subsection must be deposited in the Aquaculture Research Fund established in section 6081.

8. Fee exemptions. The commissioner may not assess an application fee for a limited-purpose license for aquaculture nursery and husbandry activities that is issued to:

A. A municipal shellfish management committee established pursuant to section 6671, if the organisms cultured on the license site are not used for commercial purposes; or

B. A municipal officer for a municipal project, if the organisms cultured on the license site are not used for commercial purposes.

9. Prohibition; molesting gear. A person other than a marine patrol officer, an aquaculture inspector authorized by the commissioner or the licensee may not utilize, raise, lift, transfer, possess or in any manner molest any approved aquaculture gear or equipment that is deployed under a current limited-purpose license for aquaculture nursery and husbandry activities.

10. Prohibition; taking product. A person other than a marine patrol officer, an aquaculture inspector authorized by the commissioner or the licensee may not take any marine organism grown on the license site in accordance with applicable rules.

11. Rules. The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this section, including, but not limited to, rules establishing the type of gear and equipment that is approved aquaculture gear and equipment for the purposes of a limited-purpose license for aquaculture nursery and husbandry activities, minimum standards for maintaining gear and equipment, methods of gear and equipment identification and license application and review procedures. The commissioner may adopt rules to limit the period of the year during which license applications may be submitted. Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

12. Violation; restitution. A person who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 for each violation may be adjudged. If a person violates subsection 9 by cutting any lines or marker buoys or intentionally damaging approved aquaculture gear and equipment, the court shall also:

A. Order that person to pay to the owner of the approved aquaculture gear and equipment that was cut or damaged an amount equal to twice the replacement value of the gear and equipment that was lost or damaged as a result of the cutting or damaging action; and

B. Direct that person to provide the commissioner, upon making full payment as ordered by the court, proof of that payment.

13. Reporting requirement; confidentiality. A holder of a limited-purpose license for aquaculture nursery and husbandry activities shall annually submit to the department a cultivation report for the past year. Information provided in cultivation reports submitted by a license holder under this subsection is considered confidential information reported to the commissioner pursuant to section 6173.

Sec. 9. 12 MRSA §6072-F is enacted to read:
§6072-F. Lease amendments

1. Lease amendment; prohibition. For the purposes of this section, "lease amendment" means the authorized addition of species, gear, equipment and structure and resultant modifications to operations to an existing lease issued under section 6072 or 6072-A. A lease amendment is not an adjudicatory proceeding. A lease issued under section 6072-A for commercial research and development may not be amended. An existing lease that does not allow discharge may not be amended to include operational modifications that would result in the reclassification that allows discharge

by the commissioner pursuant to the lease. All fees collected under this section must be deposited in the Aquaculture Management Fund established in section 6072-D.

2. Species. The holder of a lease under this subchapter must apply to the commissioner to add a specific species and make resultant operational modifications to the holder's lease site. The decision by the commissioner to authorize the addition of a species must be based on factors, including, but not limited to, the source of stock. The commissioner may not authorize the addition of a species that would cause the holder of the lease to violate any existing condition of the lease. The commissioner shall establish by rule the process for adding species to a lease. The commissioner shall establish by rule a nonrefundable fee for applying to add species to a lease that may not exceed \$200.

3. Gear. The holder of a lease under this subchapter must apply to the commissioner to add different gear categories and make resultant operational modifications to the lease site if the holder has held the lease for at least one year and the lease included authorization for the bottom gear category only. The commissioner may not authorize the addition of gear categories that would cause the holder of the lease to violate any existing condition of the lease. Leases that were originally authorized without gear are not eligible to apply to add gear under this subsection. The commissioner shall establish by rule the process for adding different gear categories to a lease. The commissioner shall establish by rule a nonrefundable fee for applying to add different gear categories to a lease that may not exceed \$500. The rules must provide for notice of proposed additions of different gear categories to the public, riparian landowners and the municipality in which the lease is located and an opportunity to submit written comments on the proposal. The replacement of previously authorized gear does not require a lease amendment as long as the replacement gear is substantially similar to the previously authorized gear. The commissioner may not grant a lease amendment under this subsection that unreasonably interferes with the conditions under section 6072, subsection 7-A.

4. Equipment; structure. The holder of a lease under this subchapter must apply to the commissioner to add equipment or structure and make resultant operational modifications to the holder's lease site if the holder has held the lease for at least one year and the lease did not authorize equipment or structure. The commissioner may not authorize the addition of equipment or structure that would cause the holder of the lease to violate any existing condition of the lease. The commissioner shall establish by rule the process for adding equipment or structure to a lease. The commissioner shall also establish by rule a nonrefundable fee for applying to add equipment or structure to a lease that may not exceed \$500. The rules must provide for notice of proposed additions of equipment or structure to the

public, riparian landowners and the municipality in which the lease is located and an opportunity to submit written comments on the proposal. The replacement of previously authorized equipment or structure does not require a lease amendment as long as the replacement is substantially similar to the previously authorized equipment or structure. The commissioner may not grant a lease amendment under this subsection that unreasonably interferes with the conditions under section 6072, subsection 7-A.

5. Temporary change in operation. The commissioner may authorize the holder of a lease under this subchapter to temporarily modify the operational plans approved under the lease when the modifications are intended to preemptively address environmental conditions that may impact public health or the health of the cultured species on a lease site. An authorization may be granted to ensure compliance with department-initiated action. The department shall provide written notice of the temporary operational modifications to the impacted lease holder. The commissioner shall establish by a rule a process by which temporary operational modifications may be authorized.

6. Rules. The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 10. 12 MRSA §6085-B is enacted to read:

§6085-B. Right to inspect and sample

The commissioner or the commissioner's agent shall have access to the leased or licensed area or licensed facility for a lease issued under section 6072, 6072-A or 6072-B or a license issued under section 6072-C or 6085 for the purpose of the inspection or the collection of samples. A sample may be collected only if the commissioner or the commissioner's agent has identified a possible risk to public health, animal health or the health of other marine organisms. The commissioner or the commissioner's agent shall notify the leaseholder or license holder at least 24 hours in advance of sample collection, and the notice must identify the basis of the sample collection. The sample size must be as small as reasonably possible. The commissioner or the commissioner's agent shall provide the results of the testing on any samples to the leaseholder or license holder immediately after the results become available. The leaseholder or license holder shall make applicable marine resources licenses or permits available for inspection upon the request of the commissioner or the commissioner's agent. Denial of access to the leased or licensed area or licensed facility, including for the purposes of sample collection, is grounds for revocation of any lease or license issued pursuant to section 6072, 6072-A, 6072-B, 6072-C or 6085. Sample testing records are confidential pursuant to section 6085-C.

Sec. 11. 12 MRSA §6085-C is enacted to read:

§6085-C. Results of testing; confidentiality

1. Results of testing confidential. Except as provided in subsection 2, the results of testing of a sample collected pursuant to section 6085-B are confidential.

2. Exceptions; disclosure permitted. The department may disclose the results of testing of a sample collected pursuant to section 6085-B:

A. When the department determines that the release of the results of testing of a sample is necessary to protect public health;

B. To the Bureau of Marine Patrol when the results of testing of a sample is necessary for enforcement purposes; and

C. When the department relies on the results of testing of a sample to consider a renewal application of a lease or license issued under this subchapter or initiate revocation of a lease or license issued under this subchapter.

Sec. 12. Issuance of license or lease amendment. Until rules are adopted pursuant to this Act, the Department of Marine Resources may not issue a limited-purpose license or authorize a lease amendment under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, chapter 605, subchapter 2.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 673

S.P. 828 - L.D. 2009

**An Act to Clarify the
Requirements of a County
Audit**

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §951, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2003, c. 178, §2 and PL 2013, c. 16, §10, is further amended to read:

1. Annual audit. Every county shall have an audit made of its accounts annually covering the last complete fiscal year by the Office of the State Auditor or by a certified public accountant selected by the county commissioners. The audit must be performed in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and procedures pertaining to governmental accounting. The auditor shall produce an audit report that includes the items required in section 952-A. When an audit is conducted by a certified public accountant, the audit, upon completion, must be forwarded to the Office of the State Auditor within 12 months of the date of the close of the fiscal year. The Office of the State Auditor shall review the audit for completeness. The audit, including the management letter, is a public document and must

be posted on the Office of the State Auditor's publicly accessible website no later than 30 days after receipt.

The State Auditor is authorized to grant an exception to the requirement for a county to forward a completed annual audit to the Office of the State Auditor within 12 months of the date of the close of the fiscal year under extenuating circumstances as determined by the State Auditor. The Office of the State Auditor shall make public any requests for an exception along with the State Auditor's decision within 60 days of the receipt of a request for an exception.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 674

S.P. 821 - L.D. 2005

An Act Regarding Mail Order Delivery of Prescription Drugs

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

Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §4349, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

7. Covered persons using mail order pharmacy; access to prescription drugs. If a covered person is using a mail order pharmacy, the pharmacy benefits manager shall allow for the dispensing of the covered person's prescription drug at a network pharmacy under the following circumstances to ensure that the covered person has access to prescription drugs.

A. If the prescription is delayed by more than one day after the expected delivery date provided by the mail order pharmacy, the network pharmacy shall provide the covered person up to a 7-day supply or the smallest prepackaged unit supply of the prescription drug.

B. If the prescription drug arrives in an unusable condition, the network pharmacy shall provide the prescription drug in accordance with the covered person's prescription.

A covered person that receives a prescription drug pursuant to paragraph A or B may not be subject to any payment that exceeds the total of one copayment, co-insurance payment or other out-of-pocket payment for the dispensing of that prescription drug.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 675

H.P. 1313 - L.D. 1969

An Act to Amend the Maine Revised Unclaimed Property Act and Clarify the Definition of "Virtual Currency"

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

Sec. 1. 33 MRSA §2052, sub-§23-A is enacted to read:

23-A. Private key. "Private key" means a unique element of cryptographic data used for signing transactions on a blockchain, as defined in Title 32, section 6164, subsection 1, that is known to the owner of the element.

Sec. 2. 33 MRSA §2052, sub-§24, ¶B, as amended by PL 2019, c. 571, §3, is further amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) Money, virtual currency, interest or a dividend, check, draft, deposit or payroll card;

Sec. 3. 33 MRSA §2052, sub-§32-A is enacted to read:

32-A. Virtual currency. "Virtual currency" means a digital representation of value used as a medium of exchange, unit of account or store of value, which is not legal tender, regardless of whether or not it is denominated in legal tender. "Virtual currency" does not include:

A. A loyalty card, including a transaction in which a merchant grants as part of an affinity or rewards program value that cannot be taken from or exchanged with the merchant for legal tender, bank or credit union credit or a digital financial asset; or

B. Game-related digital content consisting of a digital representation of value issued by or on behalf of a publisher and used solely within an online game, gaming platform or family of games sold by the publisher or offered on the same gaming platform.

Sec. 4. 33 MRSA §2061, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended to read:

5. Payroll card or demand, savings or time deposit. A payroll card or demand, savings or time deposit, including a deposit that is automatically renewable, 3 years after the later of maturity, if applicable, of the card or deposit and the apparent owner's last indication of interest in the card or deposit, except that a deposit that is automatically renewable is deemed matured on its initial date of maturity unless the apparent owner consented in a record on file with the holder to renewal at or about the time of the renewal;

Sec. 5. 33 MRSA §2061, sub-§14, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended to read:

14. Nonactivated stored-value obligation or electronic payment medium. Funds represented by a nonactivated stored-value obligation or other nonactivated electronic payment medium that require activation for use, one year after the funds would have otherwise first been available to the owner; and

Sec. 6. 33 MRSA §2061, sub-§14-A is enacted to read:

14-A. Terminated retirement plan. Funds from the termination of a defined contribution plan or other retirement plan, one year after the date of plan termination; and

Sec. 7. 33 MRSA §2062, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended to read:

§2062. When tax-deferred or tax-exempt retirement account presumed abandoned

1. Presumed abandoned after 3 years. Subject to section 2070, property held in a pension account or retirement account that qualifies for tax deferral or in a retirement account that is tax-exempt under the income tax laws of the United States is presumed abandoned if it is unclaimed by the apparent owner 3 years after the later of:

A. The later of the following dates:

- (1) Except as in subparagraph (2), the date a communication sent by the holder by first class United States mail to the apparent owner is returned to the holder as undeliverable by the United States Postal Service; and
- (2) If the returned communication is resent within 30 days, the date the resent communication was returned as undeliverable by the United States Postal Service; and

B. The earlier of the following dates: date a distribution is required under the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986 in order to avoid a tax penalty, including situations in which the apparent owner is deceased.

- (1) ~~The date the apparent owner becomes 70 1/2 years of age; and~~
- (2) ~~If the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, requires distribution to avoid a tax penalty, the date the holder:~~
 - (a) ~~Receives confirmation of the death of the apparent owner in the ordinary course of its business; or~~
 - (b) ~~Confirms the death of the apparent owner under subsection 2.~~

2. Confirmation of death of apparent owner. If a holder in the ordinary course of its business receives

notice or an indication of the death of an apparent owner ~~and subsection 1, paragraph B applies~~, the holder shall attempt not later than 90 days after receipt of the notice or indication to confirm whether the apparent owner is deceased.

3. Confirmation of apparent owner's interest. ~~If the holder does not send communications to the apparent owner of an account described in subsection 1 by first class United States mail on at least an annual basis, the holder shall attempt to confirm the apparent owner's interest in the property by sending the apparent owner an e-mail not later than 2 years after the apparent owner's last indication of interest in the property. However, the holder promptly shall attempt to contact the apparent owner by first class United States mail if:~~

~~A. The holder does not have information needed to send the apparent owner an e-mail or the holder believes that the apparent owner's e-mail address in the holder's records is not valid;~~

~~B. The holder receives notification that the e-mail was not received; or~~

~~C. The apparent owner does not respond to the e-mail within 30 days after the e-mail was sent.~~

Sec. 8. 33 MRSA §2063, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is repealed.

Sec. 9. 33 MRSA §2064, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended to read:

1. Presumed abandoned after 3 years. Subject to section 2070, ~~and except as provided in subsection 3,~~ property held in an account established under a state's Uniform Gifts to Minors Act or Uniform Transfers to Minors Act, if it is unclaimed by or on behalf of the minor on whose behalf the account was opened, is presumed abandoned 3 years after ~~the later of: the date on which the custodian is required to transfer the property to the minor or the minor's estate in accordance with the Uniform Gifts to Minors Act or Uniform Transfers to Minors Act of the state in which the account was opened in accordance with the provisions of section 2068 for securities and section 2061, subsection 5 for a payroll card or demand, savings or time deposit.~~

~~A. The date a communication sent by the holder by first class United States mail to the custodian of the minor on whose behalf the account was opened is returned as undeliverable to the holder by the United States Postal Service or, if the communication is resent within 30 days after the date the first communication is returned as undeliverable, the date the first communication was returned as undeliverable; and~~

~~B. The date on which the custodian is required to transfer the property to the minor or the minor's estate in accordance with the Uniform Gifts to Minors Act or Uniform Transfers to Minors Act of the state in which the account was opened.~~

Sec. 10. 33 MRSA §2064, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is repealed.

Sec. 11. 33 MRSA §2064, sub-§3, as corrected by RR 2019, c. 2, Pt. A, §31, is repealed.

Sec. 12. 33 MRSA §2066, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended to read:

A. ~~December 31st~~ June 30th of the year in which the obligation is issued or additional funds are deposited into it;

Sec. 13. 33 MRSA §2067-A is enacted to read:
§2067-A. When virtual currency presumed abandoned; liquidation by holder

1. Presumed abandoned after 5 years. Subject to subsection 2, virtual currency is presumed abandoned 5 years after the last indication of interest by the apparent owner. If communication is sent by first class United States mail during the regular course of business, the virtual currency is presumed abandoned 5 years after the date that a communication sent by the holder by first class United States mail to the apparent owner is returned to the holder as undeliverable by the United States Postal Service.

2. Remitting virtual currency. If a holder of virtual currency has private keys, credentials or other information necessary to effectuate a transfer of virtual currency that is presumed abandoned, the holder shall report in a record to the administrator in accordance with section 2091 and shall deliver the virtual currency within 30 days before filing the report in native form to the custody of the administrator in accordance with any directions from the administrator.

3. Holder unable to transfer virtual currency. If a holder does not have sufficient information to effectuate a transfer of the virtual currency, the holder shall maintain possession of the virtual currency until the holder acquires the information necessary to effectuate a transfer.

4. Determination of value; exempt from reporting or liquidation. The administrator may decline to accept virtual currency that is presumed abandoned if the administrator, in the administrator's discretion, determines that the virtual currency is not freely transferable, is of nominal value or has value that is less than the estimated expenses of maintenance, notice or sale of the property. The administrator may also prescribe by rule classes or types of virtual currency exempt from reporting or liquidation.

5. Liquidation of unclaimed virtual currency; transfer to state-owned account. The administrator, at the administrator's discretion, may direct a holder of unclaimed virtual currency to liquidate the virtual currency. The liquidation must occur within 30 days prior to the filing of a report under section 2091. The holder

may transfer virtual currency to a state-owned account held by the holder before liquidation.

6. Liquidation not possible. If a holder of unclaimed virtual currency reasonably believes that the holder cannot liquidate the virtual currency and cannot otherwise cause the virtual currency to be liquidated, the holder shall promptly notify the administrator in writing and explain the reasons why the virtual currency cannot be liquidated as otherwise required under subsection 5. The administrator shall then direct the holder concerning an alternate disposition of the virtual currency.

7. Administrator, State and holder held harmless. An apparent owner does not have recourse against the administrator, the State or a holder of unclaimed virtual currency to recover any gain in value that occurs after the liquidation of the virtual currency under subsection 5 or pursuant to section 2132, subsection 3. Consistent with section 2114, subsection 2, the administrator shall defend and indemnify a holder against liability on any such claim, as long as the holder has acted in good faith and substantially complied with sections 2101 and 2102.

Sec. 14. 33 MRSA §2070, sub-§2, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended to read:

C. Presentment by the apparent owner of a check or other instrument of payment of a dividend, interest payment or other distribution, or evidence of receipt of a distribution made by electronic or similar means, with respect to an account, underlying security or interest in a business association;

Sec. 15. 33 MRSA §2070, sub-§2, ¶E, as amended by PL 2021, c. 41, §2, is further amended to read:

E. A deposit into or withdrawal from an account at a ~~financial organization~~ business association by the apparent owner, ~~including an automatic withdrawal except for a recurring automated clearing house debit or credit previously authorized but not including by the apparent owner~~ or an automatic reinvestment of dividends or interest or an automatic withdrawal of disclosed fees;

Sec. 16. 33 MRSA §2071, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended to read:

§2071. Deposit account for proceeds of insurance policy or annuity

If proceeds payable under a life or endowment insurance policy or annuity contract are deposited into an account with check-writing or draft-writing privileges for the beneficiary of the policy or contract and, under a supplementary contract not involving annuity benefits other than death benefits, the proceeds are retained by the insurance company or the financial organization where the account is held, the policy or contract in-

cludes the assets in the account, and the account proceeds are presumed abandoned 3 years after the beneficiary's last indication of interest in the account.

Sec. 17. 33 MRSA §2081, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Other beneficiary. The address of the apparent owner of other property for which ownership vests in a beneficiary upon the death of the owner is presumed to be the address of the deceased owner if the address of the beneficiary is not known by the holder and cannot be determined under section 2082.

Sec. 18. 33 MRSA §2093, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended to read:

2. May 1st. Subject to subsection 3, a report under section 2091 containing information about life insurance policies, ~~gift obligations and stored value obligations~~ must be filed before May 1st of each year for the immediately preceding calendar year.

Sec. 19. 33 MRSA §2101, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended to read:

3. Notice; tax deferred account ~~or~~ security or virtual currency. The holder of securities presumed abandoned under section 2062, 2063 or 2068 ~~or virtual currency presumed abandoned under section 2067-A~~ shall send to the apparent owner notice by certified United States mail that complies with section 2102 in a format acceptable to the administrator not less than 60 days before filing the report under section 2091 if:

A. The holder has in its records an address for the apparent owner that the holder's records do not disclose to be invalid and that is sufficient to direct the delivery of United States mail to the apparent owner; and

B. The value of the property is \$1,000 or more.

Sec. 20. 33 MRSA §2102, sub-§2, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended to read:

~~D. State~~ With respect to securities presumed abandoned under section 2062, 2063 or 2068 or safe deposit box contents presumed abandoned under section 2065, state that the property that is not legal tender of the United States may be sold by the administrator subject to liquidation if the apparent owner does not respond to the notice; and

Sec. 21. 33 MRSA §2102, sub-§2, ¶E, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended to read:

E. Provide instructions that the apparent owner must follow to prevent the holder from reporting and paying or delivering the property to the administrator ~~or selling the property~~.

Sec. 22. 33 MRSA §2112, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§2112. Dormancy charge; escheat fee prohibited

Sec. 23. 33 MRSA §2112, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Prohibition on escheat fees. A holder may not deduct an escheat fee, unclaimed property reporting fee or other similar charge imposed solely by virtue of the property becoming subject to reporting under this Act.

Sec. 24. 33 MRSA §2120, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Commencement of action; tolling. The commencement of an action, proceeding or examination by the administrator or the administrator's agent tolls the running of the period of limitation under subsection 3.

Sec. 25. 33 MRSA §2121 is enacted to read:

§2121. Property held in trust

A holder that, on May 1st for insurance property and November 1st for all other property types, holds property presumed abandoned under subchapter 2 holds the property in trust for the benefit of the State on behalf of the missing owner and is liable to the State for the full value of the property, plus any accrued interest and penalty as defined in section 2194. A holder is not required by this section to segregate or establish trust accounts for the property as long as the property is timely delivered to the administrator in accordance with section 2113.

Sec. 26. 33 MRSA §2132, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended to read:

§2132. Disposal of securities ~~or~~ virtual currency

1. Sell or liquidate ~~security~~ securities or virtual currency after one year. Except as provided in section 2155, subsection 1, ~~or unless in the discretion of the administrator it is determined to be in the best interest of the State otherwise~~, the administrator may not sell or otherwise liquidate a security ~~or virtual currency~~ until one year after the administrator receives the security ~~or virtual currency~~ is placed in the administrator's custody.

2. Price of security ~~or~~ virtual currency. The administrator may not sell a security ~~or virtual currency~~ listed on an established stock exchange for less than the price prevailing on the exchange at the time of sale. The administrator may sell a security ~~or virtual currency~~ not listed on an established exchange by any commercially reasonable method.

3. Claim after securities or virtual currency sold. A person making a claim under this Act after a security ~~or virtual currency~~ has been sold is entitled only to the net proceeds received from the sale.

Sec. 27. 33 MRSA §2133, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended to read:

§2133. Recovery of securities, virtual currency or value by owner

1. Claim for securities or virtual currency sold before one year after delivery. If securities or virtual currency are sold by the administrator before the expiration of one year after ~~their~~ delivery of the securities or virtual currency to the administrator, a person making a claim under this Act before the end of the one-year period is entitled to the proceeds of the sale of the securities or virtual currency or the market value of the securities or virtual currency at the time the claim is made, whichever is greater, plus dividends, interest and other increments thereon up to the time the claim is made, less any deduction for expenses of sale. A person making a claim under this Act after the expiration of the one-year period is entitled to receive the securities or virtual currency delivered to the administrator by the holder, if the securities or virtual currency remain in the custody of the administrator, or the net proceeds received from sale and is not entitled to receive any appreciation in the value of the property occurring after delivery to the administrator, except in a case of intentional misconduct or malfeasance by the administrator.

2. Claim for securities of a single issue. Notwithstanding this section, the administrator may sell the securities of any single issue for which custodial costs are likely to exceed value 90 days or more after the securities have been published pursuant to section 2103. A person making a claim under this Act after the securities have been sold is entitled only to the net proceeds received from the sale.

Sec. 28. 33 MRSA §2136 is enacted to read:

§2136. Liquidation of virtual currency

Liquidation of presumed abandoned virtual currency must be undertaken in accordance with section 2067-A.

Sec. 29. 33 MRSA §2153, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended to read:

1. Claim for property. A person claiming to be the owner of property held under this Act by the administrator may file a claim at any time for the property on a form prescribed by the administrator. The claimant must verify the claim as to its completeness and accuracy.

Sec. 30. 33 MRSA §2164, first ¶, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended to read:

Records obtained and records compiled, including work papers, by the administrator or the administrator's agent in the course of conducting an examination under section 2162:

Sec. 31. 33 MRSA §2165, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is repealed.

Sec. 32. 33 MRSA §2166, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended to read:

§2166. Failure of person examined to retain records

If a person subject to examination under section 2162 does not retain the records as required by section 2094, the administrator may determine the value of property due using a reasonable method of estimation based on all information available to the administrator, including extrapolation and use of statistical sampling when appropriate and necessary, consistent with examination procedures and standards adopted under and in accordance with section 2163. A payment made based on estimation under this section does not relieve a person from the obligation to retain records as required by section 2094.

Sec. 33. 33 MRSA §2211, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§2211. Definitions; applicability; confidentiality and use of documents and working papers

Sec. 34. 33 MRSA §2211, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Confidentiality and use of documents and working papers. Information derived from annual reports from holders or otherwise communicated to the administrator or the administrator's agents concerning presumed abandoned property that is unclaimed is confidential and not available for public inspection to the extent the administrator finds it necessary to protect the interests of the holder, the owner, the State and the public welfare. Documents and working papers obtained or compiled by the administrator or the administrator's agents, employees or designated representatives in the course of conducting an examination are confidential and are not public records, but the documents and papers may be:

A. Used by the administrator in the course of an action to collect unclaimed property or otherwise enforce this Act;

B. Used in joint examinations conducted with or pursuant to an agreement with another state, the Federal Government or any other governmental subdivision, agency or instrumentality;

C. Produced pursuant to subpoena or court order; or

D. Disclosed to the abandoned or unclaimed property office of another state for that state's use in circumstances equivalent to those described in this subsection, if the other state is bound to keep the documents and papers confidential.

Sec. 35. 33 MRSA §2212, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended to read:

1. Confidential. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the following are confidential and exempt from public inspection and disclosure:

A. Records of the administrator and the administrator's agent related to the administration of this Act;

B. Reports and records of a holder in the possession of the administrator or the administrator's agent, as long as such reports and records are not otherwise available in the public domain;

C. Personal information and other information derived or otherwise obtained by or communicated to the administrator or the administrator's agent from an examination under this Act of the records of a person; ~~and~~

D. The identity of a person subject to an examination under section 2162; and

E. Records, including work papers, monthly work-in-progress updates and other examination records, compiled by the administrator or the administrator's agent in the course of conducting examinations authorized under this Act.

Sec. 36. 33 MRSA §2213, sub-§1, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended to read:

D. The person that administers the unclaimed property law of another state, if the other state accords substantially reciprocal privileges to the administrator and if the other state is required to maintain the confidentiality and security of obtained information in a manner substantially equivalent to that under this subchapter; ~~or~~

Sec. 37. 33 MRSA §2213, sub-§1, ¶E, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended to read:

E. Pursuant to section 2164, subsection 6, the person subject to an examination; or

Sec. 38. 33 MRSA §2213, sub-§1, ¶F is enacted to read:

F. The administrator's agent's predecessor or successor.

Sec. 39. 33 MRSA §2214, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended to read:

§2214. Confidentiality agreement

A person to be examined under section 2162 may require, as a condition of disclosure of the records of the person to be examined, that the administrator or the administrator's agent execute and deliver to the person to be examined a confidentiality agreement that:

1. Form. Is in a standard form that is reasonably satisfactory to approved for use by the administrator; and

2. Compliance with subchapter. Requires the person having access to the records to comply with the provisions of this subchapter applicable to the person.

If the person to be examined elects not to execute a confidentiality agreement that has been approved for use by the administrator, and the person to be examined is unable to reach agreement on the terms of a confidentiality agreement within 90 days of the administrator's authorization of the examination, the examination must proceed without a confidentiality agreement in place and the person to be examined must rely upon the confidentiality provisions of this subchapter.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 676

S.P. 631 - L.D. 1547

An Act to Fund Maine's Snowmobile Trail Programs

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §1893, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. B, §21 and affected by c. 614, §9, is further amended to read:

A. Within available funds, the snowmobile program shall develop and maintain snowmobile trails and provide educational and informational materials for the use of operators of snowmobiles. The bureau may charge a reasonable fee for such services and materials when the money credited to it under chapter 937 is insufficient to satisfy the demand for those services and materials. All fees collected must be deposited in the bureau's Snowmobile Trail Fund. The bureau shall administer the Snowmobile Trail Fund, and the snowmobile program's other activities must be conducted pursuant to subsection 3. The Snowmobile Trail Fund receives funding as provided in section 10206, subsection 2-A, chapter 937 and Title 36, section 2903-D, subsection 2.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §10206, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 2007, c. 556, §1; PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §§5 and 7; and PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §24, is further amended to read:

A. After the transfers provided in ~~section 13104, subsection 4~~ subsection 2-A, the snowmobile and trail-grooming equipment registration fee for residents collected under chapter 937 is credited as follows:

- (1) Twenty-two percent is credited to the General Fund as undedicated revenue;
- (2) Fifty-two percent is credited to the Snowmobile Trail Fund of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands; and

(3) Twenty-six percent is annually distributed to the municipality of the owner's residence as shown on the owner's registration certificate, except that in unorganized territory, 26% is annually distributed to the county of the owner's residence as shown on the owner's registration certificate and credited to the unorganized territory fund of that county established in Title 30-A, section 7502.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §10206, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by PL 2007, c. 556, §2; PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §§5 and 7; and PL 2013, c. 405, Pt. A, §24, is further amended to read:

B. After the transfers provided in ~~section 13104, subsection 4~~ subsection 2-A, the snowmobile registration fee for nonresidents collected under chapter 937 is credited as follows.

- (1) Eighteen percent is credited to the General Fund as undedicated revenue.
- (2) Seven percent is credited to the Snowmobile Enforcement Fund established under section 10258.
- (3) The remainder is credited to the Snowmobile Trail Fund of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands.

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §10206, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Distribution of revenue from snowmobile registrations. Revenues received for snowmobile registration fees must be disbursed and used as follows.

A. The snowmobile registration fee for residents collected under section 13104, subsection 4, paragraph A is credited as follows:

- (1) For registrations issued July 1st to December 15th of each year, \$17 must be transferred to the Snowmobile Trail Fund;
- (2) For registrations issued July 1st to December 15th of each year, \$10 must be transferred to a special fund administered by the Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office;
- (3) For registrations issued December 16th of each year to June 30th of the following year, \$30 must be transferred to the Snowmobile Trail Fund; and
- (4) For registrations issued December 16th of each year to June 30th of the following year, \$12 must be transferred to a special fund administered by the Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office.

B. The snowmobile registration fee for nonresidents collected under section 13104, subsection 4, paragraph B is credited as follows:

(1) For registrations issued July 1st to December 15th of each year, \$21 from each seasonal registration fee must be transferred to the Snowmobile Trail Fund;

(2) For registrations issued July 1st to December 15th of each year, \$15 from each seasonal registration fee must be transferred to a special fund administered by the Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office;

(3) For registrations issued December 16th of each year to June 30th of the following year, \$47 from each seasonal registration fee must be transferred to the Snowmobile Trail Fund;

(4) For registrations issued December 16th of each year to June 30th of the following year, \$20 from each seasonal registration fee must be transferred to a special fund administered by the Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office;

(5) Five dollars from each 3-consecutive-day registration fee and 10-consecutive-day registration fee must be transferred to the Snowmobile Enforcement Fund established under section 10258; and

(6) Fifty-one dollars from each 3-consecutive-day registration fee and \$51 from each 10-consecutive-day registration fee must be transferred to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and credited in the following manner: \$33 must be transferred to the Snowmobile Trail Fund and \$18 must be transferred to a special fund administered by the Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office.

For purposes of this subsection, "Snowmobile Trail Fund" means the Snowmobile Trail Fund of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands as described in section 1893, subsection 1 and "Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office" means the office established under section 1893.

Funds transferred to a special fund administered by the Off-road Recreational Vehicle Office pursuant to this subsection must be used to assist an entity that has a snowmobile trail grooming contract with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands in the purchase of trail-grooming equipment. The funds may also be used for the repair or overhaul of trail-grooming equipment.

Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §13104, sub-§4, as corrected by RR 2021, c. 1, Pt. A, §9, is amended to read:

4. Fee. Except as provided in subsection 5, the annual snowmobile registration fee is as follows:

A. For residents, for registrations issued July 1st to December 15th of each year, \$55; for registrations issued December 16th of each year to June 30th of the following year, \$70. The registration for a

snowmobile owned by a resident is valid for one year, commencing on July 1st of each year; and

B. For nonresidents:

(1) ~~Seventy-four~~ Ninety-four dollars for a 3-consecutive-day registration. A person may purchase more than one 3-day registration in any season;

(2) ~~One hundred and nineteen dollars~~ For registrations issued July 1st to December 15th of each year, \$119; for registrations issued December 16th of each year to June 30th of the following year, \$150 for a seasonal registration; and

(3) ~~Ninety-nine~~ One hundred nineteen dollars for a 10-consecutive-day registration. A person may purchase more than one 10-day registration in any season.

The registration for a snowmobile owned by a non-resident must specify the dates for which the registration is valid.

~~Ten dollars from each resident registration fee and \$15 from each nonresident registration fee collected pursuant to this subsection must be transferred to a special fund administered by the Off Road Vehicle Division of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The funds must be used to assist any entity that has a snowmobile trail grooming contract with the Bureau of Parks and Lands in the purchase of trail grooming equipment. The funds also may be used for the repair or overhaul of trail grooming equipment.~~

~~Seventeen dollars from each resident snowmobile registration fee must be transferred to the Snowmobile Trail Fund of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands.~~

~~Sixteen dollars from each nonresident 3-day snowmobile registration fee, \$16 from each nonresident 10-day snowmobile registration fee and \$21 from each nonresident seasonal snowmobile registration fee must be transferred to the Snowmobile Trail Fund of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands.~~

~~Five dollars from each nonresident 3-day snowmobile registration fee and 10-day snowmobile registration fee must be transferred to the Snowmobile Enforcement Fund established under section 10258.~~

Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §13104, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Review of snowmobile registration fees and trail maintenance needs. In consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the department shall review snowmobile registration fees and maintenance needs of designated state-approved snowmobile trails in 2028 and 2029 and every

2 years thereafter. The commissioner shall report the findings and recommendations from the review to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters by February 1st each year a review is required. The committee may report out legislation related to snowmobile registration fees and maintenance needs of snowmobile trails to the session of the Legislature in which the report is received.

Sec. 7. 36 MRSA §2903-D, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 668, §1, is further amended to read:

A. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife receives 13.41% of that amount, to be used by the commissioner for the purposes set forth in Title 12, section 1893, subsection 3, section 10206, ~~subsection~~ subsections 2 and 2-A, section 13104, subsections 2 to 10 and section 13105, subsection 1; and

Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

Off-Road Recreational Vehicles Program Z224

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the programming and information technology costs associated with changes to the snowmobile registration system.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$230,768
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	\$230,768
FUNDS TOTAL		

Sec. 9. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1, 2027.

Effective July 1, 2027.

CHAPTER 677

S.P. 585 - L.D. 1444

An Act to Clarify the Application of Finch v. U.S. Bank, N.A.

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

Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §6111, sub-§1-B is enacted to read:

1-B. Application. Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, for any cause of action arising prior to January 11, 2024 for a claim in which a foreclosure action was dismissed due to a defective no-

tice of a mortgagor's right to cure pursuant to this section, any subsequent cause of action asserting a claim for any sums due on the obligation as of the date of the final judgment dismissing the prior action is barred. The holding in the case of *Finch v. U.S. Bank, N.A.*, 2024 Me. 2 may not be applied to any cause of action arising prior to January 11, 2024.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 678

H.P. 568 - L.D. 882

An Act to Protect Communication with Providers of Critical Incident Stress Management and Peer Support

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA c. 501, headnote is amended to read:

CHAPTER 501

CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT TEAMS AND PEER SUPPORT

Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §4201, as amended by PL 2019, c. 89, §§1 to 5, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 25 MRSA §4201-A is enacted to read:

§4201-A. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Affected person. "Affected person" means a member or employee of a provider or a person providing emergency care or response services on behalf of a provider.

2. Critical incident. "Critical incident" means a work-related incident that causes or has the potential to cause an affected person to experience emotional or physical stress. "Critical incident" includes, but is not limited to, use-of-force encounters that may result in the death of or serious injury to another person or an affected person, fatal motor vehicle accidents, child abuse investigations, emergency care or response operations and death investigations.

3. Critical incident stress management. "Critical incident stress management" means services provided in an individual or group setting and facilitated by a peer support person or licensed mental health clinician to an affected person, or a group of affected persons, when the affected person has been involved in a critical incident that can reasonably have a devastating, long-lasting effect on the affected person. "Critical incident

stress management" includes assisting the affected person to appropriately process the trauma and stress associated with a critical incident and connecting the affected person to appropriate resources.

4. Critical incident stress management team. "Critical incident stress management team" means either of the following persons or groups of persons that has an established relationship with a licensed mental health clinician who is available for consultation, as the team members determine to be necessary, and for at least one meeting annually:

A. A team of peer support persons designated by the chief or director of a public safety agency, private safety agency or public safety answering point or of an organization involved in emergency care or response; the sheriff of a county jail; or the chief administrative officer of a correctional facility as defined in Title 34-A, section 1001, subsection 6, or any such person's designee; or

B. A volunteer team coordinator from a nonprofit entity that is trained to assist and provide critical incident stress management or peer support.

5. Peer support. "Peer support" means the provision of emotional support to an affected person by a member of a peer team or a peer support person for the purpose of addressing issues resulting from or related to a critical incident experienced by the affected person.

6. Peer support person. "Peer support person" means a person who provides critical incident stress management or peer support and is trained in accordance with accepted best practices.

7. Peer team. "Peer team" means a team of active or retired-in-good-standing members or employees of one or more providers that provides peer support to affected persons that have been involved in a critical incident and that is trained through an organized peer support training program that meets or exceeds peer support training standards adopted by the International Association of Fire Fighters or the International Association of Chiefs of Police, or their successor organizations.

8. Private safety agency. "Private safety agency" has the same meaning as in section 2921, subsection 6-A.

9. Provider. "Provider" means a public safety agency, private safety agency or public safety answering point; an organization involved in emergency care or response; a correctional facility as defined in Title 34-A, section 1001, subsection 6; a sheriff's office; or a county jail.

10. Public safety agency. "Public safety agency" has the same meaning as in section 2921, subsection 6-B.

11. Public safety answering point. "Public safety answering point" has the same meaning as in section 2921, subsection 7.

Sec. 4. 25 MRSA §4202, as amended by PL 2019, c. 89, §6, is repealed.

Sec. 5. 25 MRSA §4203 is enacted to read:

§4203. Critical incident stress management and peer support; testimony; confidentiality; disclosure

1. Consent to testify. A peer support person, peer team or member of a peer team or an individual who participates in a structured critical incident stress management or peer support activity may not be compelled to testify in any civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding at law or in equity regarding any information that may have been acquired in providing, receiving or participating in critical incident stress management or peer support, except at the request of, or with the consent of, the relevant affected person.

2. Confidentiality. Proceedings, communications and records connected with the provision of critical incident stress management or peer support are confidential and are not subject to subpoena, discovery or introduction into evidence in a civil or criminal action unless the confidentiality is waived by the relevant affected person. Statistical data that does not identify a person seeking the assistance of a critical incident stress management team or peer team must be made available for statistical evaluation and may not be made available for any other purpose.

3. Disclosure required by law. This section does not prohibit disclosure by a person that provides critical incident stress management or peer support of information concerning an affected person if the disclosure is required pursuant to any applicable law or the person that provides critical incident stress management or peer support reasonably believes, in that person's judgment, that the affected person presents a danger to the affected person or to others. This subsection does not modify or affect the provisions of Title 22, sections 4011-A to 4015.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 679

H.P. 180 - L.D. 276

**An Act Related to All-terrain
Vehicle Registration**

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §13155, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2021, c. 215, §6 and c. 411, §8, is further amended to read:

3. Application and issuance. The commissioner, or an agent designated by the commissioner, may register and assign a registration number to an ATV upon application and payment of a fee by the owner. A copy of the signed form under section 13161, subsection 1-A must be supplied by the owner in order to register an ATV. The commissioner shall charge a fee of \$1 in addition to the fee for each registration issued by an employee of the department. The registration number in the form of stickers issued by the commissioner must be clearly displayed on the front and rear of the vehicle. An annual registration is valid for one year commencing July 1st of each year, except that any registration issued prior to July 1st but after May 1st is valid from the date of issuance until June 30th of the following year. A registration agent shall provide to the person who requests to register an oversized ATV under subsection 5-B a written form developed and provided by the department explaining the size and weight restrictions for registering that ATV, including whether it qualifies for registration, and explaining the provisions of section 13157-A regarding the operation of oversized ATVs on designated state-approved ATV trails. The department shall develop a form for use by registration agents under this subsection.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §13161, sub-§1-A, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 215, §12, is amended to read:

1-A. Dealer to provide registration information. A dealer may not sell a new or used oversized ATV without providing to the purchaser a written form developed and provided by the department explaining the size and weight restrictions for registering that ATV under section 13155, subsection 5-B and the provisions of section 13157-A regarding the use of oversized ATVs on designated state-approved ATV trails. The department shall develop a form for use by dealers under this section, which must include a check box, to be filled out by the dealer, indicating whether the ATV is oversized or not, and a place for a purchaser to sign acknowledging receipt of the form. The dealer shall provide the purchaser and the department with a copy of the signed form after the sale. For purposes of this subsection, "oversized ATV" has the same meaning as ~~defined~~ in section 13155, subsection 5-B.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 680

S.P. 49 - L.D. 32

**An Act Regarding the
Interconnection Ombudsman
Position at the Public Utilities
Commission**

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §107, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2023, c. 307, §1, is further amended to read:

B. With the approval of the Attorney General, a general counsel; and

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §107, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 2023, c. 307, §1, is further amended to read:

C. An assistant administrative director; ~~and~~

Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §107, sub-§1, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 307, §1, is repealed.

Sec. 4. 35-A MRSA §107, sub-§2, ¶F, as repealed and replaced by PL 2025, c. 110, §1, is repealed.

Sec. 5. 35-A MRSA §3474, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. WWW, §1, is further amended to read:

4. Interconnection ombudsman; fund. The commission shall designate an interconnection ombudsman ~~appointed pursuant to section 107, subsection 1~~ shall to assist persons seeking interconnections governed by rules adopted under subsection 3. The ~~commission shall appoint an~~ interconnection ombudsman ~~who possesses~~ designated by the commission must possess technical expertise related to interconnection and interconnection procedures.

A. The duties of the interconnection ombudsman include but are not limited to:

- (1) Tracking interconnection disputes;
- (2) Facilitating the efficient and fair resolution of disputes between customers seeking to interconnect and investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities;
- (3) Reviewing investor-owned transmission and distribution utility interconnection policies to assess opportunities for reducing interconnection disputes;
- (4) Convening stakeholder groups as necessary to facilitate effective communication between interconnection stakeholders;
- (5) Preparing reports that detail the number, type, resolution timeline and outcome of interconnection disputes; and
- (6) Any other technical or regulatory work involving public utilities.

B. The commission by rule shall establish a fee to be paid by persons seeking interconnections to fund the interconnection ombudsman. Notwithstanding Title 5, section 8071, rules adopted under this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

C. The interconnection ombudsman fund is established within the commission as a nonlapsing fund for the purposes of offsetting costs for interconnection-related activities undertaken by the interconnection ombudsman pursuant to paragraph A, subparagraphs (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5). The commission shall deposit all fees collected under this subsection into the fund and all money in the fund must be used to fund the interconnection ombudsman. In addition to the fees established in accordance with this subsection, the fund may accept federal money and contributions from private and public sources.

Any activities undertaken by the interconnection ombudsman pursuant to paragraph A, subparagraph (6) must be funded in accordance with section 116.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 681

S.P. 386 - L.D. 897

An Act Regarding the Nonwires Alternative Process and Required Negative Pricing Provisions in Contracts for Energy Resulting from Competitive Solicitations Conducted by the Public Utilities Commission

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3132-B, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 298, §13, is amended to read:

1. Planning study. Each investor-owned transmission and distribution utility in this State shall annually complete and submit to the commission and to the Office of the Public Advocate, for review by the nonwires alternative coordinator, a planning study for small transmission projects and distribution projects. In completing the planning study, an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility shall develop and use system planning models. The study must:

- A. Analyze system needs for the next 5 years and provide a schedule of proposed projects and associated costs;
- B. Describe system capacity and load by substation and circuit; and
- C. Identify corresponding planned and anticipated growth-related investments.

After review of a planning study submitted under this subsection, the nonwires alternative coordinator may provide comments or recommendations, which may in-

clude recommendations to achieve the policy goals established in section 3143. An investor-owned transmission and distribution utility may, at its discretion, incorporate recommendations on a planning study made by the nonwires alternative coordinator. Failure to incorporate recommendations made by the nonwires alternative coordinator may not result in a presumption of imprudence.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3132-C, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 298, §14, is amended to read:

4. Recommendations. On the basis of the investigation under subsection 1, the nonwires alternative coordinator shall develop and provide to the commission or to an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility, as appropriate, recommendations regarding cost-effective nonwires alternatives to the wires project, including a proposed plan for procurement of the recommended nonwires alternatives. ~~The proposed procurement plan must be that identifies components that are behind the meter or on the grid side of the meter and is consistent with the provisions of section 3132-D.~~

Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §3132-C, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Rules. The commission may adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 4. 35-A MRSA §3149, first ¶, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 392, §1, is amended to read:

The commission may not approve a contract for energy resulting from a competitive solicitation conducted by the commission under this Title unless the contract includes a provision that requires the reduction of payments ~~to the bidder under the contract by the stranded costs arising from energy produced~~ absolute value of the applicable negative price multiplied by the energy produced and delivered under the contract during negative price intervals. The commission may grant an exception from the inclusion of such a negative price provision if the bidder demonstrates good cause for the exception and the commission finds that the contract is cost-effective, includes other price protections for ratepayers and will avoid to the maximum extent possible the curtailment of existing renewable resource generators.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 682

H.P. 581 - L.D. 916

An Act to Promote Investment in Housing

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4722, sub-§1, ¶GG, as amended by PL 2021, c. 322, §2, is further amended by amending subparagraph (3) to read:

(3) Perform other functions and duties necessary for the proper administration of the credit, including providing any necessary certifications and notices to taxpayers and to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services containing information required by the State Tax Assessor necessary for determining eligibility and the amount of the credit for each taxable year; ~~and.~~

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §4722, sub-§1, ¶GG, as amended by PL 2021, c. 322, §2, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

Rules adopted under this paragraph are routine technical rules;:

Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §4722, sub-§1, ¶HH, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 322, §3, is amended to read:

HH. Provide the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters copies of any reports required to be submitted to the United States Department of the Treasury or the Governor regarding the administration of the emergency rental assistance programs established by Section 501 of Division N of the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 and Section 3201(a) of the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Copies of any reports required to be submitted to the United States Department of the Treasury or the Governor must be submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters no later than 7 days after the reports are submitted to the United States Department of the Treasury or the Governor. If no such reports are required to be submitted to the United States Department of the Treasury or the Governor, the Maine State Housing Authority shall submit, beginning January 15, 2022 and annually thereafter, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters a report on any rental assistance distributed by the Maine State Housing Authority; and

Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §4722, sub-§1, ¶II is enacted to read:

II. Administer the Middle-income Housing Support Program and Middle-income Housing Support Fund established in subchapter 10-B.

Sec. 5. 30-A MRSA c. 201, sub-c. 10-B is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 10-B

MIDDLE-INCOME HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAM

§4946. Middle-income Housing Support Program

1. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Authority" means the Maine State Housing Authority.

B. "Fund" means the Middle-income Housing Support Fund established in subsection 3.

C. "Middle income" means income of an individual or household that does not exceed 200% of the area median income, as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, for the area in which the individual or household is located as published by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

D. "Program" means the Middle-income Housing Support Program established in subsection 2.

2. Middle-income Housing Support Program established. The Middle-income Housing Support Program is established within and administered by the authority.

3. Middle-income Housing Support Fund established. The Middle-income Housing Support Fund is established within and administered by the authority as a revolving, nonlapsing fund. The fund may receive money from any available state, federal or private source.

4. Purpose of program and fund. The authority shall administer the program and the fund to provide financial assistance in the form of loans or grants to cover the capital costs to construct new dwelling units or rehabilitate existing dwelling units that will provide to middle-income individuals and households who meet the criteria described in paragraphs A and B the following:

A. Rental housing for individuals and households whose incomes are at or below 120% of the area median income based on income limits published by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

B. Homeownership options for individuals and households whose incomes are at or below 180% of the area median income based on income limits published by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

5. Revolving loan fund; sliding scale. Whenever possible, the authority shall provide financial assistance in the form of short-term loans to establish and maintain the fund as a revolving loan fund. The authority shall develop a sliding scale of financial assistance available per dwelling unit based on the income level of the intended occupant of the dwelling unit.

6. Reporting. By January 15th of each year, beginning in 2027, the authority shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters. The report must include details on program activity during the preceding year and the use of funds received pursuant to subsection 3. The committee may report out legislation in response to the report to any session in the year the report was due.

7. Guidance; rules. The authority shall develop written guidance and may adopt rules to implement the program and the fund. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 6. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE**Middle-income Housing Support Fund N572**

Initiative: Establishes base allocations to authorize expenditures of funds received from public or private sources.

	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS		
All Other	\$0	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$500</u>

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 683**H.P. 1384 - L.D. 2071**

An Act to Expand Access to Vaccines Approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration by Allowing Pharmacists to Prescribe, Dispense and Administer Vaccines and Require Insurance Coverage

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

Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §4320-A, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 343, §1 and affected by §2, is amended to read:

B. With respect to the individual insured, immunizations that have a recommendation from the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices or have been licensed by the federal Food and Drug Administration and that are consistent with the recom-

mendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians or the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists or a successor organization;

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §13831, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2023, c. 170, §1, is further amended to read:

1. Administration of influenza vaccines. A pharmacist licensed in this State who meets the qualifications and requirements of section 13832 and rules adopted by the board may ~~prescribe, dispense or administer~~ topically or by injection or by inhalation all forms of influenza vaccines, including intranasal influenza vaccines, to a person ~~3 years~~ 6 months of age or older ~~without a prescription~~.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §13831, sub-§2, as corrected by RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. A, §49, is amended to read:

2. Administration of other vaccines. A pharmacist licensed in this State who meets the qualifications and requirements of section 13832 and rules adopted by the board, in addition to influenza vaccines under subsection 1, may ~~prescribe, dispense or administer~~ vaccines licensed by the United States Food and Drug Administration that are recommended by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices or consistent with recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians or the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, or a successor organization, for administration to a person 18 years of age or older. A pharmacist may administer vaccines licensed by the United States Food and Drug Administration that are recommended by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices or consistent with the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians or the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, or a successor organization, for administration to a person 3 years of age or older and under 18 years of age according to a valid prescription from a prescriber licensed under chapter 31, 36 or 48. A pharmacist may administer vaccines licensed by the United States Food and Drug Administration that are outside the guidelines recommended by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, or successor organization, for administration to a person 18 years of age or older according to a valid prescription if the prescription specifically states that the vaccine is medically necessary.

Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §13831, sub-§2-A, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 28, Pt. B, §2, is amended to read:

2-A. Administration of COVID-19 vaccines. A pharmacist licensed in this State who meets the qualifications and requirements of section 13832 and rules

adopted by the board may ~~prescribe, dispense, administer and order~~ COVID-19 vaccines licensed or authorized under an emergency use authorization by the United States Food and Drug Administration ~~that are recommended by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, or successor organization~~, to a person ~~3 years~~ 6 months of age or older. For the purposes of this subsection, "COVID-19" has the same meaning as in Title 24-A, section 4320-P, subsection 1, paragraph A.

Sec. 5. 32 MRSA §13831, sub-§7, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 170, §3 and reallocated by RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. A, §28, is amended to read:

7. Notification of vaccines administration. A pharmacist licensed in this State who meets the qualifications and requirements of section 13832 and rules adopted by the board shall provide a written immunization record to the person, or the person's representative, receiving a vaccine administered under this section. ~~Within 72 hours of administering a vaccine, a pharmacist shall notify the person's primary care provider, if any, of administration of the vaccine.~~ Beginning August 1, 2023, a pharmacist shall report the administration of the vaccine to the appropriate state immunization information reporting system within 72 hours of administering the vaccine.

Sec. 6. 32 MRSA §13834, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2023, c. 245, §3, is further amended to read:

1. Delegate authority. A pharmacist may not delegate the pharmacist's authority to administer drugs or vaccines; except that a pharmacist licensed under this chapter who has obtained a certificate of administration pursuant to section 13832 may delegate the authority to administer vaccines to a pharmacy technician who is under that pharmacist's direct supervision and has met the requirements of section 13831, subsection 6 or may delegate the authority to administer drugs and vaccines to a pharmacy intern who is under that pharmacist's direct supervision and who has obtained drug administration training pursuant to section 13832, subsection 3. ~~A pharmacy intern may administer drugs and vaccines only to a person 18 years of age or older.~~

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 684

H.P. 1412 - L.D. 2097

An Act to Modify the Law Governing Revocation of a Code Enforcement Officer's Certification

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4221, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. FF, §7 and affected by §16, is further amended to read:

2. Certification requirements. A person may not hold the office of plumbing inspector unless currently certified as qualified pursuant to section 4451. Certification is effective for a period of 5 years unless sooner revoked or suspended ~~by the District Court~~ as provided for in section ~~4451~~ 4451-G.

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §4450 is enacted to read:

§4450. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Certificate holder. "Certificate holder" means an individual holding a code enforcement officer certificate issued under section 4451 by the former State Planning Office, the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Community Development, the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal or the Maine Office of Community Affairs.

2. Certification review committee. "Certification review committee" or "committee" means the committee established in section 4451-A, subsection 1.

3. Division director. "Division director" means the senior employee responsible for technical codes coordination in the Division of Building Codes and Standards established within the Maine Office of Community Affairs in Title 25, section 2372.

4. Staff. "Staff" means an employee or contractor of the Maine Office of Community Affairs established in Title 5, section 3202.

Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §4451, sub-§1, ¶D, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. D, §38, is further amended to read:

D. An individual whose certification has expired or is about to expire may be temporarily authorized in writing by the Maine Office of Community Affairs to extend that individual's certification for a period not to exceed 12 months in cases where the necessary training or examination is suspended under subsection 3-B, paragraph E, except that beginning July 20, 2026 and ending July 20, 2028, the Maine Office of Community Affairs may extend an individual's certification for a period not to exceed 24 months.

Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §4451, sub-§6, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. D, §38, is further amended to read:

6. Certification; terms; revocation. The Maine Office of Community Affairs shall certify individuals

as to their competency to successfully enforce ordinances and other land use regulations and permits granted under those ordinances and regulations and shall issue certificates attesting to the competency of those individuals to act as code enforcement officers. Certificates issued by the former State Planning Office, the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Community Development, the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal or the Maine Office of Community Affairs are valid for 6 years unless revoked ~~by the District Court~~ or suspended as provided for in section 4451-G. An examination is not required for recertification of code enforcement officers. The Maine Office of Community Affairs shall recertify a code enforcement officer if the code enforcement officer successfully completes at least 12 hours of approved training in each area of job responsibility during the 6-year certification period.

~~A. The District Court may revoke the certificate of a code enforcement officer, in accordance with Title 4, chapter 5, when it finds that:~~

- ~~(1) The code enforcement officer has practiced fraud or deception;~~
- ~~(2) Reasonable care, judgment or the application of a duly trained and knowledgeable code enforcement officer's ability was not used in the performance of the duties of the office; or~~
- ~~(3) The code enforcement officer is incompetent or unable to perform properly the duties of the office.~~

~~B. Code enforcement officers whose certificates are invalidated under this subsection may be issued new certificates provided that they are newly certified as provided in this section.~~

Sec. 5. 30-A MRSA §4451-A is enacted to read:

§4451-A. Certification review committee

1. Certification review committee; established. The certification review committee is established to receive, review, investigate when appropriate and respond to complaints regarding any violation of this subchapter or rules established by the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board or the Maine Office of Community Affairs by a certificate holder.

2. Certification review committee; membership. The division director shall appoint 7 members to serve on the committee. The division director shall name one member as chair and one member as secretary of the committee.

A. Two of the members must be members of the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board, established in Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 5-A, one of whom must hold a certification pursuant to section 4221 or 4451.

B. The remaining 5 members must be residents of this State who have professional experience and familiarity with the topic areas for which the Division of Building Codes and Standards issues certifications, except they may not be members of the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board. At least one of the 5 members must be selected from a list of names provided to the division director by a statewide organization representing code enforcement officers.

3. Quorum. A majority of the members of the committee, including at least one Technical Building Codes and Standards Board member, constitutes a quorum and must be present for deliberations and votes. A majority vote of all members present is necessary for any action or to recommend taking corrective or disciplinary action on a complaint or to order an independent investigation pursuant to section 4451-D or 4451-E.

Sec. 6. 30-A MRSA §4451-B is enacted to read:

§4451-B. Receipt and review of complaints

Upon the request of the division director or upon the committee's own motion, the committee shall review complaints about a certificate holder received regarding noncompliance with or violation of this subchapter or rules adopted by the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board established in Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 5-A or the Maine Office of Community Affairs and recommend appropriate action to the division director.

Sec. 7. 30-A MRSA §4451-C is enacted to read:

§4451-C. Notice; response

Before proceeding with any investigation regarding a complaint filed against a certificate holder, the division director, the committee or staff shall notify the certificate holder, the municipality, state agency or entity employing the certificate holder and the administrators of the jurisdiction in which the complaint originates of the content of a complaint filed against the certificate holder and that an investigation of the complaint may occur. Notice must be given as soon as possible, but no later than 60 days after the division director, the committee or staff receives the complaint or other pertinent information.

1. Certificate holder response. The certificate holder has the right to respond to the complaint within 30 days of receiving notice of the complaint in all cases except those involving an emergency refusal to renew or an emergency suspension or revocation of a certificate, as described in Title 5, chapter 375, section 10004.

2. Review and response by employer. Within 30 days of receiving notice of a complaint, the municipality, state agency or entity employing the certificate holder shall review the alleged conduct of the certificate

holder or otherwise respond to the complaint and, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, report the findings of the review to the division director along with a recommended disposition.

3. Jurisdiction's response. The administrators of the jurisdiction in which the complaint originates may respond to the division director with supplementary information and recommendations relevant to the complaint.

This section does not preclude a municipality, state agency or entity employing a certificate holder from investigating and taking appropriate action, up to and including termination of employment, before it receives notice from the division director, the committee or staff under this section, as long as the municipality, state agency or entity notifies the division director following its investigation if the investigation reveals reasonable cause to believe that a certificate holder has engaged in conduct subject to disciplinary action and provides to the division director the findings related to the conduct.

This section does not preclude the division director from investigating the conduct of a certificate holder on the division director's own initiative.

Sec. 8. 30-A MRSA §4451-D is enacted to read:

§4451-D. Further action

The division director may proceed with any action the division director determines appropriate after the response time periods in subsection 4451-C have passed. Further action may include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Dismissal of complaint. If the certificate holder's response to the complaint or other information related to the complaint satisfies the division director, the committee or staff that the complaint does not merit further investigation or action, the matter may be dismissed by the division director or the committee, with notice of the dismissal to the certificate holder and the complainant, if any;

2. Referral. The division director may refer the matter of the complaint to another agency for investigation regardless of whether the division director receives a response under section 4451-C, with notice of the referral to the certificate holder; or

3. Investigation. The division director at the division director's sole discretion or, as delegated, the committee or staff, may investigate a complaint that is not dismissed or referred under this section. An investigation may include an informal conference under section 4451-E to determine whether grounds exist to deny an application for a certification or recertification or for modification, suspension or revocation of a certificate or for taking other disciplinary action pursuant to this section and section 4451-G. The division director or the committee may contract with outside investigators or

agencies for use of their investigators through memoranda of understanding or other written agreement. The division director, the committee or staff may subpoena witnesses, records and documents in any investigation or hearing conducted.

Sec. 9. 30-A MRSA §4451-E is enacted to read:

§4451-E. Informal conference

If, in the opinion of the division director, the committee or staff, the factual basis of the complaint is or may be true and the complaint is of sufficient gravity to warrant further action, the division director, the committee or staff may request an informal conference with the certificate holder either prior to or during an investigation. The division director, the committee or staff shall provide the certificate holder with adequate notice of the conference and of the issues to be discussed. The certificate holder may, without prejudice, refuse to participate in an informal conference.

Sec. 10. 30-A MRSA §4451-F is enacted to read:

§4451-F. Grounds for action

The division director or the committee may take action against an applicant for a certificate or a certificate holder pursuant to this subchapter or any rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter, including, but not limited to, a decision to refuse to issue or renew a certificate or to modify, suspend or revoke a certificate for one or more of the following reasons:

1. Certification or recertification requirements. Failing to meet certification or recertification requirements;

2. Material facts. Falsifying or misrepresenting material facts in obtaining or maintaining a certificate issued pursuant to section 4451;

3. Dishonest, fraudulent or illegal conduct; intentional misconduct. Engaging in conduct constituting dishonest, fraudulent or illegal dealings or intentional misconduct that, when viewed in light of the nature and purpose of the person's conduct and circumstances known to the person, involves deviation from the standard of conduct, as defined in rule, that a reasonable and prudent certificate holder would observe in the same or a similar situation; or

4. Duties authorized. Repeatedly failing to effectively perform the duties authorized by the issued certificate.

Sec. 11. 30-A MRSA §4451-G is enacted to read:

§4451-G. Action after investigation

If the division director or the committee finds that the factual basis of the complaint is true and is of suffi-

cient gravity to warrant further action, the division director or the committee may take any of the following actions.

1. Letter of guidance or concern. The division director may issue a letter of guidance or concern to a certificate holder. A letter of guidance or concern may be used to educate, reinforce knowledge regarding legal or professional obligations or express concern over action or inaction by the certificate holder that does not rise to the level of misconduct sufficient to merit disciplinary action. The issuance of a letter of guidance or concern is not a formal proceeding and does not constitute an adverse disciplinary action. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, letters of guidance or concern are not confidential. The division director may place letters of guidance or concern, together with any underlying complaint, report and investigation materials, in a certificate holder's file for a specified period of time not to exceed 10 years. Any letters, complaints and materials placed on file may be accessed and considered by the division director in any subsequent action commenced against the certificate holder within the specified time frame. Complaints, reports and investigation materials placed on file remain confidential to the extent required by this subchapter.

2. Consent agreement. The division director, the committee or staff may negotiate a consent agreement that resolves a complaint or investigation without further proceedings. A consent agreement may be entered into only with the consent of the certificate holder and the division director. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any remedy, penalty or fine that is otherwise available by law, even if only in the jurisdiction of the Superior Court, may be achieved by consent agreement, including long-term modification, suspension and permanent revocation of a certificate issued under this subchapter. A consent agreement is not subject to review or appeal and may be modified only by a writing executed by the certificate holder and the division director. A consent agreement is enforceable by an action in Superior Court.

3. Voluntary surrender of certificate. If a certificate holder offers to voluntarily surrender a certificate, the division director, the committee or staff may negotiate stipulations necessary to ensure protection of the public health and safety and the rehabilitation or education of the certificate holder. These stipulations may be set forth only in a consent agreement entered into between the division director and the certificate holder.

4. Modification, suspension, revocation of certificate or other sanction or discipline. The division director or the committee may impose the following forms of discipline upon a certificate holder or applicant for a certificate:

A. Denial of an application for a certificate or recertification, which may occur in conjunction with the imposition of another form of discipline;

B. Issuance of a written warning, censure or reprimand;

C. Suspension of a certificate for up to 3 years. Execution of all or any portion of a term of suspension may be stayed pending successful completion of conditions of probation imposed pursuant to paragraph F, except that the suspension remains part of the certificate holder's record;

D. Revocation of a certificate;

E. Modification of a certificate; or

F. Imposition of conditions of probation. Probation may run for a time period that the division director determines appropriate. Probation may include conditions such as additional continuing education, mandatory professional supervision of the applicant or certificate holder, restrictions and other conditions as the division director determines appropriate. Costs incurred in the performance of terms of probation are borne by the applicant or certificate holder. Failure to comply with the conditions of probation may be grounds for disciplinary action against a certificate holder.

5. Request for adjudicatory hearing. Unless otherwise indicated in this subchapter, if the division director or the committee concludes that modification, suspension, revocation or imposition of any other sanction or discipline authorized under this subchapter is in order, the division director, the committee or staff shall notify the certificate holder and inform the certificate holder of the right to request an adjudicatory hearing. If the certificate holder requests an adjudicatory hearing in writing within 21 days, the hearing must be held by a subcommittee of 3 committee members designated by the committee chair or a hearing officer, at the committee's sole discretion. The hearing must be in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 4 and must be held within 60 days of the certificate holder's request for hearing. The subcommittee or the hearing officer, after conducting the hearing, shall file with the committee all papers connected with the case and report recommended findings and sanctions to the committee, which may, in consultation with the division director, approve or modify them.

If, after the adjudicatory hearing, the certificate holder wishes to appeal the final decision of the division director or the committee, the certificate holder shall file a petition for review pursuant to the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 80C with the Superior Court within 30 days of receipt of the division director's or the committee's written decision. Review under this subsection must be conducted pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 7. If a request for a hearing is not filed within 21 days, the certificate holder is deemed to have waived any right to hearing and the division director may, in consultation with the committee, impose any sanction or discipline allowed by this subchapter.

6. Injunction. The State may bring an action in Superior Court to enjoin a person from violating any provision of this subchapter, regardless of whether civil or administrative proceedings have been or may be instituted.

7. Recertification. A person whose certificate has been revoked under this subchapter may apply to the division director for reinstatement of certification if at least one year has elapsed since revocation of the certificate and the person is otherwise eligible for reinstatement. The granting of recertification under this subsection is governed by rules adopted by the Maine Office of Community Affairs pursuant to section 4451-I relating to certification. The person is subject to all training requirements applicable to persons whose certification has lapsed.

Sec. 12. 30-A MRSA §4451-H is enacted to read:

§4451-H. Confidentiality; access to documents; public records

All complaints, charges or accusations of misconduct, replies to those complaints, charges or accusations and any other information or materials that are considered by the division director or the committee are confidential. If a person subject to this chapter requests an adjudicatory hearing under the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, that hearing must be open to the public. The subcommittee or hearing officer that presides over the hearing shall issue a written decision that states the conduct or other facts on the basis of which action is being taken and the reason for that action. Once issued, the written decision is a public record under the Freedom of Access Act, regardless of whether it is appealed. Any action taken by the division director pursuant to this subchapter as a result of a complaint, charge or accusation must be supported by a statement of findings and must be issued as a written decision of the division director. The written decision of the division director and findings are public records under the Freedom of Access Act.

Sec. 13. 30-A MRSA §4451-I is enacted to read:

§4451-I. Rulemaking

The Maine Office of Community Affairs may adopt rules necessary to implement this subchapter. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 685
S.P. 866 - L.D. 2148

**An Act to Amend the Laws
Governing the Health
Insurance Premium Cap for
State Employees**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §285, sub-§7, ¶K, as amended by PL 2013, c. 368, Pt. H, §1, is further amended to read:

K. The total premium increase for active and retired state employee health insurance is capped at the fiscal year 2010-11 funding level for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2012 and June 30, 2013. The total premium increase for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2014 and June 30, 2015 is limited to no more than 1.5 percentage points per year. The total premium increase for fiscal years ending after June 30, 2015 and on or before June 30, 2026 is limited to no more than any percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index as defined in section 17001, subsection 9 plus 3%. The total premium increase for fiscal years ending after June 30, 2026 is limited to no more than any percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index as defined in section 17001, subsection 9 plus 10%. The total premium increase limit for fiscal years ending after June 30, 2026 does not apply to the fully insured Medicare Advantage prescription drug plan.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 686
H.P. 1348 - L.D. 2018

**An Act to Amend the
Requirements Governing Self-
insurance Plans in the Paid
Family and Medical Leave
Benefits Program**

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §850-H, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

A. If the private plan is in the form of self-insurance:

(1) The employer must furnish a bond to the State with a surety company authorized to transact business in the State, in the form, amount and manner required by the department;

(2) The department may not allow the pooling of risk among multiple employers; and

(3) The department shall allow multiple employers to share the cost of legal, accounting and 3rd-party administrator expenses as long as the arrangements do not result in pooling of risk;

Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §850-H, sub-§3, ¶E, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7, is amended to read:

E. Failure to submit reports or comply with other requirements as required by the commissioner by rule; ~~or~~

Sec. 3. 26 MRSA §850-H, sub-§3, ¶F, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. AAA, §7, is amended to read:

F. Failure to comply with this subchapter or the rules adopted pursuant to this subchapter; ~~or~~

Sec. 4. 26 MRSA §850-H, sub-§3, ¶G is enacted to read:

G. In the case of a private plan in the form of self-insurance, the pooling of risk among multiple employers.

Sec. 5. Retroactivity. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 302, this Act applies retroactively to April 1, 2025.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 687
H.P. 1397 - L.D. 2082

**An Act to Regulate the Use of
Artificial Intelligence in
Providing Certain Mental
Health Services**

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1500-EE is enacted to read:

§1500-EE. Use of artificial intelligence in therapy or psychotherapy services prohibited unless provided by licensed professional

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Artificial intelligence" means a machine-based system that, for explicit or implicit objectives, infers, from the input it receives, how to generate outputs, such as predictions, content, recommendations or decisions, that can influence physical or virtual environments.

B. "Licensed professional" means an individual who holds a valid license or certificate issued in this State to practice psychotherapy or behavioral health therapy, including:

- (1) An individual licensed pursuant to Title 32, chapter 56;
- (2) An individual licensed pursuant to Title 32, chapter 83;
- (3) An individual licensed pursuant to Title 32, chapter 119;
- (4) An individual licensed or certified pursuant to Title 32, chapter 81 and authorized to provide therapy or psychotherapy services;
- (5) An individual licensed pursuant to Title 32, chapter 31; and
- (6) A physician or physician associate licensed under Title 32, chapter 36 or 48, who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders.

C. "Therapeutic communication" means any verbal, nonverbal or written interaction, conducted in a clinical or professional setting, that is intended to diagnose, treat or address an individual's mental, emotional or behavioral health concerns. "Therapeutic communication" includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Direct interactions with individuals for the purpose of understanding their thoughts, emotions or experiences;
- (2) Providing guidance, therapeutic strategies or interventions designed to achieve mental health outcomes;
- (3) Offering emotional support, reassurance or empathy in response to psychological or emotional distress;
- (4) Collaborating with individuals to develop or modify therapeutic goals or treatment plans; and
- (5) Offering behavioral feedback intended to promote psychological growth or address mental health conditions.

D. "Therapy or psychotherapy services" means services provided to diagnose, treat or address an individual's mental health or behavioral health through therapeutic communication.

2. Offering therapy or psychotherapy services through use of Internet-based artificial intelligence or otherwise prohibited unless person licensed. A person may not provide, advertise or otherwise offer therapy or psychotherapy services, including through the use of Internet-based artificial intelligence, to the

public unless the therapy or psychotherapy services are provided by a licensed professional.

3. Violation. A violation of subsection 2 is a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act.

4. Exceptions. This section does not apply to an artificial intelligence-based intervention that is used solely within a research project approved by an institutional review board, as defined in Title 22, section 1711-C, subsection 6, paragraph G, and conducted in compliance with all applicable federal protections for human subjects in research.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §2113 is enacted to read:

§2113. Use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing administrative support and supplementary support in therapy or psychotherapy services

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Administrative support" means tasks performed to assist a licensed professional in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services that do not involve therapeutic communication. "Administrative support" includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Managing appointment scheduling and reminders;
- (2) Processing billing and insurance claims; and
- (3) Drafting general communications related to the logistics of delivering therapy or psychotherapy services that do not include therapeutic communication.

B. "Artificial intelligence" means a machine-based system that, for explicit or implicit objectives, infers, from the input it receives, how to generate outputs, such as predictions, content, recommendations or decisions, that can influence physical or virtual environments.

C. "Consent" means a clear, explicit and affirmative act by an individual that: unambiguously communicates the individual's express, informed, voluntary, specific and unambiguous written agreement, including a written agreement provided by electronic means or provided by initialing a specific section of an individual's general consent to treatment agreement; and is revocable by the individual.

"Consent" does not include an agreement that is obtained by:

- (1) The acceptance of a general or broad terms-of-use agreement or a similar document that contains descriptions of artificial intelligence along with unrelated information;

(2) An individual's hovering over, muting, pausing or closing a given piece of electronic content; or

(3) An agreement obtained through the use of deceptive actions.

D. "Supplementary support" means tasks performed to assist a licensed professional in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services that do not involve therapeutic communication and that are not administrative support. "Supplementary support" includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Preparing and maintaining client records, including therapy notes;

(2) Analyzing anonymized data to track client progress or identify trends, subject to review by a licensed professional; and

(3) Identifying and organizing external resources or referrals for client use.

E. "Therapeutic communication" means any verbal, nonverbal or written interaction, conducted in a clinical or professional setting, that is intended to diagnose, treat or address an individual's mental, emotional or behavioral health concerns. "Therapeutic communication" includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Direct interactions with individuals for the purpose of understanding their thoughts, emotions or experiences;

(2) Providing guidance, therapeutic strategies or interventions designed to achieve mental health outcomes;

(3) Offering emotional support, reassurance or empathy in response to psychological or emotional distress;

(4) Collaborating with individuals to develop or modify therapeutic goals or treatment plans; and

(5) Offering behavioral feedback intended to promote psychological growth or address mental health conditions.

F. "Therapy or psychotherapy services" means services provided to diagnose, treat or address an individual's mental health or behavioral health through therapeutic communication.

2. Permitted use of artificial intelligence. A person licensed under this chapter, referred to in this section as "the licensee," may provide administrative support or supplementary support in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services through the use of artificial intelligence as long as the licensee acts within the scope of practice of the licensee's license, in accordance with

any requirements and restrictions imposed by this chapter and in accordance with standards of practice, and only if:

A. The licensee maintains full responsibility for all interactions, outputs and data use associated with the use of artificial intelligence; and

B. For the use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing supplementary support, the licensee satisfies the requirements of subsection 3.

3. Requirements of use; supplementary support. A licensee may use artificial intelligence to assist in providing supplementary support in therapy or psychotherapy services only when the client's therapeutic session is recorded or transcribed, and only if:

A. The client or the client's legally authorized representative is informed in writing of the following:

(1) That artificial intelligence will be used;

(2) The specific purpose of the artificial intelligence tool or system that will be used; and

(3) How session data collected by artificial intelligence will be stored, retained, used for training and deleted upon termination of therapy or psychotherapy services; and

B. The client or the client's legally authorized representative provides consent to the use of artificial intelligence.

4. Prohibition of use. A licensee may use artificial intelligence to provide supplementary support only to the extent the use meets the requirements of subsection 3. A licensee may not allow artificial intelligence to:

A. Make independent therapeutic decisions;

B. Directly interact with clients in any form of therapeutic communication; or

C. Generate therapeutic recommendations or treatment plans without review and approval by the licensee.

5. Denial of treatment prohibited; failure to provide consent. A licensee may not deny, or refuse to provide, therapy or psychotherapy services to a client on the sole basis that the client has not provided consent to the use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing supplementary support in therapy or psychotherapy services.

6. Confidentiality. When using artificial intelligence pursuant to this section, a licensee shall comply with all state and federal confidentiality and privacy laws and shall ensure that any artificial intelligence technology is compliant with all state and federal confidentiality and privacy laws.

7. Professional responsibility. All laws and rules governing professional responsibility, unprofessional

conduct and generally accepted standards of practice that apply to a licensee also apply to that licensee when using artificial intelligence pursuant to this section.

8. Violation. A violation of this section is subject to disciplinary action by the board pursuant to Title 10, section 8003, subsection 5.

9. Exception. This section does not apply to an artificial intelligence-based intervention that is used solely within a research project approved by an institutional review board, as defined in Title 22, section 1711-C, subsection 6, paragraph G, and conducted in compliance with all applicable federal protections for human subjects in research.

10. Rules. The board shall adopt rules to implement the requirements of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as described in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

11. Client waiver void and unenforceable. Any waiver by a client of the provisions of this section is contrary to public policy and is void and unenforceable.

12. Right to civil action. This section may not be construed to prohibit a client or a client's authorized representative from:

A. Maintaining an action for harm caused to a client that is attributable to the use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing administrative support or supplementary support in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services;

B. Maintaining an action alleging professional negligence of a licensee; or

C. Seeking any other remedies available under other provisions of law.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §2600-G is enacted to read:

§2600-G. Use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing administrative support and supplementary support in therapy or psychotherapy services

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Administrative support" means tasks performed to assist a licensed professional in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services that do not involve therapeutic communication. "Administrative support" includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Managing appointment scheduling and reminders;
- (2) Processing billing and insurance claims; and

(3) Drafting general communications related to the logistics of delivering therapy or psychotherapy services that do not include therapeutic communication.

B. "Artificial intelligence" means a machine-based system that, for explicit or implicit objectives, infers, from the input it receives, how to generate outputs, such as predictions, content, recommendations or decisions, that can influence physical or virtual environments.

C. "Consent" means a clear, explicit and affirmative act by an individual that: unambiguously communicates the individual's express, informed, voluntary, specific and unambiguous written agreement, including a written agreement provided by electronic means or provided by initialing a specific section of an individual's general consent to treatment agreement; and is revocable by the individual.

"Consent" does not include an agreement that is obtained by:

(1) The acceptance of a general or broad terms-of-use agreement or a similar document that contains descriptions of artificial intelligence along with unrelated information;

(2) An individual's hovering over, muting, pausing or closing a given piece of electronic content; or

(3) An agreement obtained through the use of deceptive actions.

D. "Supplementary support" means tasks performed to assist a licensed professional in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services that do not involve therapeutic communication and that are not administrative support. "Supplementary support" includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Preparing and maintaining client records, including therapy notes;

(2) Analyzing anonymized data to track client progress or identify trends, subject to review by a licensed professional; and

(3) Identifying and organizing external resources or referrals for client use.

E. "Therapeutic communication" means any verbal, nonverbal or written interaction, conducted in a clinical or professional setting, that is intended to diagnose, treat or address an individual's mental, emotional or behavioral health concerns. "Therapeutic communication" includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Direct interactions with individuals for the purpose of understanding their thoughts, emotions or experiences;

(2) Providing guidance, therapeutic strategies or interventions designed to achieve mental health outcomes;

(3) Offering emotional support, reassurance or empathy in response to psychological or emotional distress;

(4) Collaborating with individuals to develop or modify therapeutic goals or treatment plans; and

(5) Offering behavioral feedback intended to promote psychological growth or address mental health conditions.

F. "Therapy or psychotherapy services" means services provided to diagnose, treat or address an individual's mental health or behavioral health through therapeutic communication.

2. Permitted use of artificial intelligence. A person licensed or privileged to practice under this chapter, chapter 145 or chapter 145-A, referred to in this section as "the licensee," may provide administrative support or supplementary support in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services through the use of artificial intelligence as long as the licensee acts within the scope of practice of the licensee's license, in accordance with any requirements and restrictions imposed by this chapter and in accordance with standards of practice, and only if:

A. The licensee maintains full responsibility for all interactions, outputs and data use associated with the use of artificial intelligence; and

B. For the use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing supplementary support, the licensee satisfies the requirements of subsection 3.

3. Requirements of use; supplementary support. A licensee may use artificial intelligence to assist in providing supplementary support in therapy or psychotherapy services only when the client's therapeutic session is recorded or transcribed, and only if:

A. The client or the client's legally authorized representative is informed in writing of the following:

(1) That artificial intelligence will be used;

(2) The specific purpose of the artificial intelligence tool or system that will be used; and

(3) How session data collected by artificial intelligence will be stored, retained, used for training and deleted upon termination of therapy or psychotherapy services; and

B. The client or the client's legally authorized representative provides consent to the use of artificial intelligence.

4. Prohibition of use. A licensee may use artificial intelligence to provide supplementary support only

to the extent the use meets the requirements of subsection 3. A licensee may not allow artificial intelligence to:

A. Make independent therapeutic decisions;

B. Directly interact with clients in any form of therapeutic communication; or

C. Generate therapeutic recommendations or treatment plans without review and approval by the licensee.

5. Denial of treatment prohibited; failure to provide consent. A licensee may not deny, or refuse to provide, therapy or psychotherapy services to a client on the sole basis that the client has not provided consent to the use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing supplementary support in therapy or psychotherapy services.

6. Confidentiality. When using artificial intelligence pursuant to this section, a licensee shall comply with all state and federal confidentiality and privacy laws and shall ensure that any artificial intelligence technology is compliant with all state and federal confidentiality and privacy laws.

7. Professional responsibility. All laws and rules governing professional responsibility, unprofessional conduct and generally accepted standards of practice that apply to a licensee also apply to that licensee when using artificial intelligence pursuant to this section.

8. Violation. A violation of this section is subject to disciplinary action by the board pursuant to Title 10, section 8003, subsection 5.

9. Exception. This section does not apply to an artificial intelligence-based intervention that is used solely within a research project approved by an institutional review board, as defined in Title 22, section 1711-C, subsection 6, paragraph G, and conducted in compliance with all applicable federal protections for human subjects in research.

10. Rules. The board shall adopt rules to implement the requirements of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as described in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

11. Client waiver void and unenforceable. Any waiver by a client of the provisions of this section is contrary to public policy and is void and unenforceable.

12. Right to civil action. This section may not be construed to prohibit a client or a client's authorized representative from:

A. Maintaining an action for harm caused to a client that is attributable to the use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing administrative support or supplementary support in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services;

B. Maintaining an action alleging professional negligence of a licensee; or

C. Seeking any other remedies available under other provisions of law.

Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §3300-J is enacted to read:

§3300-J. Use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing administrative support and supplementary support in therapy or psychotherapy services

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Administrative support" means tasks performed to assist a licensed professional in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services that do not involve therapeutic communication. "Administrative support" includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Managing appointment scheduling and reminders;
- (2) Processing billing and insurance claims; and
- (3) Drafting general communications related to the logistics of delivering therapy or psychotherapy services that do not include therapeutic communication.

B. "Artificial intelligence" means a machine-based system that, for explicit or implicit objectives, infers, from the input it receives, how to generate outputs, such as predictions, content, recommendations or decisions, that can influence physical or virtual environments.

C. "Consent" means a clear, explicit and affirmative act by an individual that: unambiguously communicates the individual's express, informed, voluntary, specific and unambiguous written agreement, including a written agreement provided by electronic means or provided by initialing a specific section of an individual's general consent to treatment agreement; and is revocable by the individual.

"Consent" does not include an agreement that is obtained by:

- (1) The acceptance of a general or broad terms-of-use agreement or a similar document that contains descriptions of artificial intelligence along with unrelated information;
- (2) An individual's hovering over, muting, pausing or closing a given piece of electronic content; or
- (3) An agreement obtained through the use of deceptive actions.

D. "Supplementary support" means tasks performed to assist a licensed professional in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services that do not involve therapeutic communication and that are not administrative support. "Supplementary support" includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Preparing and maintaining client records, including therapy notes;
- (2) Analyzing anonymized data to track client progress or identify trends, subject to review by a licensed professional; and
- (3) Identifying and organizing external resources or referrals for client use.

E. "Therapeutic communication" means any verbal, nonverbal or written interaction, conducted in a clinical or professional setting, that is intended to diagnose, treat or address an individual's mental, emotional or behavioral health concerns. "Therapeutic communication" includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Direct interactions with individuals for the purpose of understanding their thoughts, emotions or experiences;
- (2) Providing guidance, therapeutic strategies or interventions designed to achieve mental health outcomes;
- (3) Offering emotional support, reassurance or empathy in response to psychological or emotional distress;
- (4) Collaborating with individuals to develop or modify therapeutic goals or treatment plans; and
- (5) Offering behavioral feedback intended to promote psychological growth or address mental health conditions.

F. "Therapy or psychotherapy services" means services provided to diagnose, treat or address an individual's mental health or behavioral health through therapeutic communication.

2. Permitted use of artificial intelligence. A person licensed or privileged to practice under this chapter, chapter 145 or chapter 145-A, referred to in this section as "the licensee," may provide administrative support or supplementary support in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services through the use of artificial intelligence as long as the licensee acts within the scope of practice of the licensee's license, in accordance with any requirements and restrictions imposed by this chapter and in accordance with standards of practice, and only if:

A. The licensee maintains full responsibility for all interactions, outputs and data use associated with the use of artificial intelligence; and

B. For the use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing supplementary support, the licensee satisfies the requirements of subsection 3.

3. Requirements of use; supplementary support. A licensee may use artificial intelligence to assist in providing supplementary support in therapy or psychotherapy services only when the client's therapeutic session is recorded or transcribed, and only if:

A. The client or the client's legally authorized representative is informed in writing of the following:

- (1) That artificial intelligence will be used;
- (2) The specific purpose of the artificial intelligence tool or system that will be used; and
- (3) How session data collected by artificial intelligence will be stored, retained, used for training and deleted upon termination of therapy or psychotherapy services; and

B. The client or the client's legally authorized representative provides consent to the use of artificial intelligence.

4. Prohibition of use. A licensee may use artificial intelligence to provide supplementary support only to the extent the use meets the requirements of subsection 3. A licensee may not allow artificial intelligence to:

- A. Make independent therapeutic decisions;
- B. Directly interact with clients in any form of therapeutic communication; or
- C. Generate therapeutic recommendations or treatment plans without review and approval by the licensee.

5. Denial of treatment prohibited; failure to provide consent. A licensee may not deny, or refuse to provide, therapy or psychotherapy services to a client on the sole basis that the client has not provided consent to the use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing supplementary support in therapy or psychotherapy services.

6. Confidentiality. When using artificial intelligence pursuant to this section, a licensee shall comply with all state and federal confidentiality and privacy laws and shall ensure that any artificial intelligence technology is compliant with all state and federal confidentiality and privacy laws.

7. Professional responsibility. All laws and rules governing professional responsibility, unprofessional conduct and generally accepted standards of practice that apply to a licensee also apply to that licensee when using artificial intelligence pursuant to this section.

8. Violation. A violation of this section is subject to disciplinary action by the board pursuant to Title 10, section 8003, subsection 5.

9. Exception. This section does not apply to an artificial intelligence-based intervention that is used solely within a research project approved by an institutional review board, as defined in Title 22, section 1711-C, subsection 6, paragraph G, and conducted in compliance with all applicable federal protections for human subjects in research.

10. Rules. The board shall adopt rules to implement the requirements of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as described in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

11. Client waiver void and unenforceable. Any waiver by a client of the provisions of this section is contrary to public policy and is void and unenforceable.

12. Right to civil action. This section may not be construed to prohibit a client or a client's authorized representative from:

- A. Maintaining an action for harm caused to a client that is attributable to the use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing administrative support or supplementary support in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services;
- B. Maintaining an action alleging professional negligence of a licensee; or
- C. Seeking any other remedies available under other provisions of law.

Sec. 5. 32 MRSA §3820-A is enacted to read:

§3820-A. Use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing administrative support and supplementary support in therapy or psychotherapy services

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Administrative support" means tasks performed to assist a licensed professional in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services that do not involve therapeutic communication. "Administrative support" includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Managing appointment scheduling and reminders;
- (2) Processing billing and insurance claims; and
- (3) Drafting general communications related to the logistics of delivering therapy or psychotherapy services that do not include therapeutic communication.

B. "Artificial intelligence" means a machine-based system that, for explicit or implicit objectives, infers, from the input it receives, how to generate out-

puts, such as predictions, content, recommendations or decisions, that can influence physical or virtual environments.

C. "Consent" means a clear, explicit and affirmative act by an individual that: unambiguously communicates the individual's express, informed, voluntary, specific and unambiguous written agreement, including a written agreement provided by electronic means or provided by initialing a specific section of an individual's general consent to treatment agreement; and is revocable by the individual.

"Consent" does not include an agreement that is obtained by:

- (1) The acceptance of a general or broad terms-of-use agreement or a similar document that contains descriptions of artificial intelligence along with unrelated information;
- (2) An individual's hovering over, muting, pausing or closing a given piece of electronic content; or
- (3) An agreement obtained through the use of deceptive actions.

D. "Supplementary support" means tasks performed to assist a licensed professional in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services that do not involve therapeutic communication and that are not administrative support. "Supplementary support" includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Preparing and maintaining client records, including therapy notes;
- (2) Analyzing anonymized data to track client progress or identify trends, subject to review by a licensed professional; and
- (3) Identifying and organizing external resources or referrals for client use.

E. "Therapeutic communication" means any verbal, nonverbal or written interaction, conducted in a clinical or professional setting, that is intended to diagnose, treat or address an individual's mental, emotional or behavioral health concerns. "Therapeutic communication" includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Direct interactions with individuals for the purpose of understanding their thoughts, emotions or experiences;
- (2) Providing guidance, therapeutic strategies or interventions designed to achieve mental health outcomes;
- (3) Offering emotional support, reassurance or empathy in response to psychological or emotional distress;

(4) Collaborating with individuals to develop or modify therapeutic goals or treatment plans; and

(5) Offering behavioral feedback intended to promote psychological growth or address mental health conditions.

F. "Therapy or psychotherapy services" means services provided to diagnose, treat or address an individual's mental health or behavioral health through therapeutic communication.

2. Permitted use of artificial intelligence. A person licensed or privileged to practice under this chapter, referred to in this section as "the licensee," may provide administrative support or supplementary support in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services through the use of artificial intelligence as long as the licensee acts within the scope of practice of the licensee's license, in accordance with any requirements and restrictions imposed by this chapter and in accordance with standards of practice, and only if:

A. The licensee maintains full responsibility for all interactions, outputs and data use associated with the use of artificial intelligence; and

B. For the use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing supplementary support, the licensee satisfies the requirements of subsection 3.

3. Requirements of use; supplementary support. A licensee may use artificial intelligence to assist in providing supplementary support in therapy or psychotherapy services only when the client's therapeutic session is recorded or transcribed, and only if:

A. The client or the client's legally authorized representative is informed in writing of the following:

- (1) That artificial intelligence will be used;
- (2) The specific purpose of the artificial intelligence tool or system that will be used; and
- (3) How session data collected by artificial intelligence will be stored, retained, used for training and deleted upon termination of therapy or psychotherapy services; and

B. The client or the client's legally authorized representative provides consent to the use of artificial intelligence.

4. Prohibition of use. A licensee may use artificial intelligence to provide supplementary support only to the extent the use meets the requirements of subsection 3. A licensee may not allow artificial intelligence to:

A. Make independent therapeutic decisions;

B. Directly interact with clients in any form of therapeutic communication; or

C. Generate therapeutic recommendations or treatment plans without review and approval by the licensee.

5. Denial of treatment prohibited; failure to provide consent. A licensee may not deny, or refuse to provide, therapy or psychotherapy services to a client on the sole basis that the client has not provided consent to the use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing supplementary support in therapy or psychotherapy services.

6. Confidentiality. When using artificial intelligence pursuant to this section, a licensee shall comply with all state and federal confidentiality and privacy laws and shall ensure that any artificial intelligence technology is compliant with all state and federal confidentiality and privacy laws.

7. Professional responsibility. All laws and rules governing professional responsibility, unprofessional conduct and generally accepted standards of practice that apply to a licensee also apply to that licensee when using artificial intelligence pursuant to this section.

8. Violation. A violation of this section is subject to disciplinary action by the board pursuant to Title 10, section 8003, subsection 5.

9. Exception. This section does not apply to an artificial intelligence-based intervention that is used solely within a research project approved by an institutional review board, as defined in Title 22, section 1711-C, subsection 6, paragraph G, and conducted in compliance with all applicable federal protections for human subjects in research.

10. Rules. The board shall adopt rules to implement the requirements of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as described in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

11. Client waiver void and unenforceable. Any waiver by a client of the provisions of this section is contrary to public policy and is void and unenforceable.

12. Right to civil action. This section may not be construed to prohibit a client or a client's authorized representative from:

A. Maintaining an action for harm caused to a client that is attributable to the use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing administrative support or supplementary support in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services;

B. Maintaining an action alleging professional negligence of a licensee; or

C. Seeking any other remedies available under other provisions of law.

Sec. 6. 32 MRSA §6207-D is enacted to read:

§6207-D. Use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing administrative support and supplementary support in therapy or psychotherapy services

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Administrative support" means tasks performed to assist a licensed professional in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services that do not involve therapeutic communication. "Administrative support" includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Managing appointment scheduling and reminders;

(2) Processing billing and insurance claims; and

(3) Drafting general communications related to the logistics of delivering therapy or psychotherapy services that do not include therapeutic communication.

B. "Artificial intelligence" means a machine-based system that, for explicit or implicit objectives, infers, from the input it receives, how to generate outputs, such as predictions, content, recommendations or decisions, that can influence physical or virtual environments.

C. "Consent" means a clear, explicit and affirmative act by an individual that: unambiguously communicates the individual's express, informed, voluntary, specific and unambiguous written agreement, including a written agreement provided by electronic means or provided by initialing a specific section of an individual's general consent to treatment agreement; and is revocable by the individual.

"Consent" does not include an agreement that is obtained by:

(1) The acceptance of a general or broad terms-of-use agreement or a similar document that contains descriptions of artificial intelligence along with unrelated information;

(2) An individual's hovering over, muting, pausing or closing a given piece of electronic content; or

(3) An agreement obtained through the use of deceptive actions.

D. "Supplementary support" means tasks performed to assist a licensed professional in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services that do not involve therapeutic communication and that are not administrative support. "Supplementary support" includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Preparing and maintaining client records, including therapy notes;

(2) Analyzing anonymized data to track client progress or identify trends, subject to review by a licensed professional; and

(3) Identifying and organizing external resources or referrals for client use.

E. "Therapeutic communication" means any verbal, nonverbal or written interaction, conducted in a clinical or professional setting, that is intended to diagnose, treat or address an individual's mental, emotional or behavioral health concerns. "Therapeutic communication" includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Direct interactions with individuals for the purpose of understanding their thoughts, emotions or experiences;

(2) Providing guidance, therapeutic strategies or interventions designed to achieve mental health outcomes;

(3) Offering emotional support, reassurance or empathy in response to psychological or emotional distress;

(4) Collaborating with individuals to develop or modify therapeutic goals or treatment plans; and

(5) Offering behavioral feedback intended to promote psychological growth or address mental health conditions.

F. "Therapy or psychotherapy services" means services provided to diagnose, treat or address an individual's mental health or behavioral health through therapeutic communication.

2. Permitted use of artificial intelligence. A person licensed under this chapter, referred to in this section as "the licensee," may provide administrative support or supplementary support in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services through the use of artificial intelligence as long as the licensee acts within the scope of practice of the licensee's license, in accordance with any requirements and restrictions imposed by this chapter and in accordance with standards of practice, and only if:

A. The licensee maintains full responsibility for all interactions, outputs and data use associated with the use of artificial intelligence; and

B. For the use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing supplementary support, the licensee satisfies the requirements of subsection 3.

3. Requirements of use; supplementary support. A licensee may use artificial intelligence to assist

in providing supplementary support in therapy or psychotherapy services only when the client's therapeutic session is recorded or transcribed, and only if:

A. The client or the client's legally authorized representative is informed in writing of the following:

(1) That artificial intelligence will be used;

(2) The specific purpose of the artificial intelligence tool or system that will be used; and

(3) How session data collected by artificial intelligence will be stored, retained, used for training and deleted upon termination of therapy or psychotherapy services; and

B. The client or the client's legally authorized representative provides consent to the use of artificial intelligence.

4. Prohibition of use. A licensee may use artificial intelligence to provide supplementary support only to the extent the use meets the requirements of subsection 3. A licensee may not allow artificial intelligence to:

A. Make independent therapeutic decisions;

B. Directly interact with clients in any form of therapeutic communication; or

C. Generate therapeutic recommendations or treatment plans without review and approval by the licensee.

5. Denial of treatment prohibited; failure to provide consent. A licensee may not deny, or refuse to provide, therapy or psychotherapy services to a client on the sole basis that the client has not provided consent to the use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing supplementary support in therapy or psychotherapy services.

6. Confidentiality. When using artificial intelligence pursuant to this section, a licensee shall comply with all state and federal confidentiality and privacy laws and shall ensure that any artificial intelligence technology is compliant with all state and federal confidentiality and privacy laws.

7. Professional responsibility. All laws and rules governing professional responsibility, unprofessional conduct and generally accepted standards of practice that apply to a licensee also apply to that licensee when using artificial intelligence pursuant to this section.

8. Violation. A violation of this section is subject to disciplinary action by the board pursuant to Title 10, section 8003, subsection 5.

9. Exception. This section does not apply to an artificial intelligence-based intervention that is used solely within a research project approved by an institutional review board, as defined in Title 22, section 1711-C, subsection 6, paragraph G, and conducted in

compliance with all applicable federal protections for human subjects in research.

10. Rules. The board shall adopt rules to implement the requirements of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as described in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

11. Client waiver void and unenforceable. Any waiver by a client of the provisions of this section is contrary to public policy and is void and unenforceable.

12. Right to civil action. This section may not be construed to prohibit a client or a client's authorized representative from:

A. Maintaining an action for harm caused to a client that is attributable to the use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing administrative support or supplementary support in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services;

B. Maintaining an action alleging professional negligence of a licensee; or

C. Seeking any other remedies available under other provisions of law.

Sec. 7. 32 MRSA §7009 is enacted to read:

§7009. Use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing administrative support and supplementary support in therapy or psychotherapy services

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Administrative support" means tasks performed to assist a licensed professional in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services that do not involve therapeutic communication. "Administrative support" includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Managing appointment scheduling and reminders;

(2) Processing billing and insurance claims; and

(3) Drafting general communications related to the logistics of delivering therapy or psychotherapy services that do not include therapeutic communication.

B. "Artificial intelligence" means a machine-based system that, for explicit or implicit objectives, infers, from the input it receives, how to generate outputs, such as predictions, content, recommendations or decisions, that can influence physical or virtual environments.

C. "Consent" means a clear, explicit and affirmative act by an individual that: unambiguously communicates the individual's express, informed, vol-

untary, specific and unambiguous written agreement, including a written agreement provided by electronic means or provided by initialing a specific section of an individual's general consent to treatment agreement; and is revocable by the individual.

"Consent" does not include an agreement that is obtained by:

(1) The acceptance of a general or broad terms-of-use agreement or a similar document that contains descriptions of artificial intelligence along with unrelated information;

(2) An individual's hovering over, muting, pausing or closing a given piece of electronic content; or

(3) An agreement obtained through the use of deceptive actions.

D. "Supplementary support" means tasks performed to assist a licensed professional in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services that do not involve therapeutic communication and that are not administrative support. "Supplementary support" includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Preparing and maintaining client records, including therapy notes;

(2) Analyzing anonymized data to track client progress or identify trends, subject to review by a licensed professional; and

(3) Identifying and organizing external resources or referrals for client use.

E. "Therapeutic communication" means any verbal, nonverbal or written interaction, conducted in a clinical or professional setting, that is intended to diagnose, treat or address an individual's mental, emotional or behavioral health concerns. "Therapeutic communication" includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Direct interactions with individuals for the purpose of understanding their thoughts, emotions or experiences;

(2) Providing guidance, therapeutic strategies or interventions designed to achieve mental health outcomes;

(3) Offering emotional support, reassurance or empathy in response to psychological or emotional distress;

(4) Collaborating with individuals to develop or modify therapeutic goals or treatment plans; and

(5) Offering behavioral feedback intended to promote psychological growth or address mental health conditions.

F. "Therapy or psychotherapy services" means services provided to diagnose, treat or address an individual's mental health or behavioral health through therapeutic communication.

2. Permitted use of artificial intelligence. A person licensed under this chapter, referred to in this section as "the licensee," may provide administrative support or supplementary support in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services through the use of artificial intelligence as long as the licensee acts within the scope of practice of the licensee's license, in accordance with any requirements and restrictions imposed by this chapter and in accordance with standards of practice, and only if:

A. The licensee maintains full responsibility for all interactions, outputs and data use associated with the use of artificial intelligence; and

B. For the use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing supplementary support, the licensee satisfies the requirements of subsection 3.

3. Requirements of use; supplementary support. A licensee may use artificial intelligence to assist in providing supplementary support in therapy or psychotherapy services only when the client's therapeutic session is recorded or transcribed, and only if:

A. The client or the client's legally authorized representative is informed in writing of the following:

- (1) That artificial intelligence will be used;
- (2) The specific purpose of the artificial intelligence tool or system that will be used; and
- (3) How session data collected by artificial intelligence will be stored, retained, used for training and deleted upon termination of therapy or psychotherapy services; and

B. The client or the client's legally authorized representative provides consent to the use of artificial intelligence.

4. Prohibition of use. A licensee may use artificial intelligence to provide supplementary support only to the extent the use meets the requirements of subsection 3. A licensee may not allow artificial intelligence to:

- A. Make independent therapeutic decisions;
- B. Directly interact with clients in any form of therapeutic communication; or
- C. Generate therapeutic recommendations or treatment plans without review and approval by the licensee.

5. Denial of treatment prohibited; failure to provide consent. A licensee may not deny, or refuse to provide, therapy or psychotherapy services to a client on the sole basis that the client has not provided consent

to the use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing supplementary support in therapy or psychotherapy services.

6. Confidentiality. When using artificial intelligence pursuant to this section, a licensee shall comply with all state and federal confidentiality and privacy laws and shall ensure that any artificial intelligence technology is compliant with all state and federal confidentiality and privacy laws.

7. Professional responsibility. All laws and rules governing professional responsibility, unprofessional conduct and generally accepted standards of practice that apply to a licensee also apply to that licensee when using artificial intelligence pursuant to this section.

8. Violation. A violation of this section is subject to disciplinary action by the board pursuant to Title 10, section 8003, subsection 5.

9. Exception. This section does not apply to an artificial intelligence-based intervention that is used solely within a research project approved by an institutional review board, as defined in Title 22, section 1711-C, subsection 6, paragraph G, and conducted in compliance with all applicable federal protections for human subjects in research.

10. Rules. The board shall adopt rules to implement the requirements of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as described in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

11. Client waiver void and unenforceable. Any waiver by a client of the provisions of this section is contrary to public policy and is void and unenforceable.

12. Right to civil action. This section may not be construed to prohibit a client or a client's authorized representative from:

A. Maintaining an action for harm caused to a client that is attributable to the use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing administrative support or supplementary support in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services;

B. Maintaining an action alleging professional negligence of a licensee; or

C. Seeking any other remedies available under other provisions of law.

Sec. 8. 32 MRSA §13870 is enacted to read:

§13870. Use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing administrative support and supplementary support in therapy or psychotherapy services

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Administrative support" means tasks performed to assist a licensed professional in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services that do not involve therapeutic communication. "Administrative support" includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Managing appointment scheduling and reminders;
- (2) Processing billing and insurance claims; and
- (3) Drafting general communications related to the logistics of delivering therapy or psychotherapy services that do not include therapeutic communication.

B. "Artificial intelligence" means a machine-based system that, for explicit or implicit objectives, infers, from the input it receives, how to generate outputs, such as predictions, content, recommendations or decisions, that can influence physical or virtual environments.

C. "Consent" means a clear, explicit and affirmative act by an individual that: unambiguously communicates the individual's express, informed, voluntary, specific and unambiguous written agreement, including a written agreement provided by electronic means or provided by initialing a specific section of an individual's general consent to treatment agreement; and is revocable by the individual.

"Consent" does not include an agreement that is obtained by:

- (1) The acceptance of a general or broad terms-of-use agreement or a similar document that contains descriptions of artificial intelligence along with unrelated information;
- (2) An individual's hovering over, muting, pausing or closing a given piece of electronic content; or
- (3) An agreement obtained through the use of deceptive actions.

D. "Supplementary support" means tasks performed to assist a licensed professional in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services that do not involve therapeutic communication and that are not administrative support. "Supplementary support" includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Preparing and maintaining client records, including therapy notes;
- (2) Analyzing anonymized data to track client progress or identify trends, subject to review by a licensed professional; and
- (3) Identifying and organizing external resources or referrals for client use.

E. "Therapeutic communication" means any verbal, nonverbal or written interaction, conducted in a clinical or professional setting, that is intended to diagnose, treat or address an individual's mental, emotional or behavioral health concerns. "Therapeutic communication" includes, but is not limited to:

- (1) Direct interactions with individuals for the purpose of understanding their thoughts, emotions or experiences;
- (2) Providing guidance, therapeutic strategies or interventions designed to achieve mental health outcomes;
- (3) Offering emotional support, reassurance or empathy in response to psychological or emotional distress;
- (4) Collaborating with individuals to develop or modify therapeutic goals or treatment plans; and
- (5) Offering behavioral feedback intended to promote psychological growth or address mental health conditions.

F. "Therapy or psychotherapy services" means services provided to diagnose, treat or address an individual's mental health or behavioral health through therapeutic communication.

2. Permitted use of artificial intelligence. A person licensed under this chapter, referred to in this section as "the licensee," may provide administrative support or supplementary support in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services through the use of artificial intelligence as long as the licensee acts within the scope of practice of the licensee's license, in accordance with any requirements and restrictions imposed by this chapter and in accordance with standards of practice, and only if:

A. The licensee maintains full responsibility for all interactions, outputs and data use associated with the use of artificial intelligence; and

B. For the use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing supplementary support, the licensee satisfies the requirements of subsection 3.

3. Requirements of use; supplementary support. A licensee may use artificial intelligence to assist in providing supplementary support in therapy or psychotherapy services only when the client's therapeutic session is recorded or transcribed, and only if:

A. The client or the client's legally authorized representative is informed in writing of the following:

- (1) That artificial intelligence will be used;
- (2) The specific purpose of the artificial intelligence tool or system that will be used; and

(3) How session data collected by artificial intelligence will be stored, retained, used for training and deleted upon termination of therapy or psychotherapy services; and

B. The client or the client's legally authorized representative provides consent to the use of artificial intelligence.

4. Prohibition of use. A licensee may use artificial intelligence to provide supplementary support only to the extent the use meets the requirements of subsection 3. A licensee may not allow artificial intelligence to:

A. Make independent therapeutic decisions;

B. Directly interact with clients in any form of therapeutic communication; or

C. Generate therapeutic recommendations or treatment plans without review and approval by the licensee.

5. Denial of treatment prohibited; failure to provide consent. A licensee may not deny, or refuse to provide, therapy or psychotherapy services to a client on the sole basis that the client has not provided consent to the use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing supplementary support in therapy or psychotherapy services.

6. Confidentiality. When using artificial intelligence pursuant to this section, a licensee shall comply with all state and federal confidentiality and privacy laws and shall ensure that any artificial intelligence technology is compliant with all state and federal confidentiality and privacy laws.

7. Professional responsibility. All laws and rules governing professional responsibility, unprofessional conduct and generally accepted standards of practice that apply to a licensee also apply to that licensee when using artificial intelligence pursuant to this section.

8. Violation. A violation of this section is subject to disciplinary action by the board pursuant to Title 10, section 8003, subsection 5.

9. Exception. This section does not apply to an artificial intelligence-based intervention that is used solely within a research project approved by an institutional review board, as defined in Title 22, section 1711-C, subsection 6, paragraph G, and conducted in compliance with all applicable federal protections for human subjects in research.

10. Rules. The board shall adopt rules to implement the requirements of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as described in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

11. Client waiver void and unenforceable. Any waiver by a client of the provisions of this section is contrary to public policy and is void and unenforceable.

12. Right to civil action. This section may not be construed to prohibit a client or a client's authorized representative from:

A. Maintaining an action for harm caused to a client that is attributable to the use of artificial intelligence to assist in providing administrative support or supplementary support in the delivery of therapy or psychotherapy services;

B. Maintaining an action alleging professional negligence of a licensee; or

C. Seeking any other remedies available under other provisions of law.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 688

S.P. 867 - L.D. 2149

An Act to Protect Affordability in Mobile Home Parks and Manufactured Housing Communities

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §9081, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Controlling interest. "Controlling interest" means:

A. In the case of a corporation, more than 50% of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the corporation entitled to vote or more than 50% of the capital, profits or beneficial interest in the voting stock of the corporation; and

B. In the case of a partnership, association, trust or other entity, more than 50% of the capital, profits or beneficial interest in the partnership, association, trust or other entity.

For the purposes of this subchapter, to determine whether a purchase or acquisition of a controlling interest has taken place, all actions of persons acting in concert are aggregated. Persons must be treated as acting in concert when they have a relationship with each other such that one person influences or controls the actions of another through common ownership.

Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §9081, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Purchase of manufactured housing community. "Purchase of a manufactured housing community" means the purchase or acquisition of a manufactured housing community or of the direct or indirect controlling interest in the owner of a manufactured housing community.

Sec. 3. 10 MRSA §9081, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Purchaser of manufactured housing community. "Purchaser of a manufactured housing community" means a person that purchases or acquires a manufactured housing community or a direct or indirect controlling interest in the owner of a manufactured housing community.

Sec. 4. 10 MRSA §9081, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

7. Sale of manufactured housing community. "Sale of a manufactured housing community" means any sale or transfer of a manufactured housing community or of the direct or indirect controlling interest in the owner of a manufactured housing community.

Sec. 5. 10 MRSA §9082, 2nd ¶, as amended by PL 2017, c. 210, Pt. B, §29, is further amended to read:

Any person desiring a license or license renewal shall submit satisfactory evidence, in a form acceptable to the board, of that person's ability to comply with the minimum standards of this subchapter and all rules adopted under this subchapter.

Sec. 6. 10 MRSA §9082, 3rd ¶, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 365, §1, is amended to read:

An applicant for a license or license renewal to operate a manufactured housing community shall include the following information with the license or license renewal application:

Sec. 7. 10 MRSA §9082, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 365, §1, is amended to read:

3. Number of sites in manufactured housing community to be licensed or relicensed. The number of sites in the manufactured housing community to be licensed or relicensed;

Sec. 8. 10 MRSA §9090-A, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 398, §1, is amended to read:

§9090-A. Transfer assessment

1. Fee payment required. The purchaser of a manufactured housing community shall pay to the registry of deeds of the county where all or a majority of the acreage of the purchased real property associated with the manufactured housing community is located a fee equal to \$10,000 for each licensed manufactured housing community lot in the manufactured housing community occupied or developed to be occupied by a manufactured home. The money must be paid to the registry of deeds when the deed of the manufactured housing community is offered for recordation in accordance with subsection 4.

2. Exceptions Exemptions. The following entities persons are not required exempt from the obligation to pay the fee under subsection 1:

~~A. The Maine State Housing Authority;~~

~~B. A municipal housing authority as defined in Title 30-A, section 4702, subsection 10-A, or any affiliate under the municipal housing authority's control;~~

~~C. A cooperative or other entity in which membership is limited to manufactured home owners; and~~

~~D. Entities, together with affiliated and related entities, that have a net worth of less than \$50,000,000.~~

E. A person that purchases a manufactured housing community from a family member, or from a trust of which the beneficiary is a family member. For purposes of this paragraph, "family member" means a person identified in Title 18-C, section 2-102 as eligible for intestate share; and

F. An entity that, together with any affiliated and related entities, has a net worth of less than \$75,000,000. For purposes of this paragraph, "affiliated and related entities" means:

(1) Any entity directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with the entity;

(2) Any general partner of the entity; or

(3) Any entity or natural person that is a general partner or holder of 20% or more of the voting or economic interests of any entity described in subparagraph (1) or (2).

For purposes of this paragraph, "controlling, controlled by or under common control" means the possession, direct or indirect, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a person, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract or otherwise. For purposes of this paragraph, "net worth" means total assets less total liabilities, except that for purposes of this calculation, debts to affiliated or related persons are not considered liabilities.

~~**3. Attestation of net worth.** An entity claiming an exemption under subsection 2, paragraph D shall provide the register of deeds with an attestation of net worth when the deed for the manufactured housing community is offered for recordation and any other information or documentation as required by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation by rule.~~

3-A. Sworn affirmation of exemption. If the purchaser of a manufactured housing community seeks an exemption under subsection 2, it shall provide to the Maine State Housing Authority, on a form provided by the Maine State Housing Authority, a sworn affirmation no later than 15 days after a notice required pursuant to section 9094-A is provided. The sworn affirmation must include all information necessary to determine whether the purchaser qualifies for an exemption. The

sworn affirmation and the information submitted to the Maine State Housing Authority under this subsection is a public record, except that the person seeking the exemption may clearly designate specific information as proprietary information not subject to disclosure on the basis that the information contains a trade secret or that disclosure of the designated proprietary information contains commercial or financial information that would impair the competitive position of the person seeking the exemption. The designation must be clearly indicated on each page of the sworn affirmation containing the designated proprietary information. The Maine State Housing Authority shall establish procedures to ensure that designated proprietary information is kept confidential and is segregated from public records maintained by the authority. The Maine State Housing Authority shall, within 45 days of receipt of the sworn affirmation, provide to the purchaser a determination of whether the purchaser is exempt under subsection 2 and, if the purchaser is determined not to be exempt, a determination of the amount of the fee that the purchaser must pay pursuant to subsection 1.

4. Evidence of payment or exemption; disposition of fee. A purchaser of a manufactured housing community shall pay the fee required under subsection 1, or provide a written statement from the Maine State Housing Authority exempting the purchaser from the fee under subsection 2, to the registry of deeds of the county where all or a majority of the acreage of the manufactured housing community is located at the time of the offering for recording of the deed for the purchase of the manufactured housing community or, if no deed is offered for recording for the purchase of the manufactured housing community, no later than 3 business days after the purchase. Evidence of the fee payment under subsection 1 or an ~~exception~~ exemption to the fee requirement under subsection 2 on the form provided by the Maine State Housing Authority must be retained by the registry of deeds of the county where all or a majority of the acreage of the purchased real property associated with the manufactured housing community is located in a manner established by the register of deeds. The register of deeds shall, on or before the 10th day of each month, pay to the Treasurer of State 95% of the fee collected pursuant to this section during the previous month. The remaining 5% must be retained for the county by the register of deeds and accounted for to the county treasurer as reimbursement for services rendered by the registry of deeds in collecting the fee.

5. Distribution of State's share of proceeds. The State Controller shall credit all fees received pursuant to this section to the Manufactured Housing Community and Mobile Home Park Preservation and Assistance Fund established in Title 30-A, section 4754-B.

6. Violations. A person who knowingly or intentionally fails to pay the fee required under subsection 1 or provides false or misleading information on a sworn

affirmation or documents associated with a sworn affirmation submitted to the Maine State Housing Authority pursuant to subsection 3-A is liable for damages in an amount equal to 3 times the amount of the fee required under subsection 1 and the forfeiture of that person's license to operate any manufactured housing community under section 9082. The damages plus interest on the damages may be recovered in a civil action brought by the Attorney General in the name of the State Controller, and all amounts recovered in that civil action, excluding costs, must be credited to the Manufactured Housing Community and Mobile Home Park Preservation and Assistance Fund established in Title 30-A, section 4754-B. The Attorney General has the authority to investigate possible violations enforced under this subsection pursuant to the provisions of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act and is entitled to recover reasonable attorney's fees incurred in any action for damages brought under this subsection.

For purposes of this section, "purchase" does not mean acquiring ownership of a manufactured housing community by inheritance.

Sec. 9. 10 MRSA §9091, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Controlling interest. "Controlling interest" means:

A. In the case of a corporation, more than 50% of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the corporation entitled to vote or more than 50% of the capital, profits or beneficial interest in the voting stock of the corporation; and

B. In the case of a partnership, association, trust or other entity, more than 50% of the capital, profits or beneficial interest in the partnership, association, trust or other entity.

For the purposes of this subchapter, to determine whether a purchase or acquisition of a controlling interest has taken place, all actions of persons acting in concert are aggregated. Persons must be treated as acting in concert when they have a relationship with each other such that one person influences or controls the actions of another through common ownership.

Sec. 10. 10 MRSA §9091, sub-§3-A is enacted to read:

3-A. Purchase of mobile home park. "Purchase of a mobile home park" means the purchase or acquisition of a mobile home park or of the direct or indirect controlling interest in the owner of a mobile home park.

Sec. 11. 10 MRSA §9091, sub-§3-B is enacted to read:

3-B. Purchaser of mobile home park. "Purchaser of a mobile home park" means a person that pur-

chases or acquires a mobile home park or a direct or indirect controlling interest in the owner of a mobile home park.

Sec. 12. 10 MRSA §9091, sub-§3-C is enacted to read:

3-C. Sale of mobile home park. "Sale of a mobile home park" means any sale or transfer of a mobile home park or of the direct or indirect controlling interest in the owner of a mobile home park.

Sec. 13. 10 MRSA §9093-B, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Exemption. Resident-owned manufactured housing communities are not subject to the requirements of this section. For the purposes of this subsection, "resident-owned manufactured housing community" means a manufactured housing community in which the residents are part of a cooperative of manufactured home owners who control, manage and operate the manufactured housing community, including, but not limited to, establishing community rules and lot rent and fees.

Sec. 14. 10 MRSA §9094-B, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 398, §2, is amended to read:

§9094-B. Transfer assessment

1. Fee payment required. The purchaser of a mobile home park shall pay to the registry of deeds of the county where all or a majority of the acreage of the purchased real property associated with the mobile home park is located a fee equal to \$10,000 for each licensed mobile home park lot within the mobile home park occupied or developed to be occupied by a mobile home. The money must be paid to the registry of deeds when the deed of the mobile home park is offered for recordation in accordance with subsection 4.

2. ~~Exceptions~~ Exemptions. The following entities ~~persons are not required~~ exempt from the obligation to pay the fee under subsection 1:

~~A. The Maine State Housing Authority;~~

B. A municipal housing authority as defined in Title 30-A, section 4702, subsection 10-A, or any affiliate under the municipal housing authority's control;

C. A cooperative or other entity in which membership is limited to mobile home owners; ~~and~~

~~D. Entities, together with affiliated and related entities, that have a net worth of less than \$50,000,000.~~

E. A person that purchases a mobile home park from a family member, or from a trust of which the beneficiary is a family member. For purposes of this paragraph, "family member" means a person identified in Title 18-C, section 2-102 as eligible for intestate share; and

F. An entity that, together with any affiliated and related entities, has a net worth of less than \$75,000,000. For purposes of this paragraph, "affiliated and related entities" means:

(1) Any entity directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common control with the entity;

(2) Any general partner of the entity; or

(3) Any entity or natural person that is a general partner or holder of 20% or more of the voting or economic interests of any entity described in subparagraph (1) or (2).

For purposes of this paragraph, "controlling, controlled by or under common control" means the possession, direct or indirect, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a person, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract or otherwise. For purposes of this paragraph, "net worth" means total assets less total liabilities, except that for purposes of this calculation, debts to affiliated or related persons are not considered liabilities.

3. ~~Attestation of net worth.~~ ~~An entity claiming an exemption under subsection 2, paragraph D shall provide the register of deeds with an attestation of net worth when the deed for the mobile home park is offered for recordation and any other information or documentation as required by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation by rule.~~

3-A. Sworn affirmation of exemption. If the purchaser of a mobile home park seeks an exemption under subsection 2, it shall provide to the Maine State Housing Authority, on a form provided by the Maine State Housing Authority, a sworn affirmation no later than 15 days after a notice required pursuant to section 9094-A is provided. The sworn affirmation must include all information necessary to determine whether the purchaser qualifies for an exemption. The sworn affirmation and the information submitted to the Maine State Housing Authority under this subsection is a public record, except that the person seeking the exemption may clearly designate specific information as proprietary information not subject to disclosure on the basis that the information contains a trade secret or that disclosure of the designated proprietary information contains commercial or financial information that would impair the competitive position of the person seeking the exemption. The designation must be clearly indicated on each page of the sworn affirmation containing the designated proprietary information. The Maine State Housing Authority shall establish procedures to ensure that designated proprietary information is kept confidential and is segregated from public records maintained by the authority. The Maine State Housing Authority shall, within 45 days of receipt of the sworn affirmation, provide to the purchaser a determination of whether the

purchaser is exempt under subsection 2 and, if the purchaser is determined not to be exempt, a determination of the amount of the fee that the purchaser must pay pursuant to subsection 1.

4. Evidence of payment or exemption; disposition of fee. A purchaser of a mobile home park shall pay the fee required under subsection 1, or provide a written statement from the Maine State Housing Authority exempting the purchaser from the fee under subsection 2, to the registry of deeds of the county where all or a majority of the acreage of the mobile home park is located at the time of the offering for recording of the deed for the purchase of the mobile home park or, if no deed is offered for recording for the purchase of the mobile home park, no later than 3 business days after the purchase. Evidence of the fee payment under subsection 1 or an ~~exception~~ exemption to the fee requirement under subsection 2 on the form provided by the Maine State Housing Authority must be retained by the registry of deeds of the county where all or a majority of the acreage of the mobile home park is located in a manner established by the register of deeds. The register of deeds shall, on or before the 10th day of each month, pay to the Treasurer of State 95% of the fees collected pursuant to this section during the previous month. The remaining 5% must be retained for the county by the register of deeds and accounted for to the county treasurer as reimbursement for services rendered by the county in collecting the fee.

5. Distribution of State's share of proceeds. The State Controller shall credit all fees received pursuant to this section to the Manufactured Housing Community and Mobile Home Park Preservation and Assistance Fund established in Title 30-A, section 4754-B.

6. Violations. A person who knowingly or intentionally fails to pay the fee required under subsection 1 or provides false or misleading information on a sworn affirmation or documents associated with a sworn affirmation submitted to the Maine State Housing Authority pursuant to subsection 3-A is liable for damages in an amount equal to 3 times the amount of the fee required under subsection 1 and the forfeiture of that person's license to operate under section 9082. The damages plus interest on the damages may be recovered in a civil action brought by the Attorney General in the name of the State Controller, and all amounts recovered in that civil action, excluding costs, must be credited to the Manufactured Housing Community and Mobile Home Park Preservation and Assistance Fund established in Title 30-A, section 4754-B. The Attorney General has the authority to investigate possible violations enforced under this subsection pursuant to the provisions of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act and is entitled to recover reasonable attorney's fees incurred in any action for damages brought under this subsection.

For purposes of this section, "purchase" does not mean acquiring ownership of a mobile home park by inheritance.

Sec. 15. 30-A MRSA §4754-B, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 398, §3, is amended to read:

1. Purpose. The Maine State Housing Authority shall administer the fund to maintain housing affordability in manufactured housing communities and mobile home parks, regulated by Title 10, chapter 951, subchapter 6 and chapter 953, respectively, to support ownership of manufactured housing communities and mobile home parks by homeowners, homeowners' associations, resident-owned housing cooperatives or other nonprofit entities representing the interests of homeowners in manufactured housing communities or mobile home parks. The Maine State Housing Authority may use up to 5% of the fund to pay administrative costs associated with the use of outside contractors to accomplish the purpose of the fund.

Sec. 16. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§2, ¶AAA, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 455, §1, is amended to read:

AAA. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, to the extent included in federal adjusted gross income and to the extent otherwise subject to state income tax, an amount equal to any capital gain recognized on the sale by the taxpayer of an ownership interest greater than 50% in a qualified business if the business provides housing and, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, any capital gain recognized on the sale by the taxpayer of an ownership interest greater than 50% in a qualified property, if the qualified business or qualified property was transferred to a cooperative affordable housing corporation organized under Title 13, chapter 85, subchapter 1-A or a municipal housing authority, as defined in Title 30-A, section 4702, subsection 10-A, or an affiliate of a municipal housing authority.

(1) The deduction allowed pursuant to this paragraph may not exceed \$750,000. If the capital gain from the sale or related sales is recognized by multiple taxpayers or over multiple tax years, the capital gain must be aggregated for the purpose of applying the \$750,000 limitation.

(2) For purposes of this paragraph, "qualified business" means a business whose securities are not publicly traded on any stock exchange, including a corporation, an S corporation, a limited liability company, a limited liability partnership, a sole proprietorship and all entities that are not publicly traded and are related by common majority ownership or control, and:

(a) That is registered with the Secretary of State; or

(b) Whose principal place of business is within the State.

(3) For purposes of this paragraph, "qualified property" means real estate for which the primary purpose is housing consisting of one or more mobile home parks, including any mobile homes located on, and being sold with, the park or parks. For purposes of this paragraph, "mobile home" has the same meaning as in Title 10, section 9091, subsection 1 and includes a manufactured home as defined in Title 10, section 9081, subsection 1. For purposes of this paragraph, "mobile home park" has the same meaning as Title 10, section 9091, subsection 2 and includes a manufactured housing community as defined in Title 10, section 9081, subsection 2.

Sec. 17. 36 MRSA §5200-A, sub-§2, ¶JJ, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 455, §2, is amended to read:

JJ. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, to the extent included in federal taxable income and to the extent otherwise subject to state income tax, an amount equal to any capital gain recognized on the sale by the taxpayer of an ownership interest greater than 50% in a qualified business if the business provides housing and, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026, any capital gain recognized on the sale by the taxpayer of an ownership interest greater than 50% in a qualified property, if the qualified business or qualified property was transferred to a cooperative affordable housing corporation organized under Title 13, chapter 85, subchapter 1-A or a municipal housing authority, as defined in Title 30-A, section 4702, subsection 10-A, or an affiliate of a municipal housing authority.

(1) The deduction allowed pursuant to this paragraph may not exceed \$750,000. If the capital gain from the sale or related sales is recognized by multiple taxpayers or over multiple tax years, the capital gain must be aggregated for the purpose of applying the \$750,000 limitation.

(2) For purposes of this paragraph, "qualified business" means a business whose securities are not publicly traded on any stock exchange, including a corporation, an S corporation, a limited liability company, a limited liability partnership, a sole proprietorship and all entities that are not publicly traded and are related by common majority ownership or control, and:

(a) That is registered with the Secretary of State; or

(b) Whose principal place of business is within the State.

(3) For purposes of this paragraph, "qualified property" means real estate for which the primary purpose is housing consisting of one or more mobile home parks, including any mobile homes located on, and being sold with, the park or parks. For purposes of this paragraph, "mobile home" has the same meaning as in Title 10, section 9091, subsection 1 and includes a manufactured home as defined in Title 10, section 9081, subsection 1. For purposes of this paragraph, "mobile home park" has the same meaning as Title 10, section 9091, subsection 2 and includes a manufactured housing community as defined in Title 10, section 9081, subsection 2.

Sec. 18. PL 2025, c. 398, §4 is amended to read:

Sec. 4. Department of Professional and Financial Regulation Maine State Housing Authority; rules. ~~The Department of Professional and Financial Regulation shall~~ Maine State Housing Authority may adopt rules to establish a method for determining the net worth of an entity, together with affiliated and related entities, claiming an exemption from the fees required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 9090-A, subsection 1 and 9094-B, subsection 1. ~~The rules must include the evidence and documentation necessary for a purchaser of a manufactured housing community or a mobile home park to provide to the register of deeds when offering a deed for recordation and the record keeping obligations of the register of deeds.~~ When developing rules, the ~~department~~ authority shall consider whether information on the incorporation of the entity is useful. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 689

H.P. 1446 - L.D. 2157

An Act to Prohibit the Unauthorized Use of Drones on or over the Premises of Correctional Facilities and Jails

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

Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §761 is enacted to read:

§761. Unauthorized use of drone on or over premises of correctional facility or jail

1. A person is guilty of unauthorized use of a drone on or over the premises of a correctional facility or jail if the person intentionally or knowingly flies a drone over the premises of a correctional facility or jail at or

below a height of 400 feet above the ground, lands a drone on the premises or flies a drone from the premises.

A. Except as provided in paragraph B, a person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$500 may be adjudged.

B. A person who violates this subsection after having been previously adjudicated as violating this subsection or has been previously adjudicated of committing a violation for conduct substantially similar to that prohibited in this subsection in another jurisdiction commits a Class D crime. Section 9-A governs the use of prior convictions when determining a sentence.

2. This section does not apply to:

A. A law enforcement officer, a corrections officer or a corrections supervisor engaged in the performance of the law enforcement officer's, corrections officer's or corrections supervisor's public duty; or

B. Another person acting in the course and scope of employment, as approved by the chief administrative officer of the correctional facility or the jail administrator.

3. It is not a defense to a prosecution under this section that the person holds a valid license to operate a drone issued by the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration or is otherwise permitted to operate a drone pursuant to regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration.

4. As used in this section, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Correctional facility" has the same meaning as in Title 34-A, section 1001, subsection 6.

B. "Drone" means an aircraft or aircraft system operated without a physical human presence within or on the aircraft and includes, but is not limited to, an unmanned aircraft system, unmanned aerial vehicle, remotely piloted aircraft system or micro air vehicle.

C. "Jail" means a county or regional jail.

D. "Micro air vehicle" means a drone that weighs less than one kilogram.

E. "Premises" includes, but is not limited to, lands, ways and any buildings or structures on those lands or ways.

F. "Remote pilot station" means equipment such as controls, displays or a cockpit located separately from a drone and used by an operator to fly a drone.

G. "Remotely piloted aircraft system" means a system that includes a drone, a remote pilot station and

equipment for communication between the remote pilot station and the drone.

H. "Unmanned aerial vehicle" means a powered aircraft that flies without a human pilot on board that is controlled either remotely from the ground or autonomously through a preprogrammed flight plan.

I. "Unmanned aircraft system" means a system that includes a drone, a remote control station and equipment for communication between the remote control station and the drone.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 690

H.P. 1480 - L.D. 2201

An Act to Implement Certain Recommendations Related to the Regulatory Review and Approval of Certain Health Care Transactions Involving Private Equity Companies, Hedge Funds or Management Services Organizations from the Commission to Evaluate the Scope of Regulatory Review and Oversight over Health Care Transactions That Impact the Delivery of Health Care Services in the State

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA c. 106 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 106

REVIEW OF MATERIAL CHANGE TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING HEALTH CARE ENTITIES AND PRIVATE EQUITY COMPANIES, HEDGE FUNDS OR MANAGEMENT SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS

§371. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. **Carrier.** "Carrier" has the same meaning as in Title 24-A, section 4301-A, subsection 3.

2. **Health care entity.** "Health care entity" means a health care provider, a health care facility or a provider organization. "Health care entity" does not include a nursing facility as defined by section 328, subsection 18 or a health care provider or provider organization that provides only dental services.

3. Health care facility. "Health care facility" means a licensed institution providing health care services or a health care setting, including, but not limited to, hospitals and other licensed inpatient facilities; health systems consisting of one or more health care entities that are jointly owned or managed; ambulatory surgical or treatment centers; residential treatment centers; diagnostic, laboratory and imaging centers; free-standing emergency facilities; outpatient clinics; and rehabilitation and other therapeutic health settings.

4. Health care provider. "Health care provider" means a person, corporation, partnership, governmental unit, state institution, medical practice or other entity qualified or licensed under state law to perform or provide health care services to persons in the State.

5. Health care services. "Health care services" means services and payments for the care, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, cure or relief of a medical, dental or behavioral health condition, illness, injury or disease, including, but not limited to:

A. Inpatient, outpatient, habilitative, rehabilitative, dental, palliative, therapeutic, supportive, home health or behavioral services provided by a health care entity;

B. Pharmacy services, either retail or specialty, and any drugs, medical devices or medical supplies;

C. Performance of functions to refer, arrange or coordinate care;

D. The use of equipment such as durable medical equipment, diagnostic equipment, surgical devices or infusion equipment; or

E. Technology associated with the provision of services or equipment in paragraphs A to D, such as telehealth, electronic health records, software, claims processing or utilization systems.

6. Management services organization. "Management services organization" means any organization or entity owned or controlled by a private equity company or hedge fund that contracts with a health care provider or provider organization to perform management or administrative services relating to, supporting or facilitating the provision of health care services when the health care provider or provider organization is also owned or controlled by the same private equity company or hedge fund.

7. Material change transaction. "Material change transaction" means the acquisition of a majority interest or operational control of a health care entity within the State occurring during a single transaction or in a series of related transactions by a private equity company, hedge fund or management services organization.

8. Medical practice. "Medical practice" means a corporate entity or partnership organized for the purpose of practicing medicine and permitted to practice medicine in the State, including, but not limited to, partnerships, professional corporations, limited liability companies and limited liability partnerships.

9. Operational control. "Operational control" means the power to:

A. Influence or direct the actions or policies of any part of a health care entity; or

B. Choose, appoint or terminate a member of a board, manager, managing member, senior employee, consultant or other individual or entity that participates in the operational oversight of a health care entity.

10. Private equity company. "Private equity company" means an entity that collects capital investments from individuals or entities and purchases, as a parent entity or through another entity that the entity completely or partially owns or controls, a direct or indirect ownership share of a health care provider, provider organization or management services organization, except that "private equity company" does not include venture capital entities exclusively funding start-ups or other early-stage businesses.

11. Provider organization. "Provider organization" means any corporation, partnership, business trust, association or organized group of persons that is in the business of health care delivery or management, whether incorporated or not, that represents one or more health care providers in contracting with carriers for the payment of health care services. "Provider organization" includes, but is not limited to, physician organizations, physician-hospital organizations, independent practice associations, health care provider networks, accountable care organizations and management services organizations and any other organization that contracts with carriers for payment for health care services.

§372. Review of proposed material change transactions

1. Notice. This subsection governs notice regarding material change transactions.

A. A health care entity shall, before completing any material change transaction, file written notice, as provided in paragraph B, with the department not fewer than 180 days before the date of the proposed material change transaction.

B. The notice of the proposed material change transaction must include:

(1) A list of the parties, the terms of the proposed transaction and copies of all transaction agreements between any of the parties;

(2) A statement describing the goals of the proposed transaction and whether and how the

proposed transaction affects health care services in the State;

(3) The geographic service area of any hospital affected by the proposed transaction;

(4) A description of the groups or individuals likely to be affected by the transaction; and

(5) A summary of the health care services currently provided by any of the parties and any health care services that will be added, reduced or eliminated, including an explanation of why any services will be reduced or eliminated in the service area in which they are currently provided.

C. All the information provided by the submitter as part of the notice under this subsection is public unless the submitter requests that the information be designated as confidential and the department determines that it contains proprietary information, in which case it is confidential. The department may not disclose confidential information that is obtained under this chapter in relation to a material change transaction, except that the department may exchange confidential information with the Office of Affordable Health Care, established under Title 5, section 3122, subsection 1, necessary for the office to exercise its authority under this chapter and may disclose information in accordance with subsection 3, paragraph D. For purposes of this section, "proprietary information" means information that is a trade secret or production, commercial or financial information the disclosure of which would impair the competitive position of the health care entity and would make available information that is not otherwise public.

D. Within 10 days of receiving written notice of a material change transaction, the department shall post on its publicly accessible website information about the material change transaction, including:

(1) A summary of the proposed transaction, including the identities of the parties to the transaction;

(2) An explanation of the groups or individuals likely to be affected by the transaction;

(3) Information about services currently provided by the health care entity, commitments made by the health care entity to continue such services and any services to be reduced or eliminated;

(4) Details about any public hearings and how to submit comments; and

(5) Any other information from the notice and other materials submitted by the health care entity that the department determines would be

in the public interest, except for materials designated confidential under paragraph C.

E. For purposes of calculating time periods pursuant to this subsection, notice is considered received on the first business day after the department determines that notice is complete.

2. Preliminary review. This subsection governs preliminary reviews of material change transactions.

A. Within 60 days after receiving a notice described in subsection 1, the department, in consultation with the Office of Affordable Health Care, shall:

(1) Approve the material change transaction and notify the health care entity in writing that a comprehensive review is not required for the material change transaction;

(2) Approve the material change transaction subject to conditions set by the department and notify the health care entity in writing of the conditions under which the material change transaction may be completed; or

(3) Notify the health care entity in writing that the transaction is subject to a comprehensive review. The department may request additional information necessary to perform a comprehensive review under subsection 3.

B. A comprehensive review under subsection 3 is required when any of the following applies to the material change transaction:

(1) The material change transaction will result in the transfer of assets valued over \$100,000,000;

(2) The material change transaction will lessen competition, including through the effects of vertical or cross-market transactions among different product or geographic markets; and

(3) The department, at its sole discretion, determines that the material change transaction is likely to have a material impact on the cost, quality or equity of or access to health care services in any region in the State.

C. This section does not limit or infringe upon the existing authority of any state agency, including the department, the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation and the Department of the Attorney General, to review any transactions.

D. The department shall review a proposed material change transaction under this chapter concurrently with any review required pursuant to chapter 103-A.

3. Comprehensive review process. This subsection governs the comprehensive review process for material change transactions.

A. No later than 90 days after determining a material change transaction is subject to a comprehensive review pursuant to subsection 2, paragraph B, the department shall conduct one or more public hearings or public meetings, one of which must be in the county in which the health care entity is located, to hear comments from interested parties.

B. At the department's request, the Office of Affordable Health Care shall review the material change transaction's cost and market impact. The review may examine factors relating to the proposed transaction and the transacting parties and their relative market positions, including, but not limited to:

(1) The quality of the services provided by any health care provider party to the transaction, including patient experience;

(2) Consumer concerns, including, but not limited to, complaints or other allegations that the health care provider or provider organization has engaged in any unfair method of competition or any unfair or deceptive act or practice;

(3) The role of the transacting parties in serving at-risk, underserved and government payer patient populations;

(4) The prices charged by either of the transacting parties for health care services, including their relative prices compared to others' prices for the same health care services in the same geographic area;

(5) The cost and cost trends of the health care entity in comparison to total health care expenditures statewide;

(6) The impact of the transaction on the clinical workforce, including wages, working conditions, staffing levels, supply, patient access and continuity of patient-care relationships;

(7) The impact of a real estate sale or lease agreement on the financial condition of the health care entity and its ability to maintain patient care operations, including the impact of a sale and leaseback arrangement if the main campus of the health care entity is leased from a real estate investment trust;

(8) The market share of any transacting party and the likely effects of the transaction on competition;

(9) Any previous transaction involving either transacting party, including, but not limited to, acquisitions or mergers of similar health care providers, whether or not in the same state;

(10) The debt-to-equity ratio of the health care entity following the transaction;

(11) The availability and accessibility of health care services similar to those provided, or proposed to be provided, through the health care provider or provider organization within its primary service areas and dispersed service areas;

(12) The impact of the material change transaction on competing options for the delivery of health care services within the health care provider's or provider organization's primary service areas and dispersed service areas;

(13) The role of the transacting parties in providing low-margin or negative-margin services within their respective primary service areas and dispersed service areas;

(14) The parties' compliance with prior conditions and legal requirements related to competitive conduct, including without limitation compliance with reporting requirements regarding health care entity ownership and control under section 8710-A and compliance with the laws and regulations of other states in which the parties operate; and

(15) Any other factors that the Office of Affordable Health Care determines to be in the public interest.

C. The department and the Office of Affordable Health Care may request additional information or documents from the transacting parties necessary to conduct the review of the material change transaction's cost and market impact. Failure to respond or insufficient responses to requests for information by transacting parties may result in the extension of the deadline for the office to complete the review or the imposition of conditions for approval or the disapproval of the material change transaction under subsection 4.

D. Proprietary information and documents obtained by the department and the Office of Affordable Health Care under this chapter and the work product of the office is confidential, except that the department and the office may disclose confidential information or documents:

(1) With the consent of the party that produced the information or documents; or

(2) To an expert or consultant under contract with the State to review the proposed material change transaction, as long as the expert or consultant maintains the confidentiality of the information or documents in accordance with this paragraph.

E. The department or the Office of Affordable Health Care may, in its sole discretion:

(1) Contract with, consult and receive advice from any state agency, including other offices of the department, the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, the Maine Health Data Organization established in section 8703, the Maine Quality Forum established in Title 24-A, section 6951 or any other state agency, on those terms and conditions that the department or the office considers appropriate; and

(2) Contract with experts or consultants to assist in reviewing the proposed material change transaction.

Notwithstanding Title 5, chapter 155 or any other provision of law to the contrary, agreements and contracts entered into pursuant to this chapter are not subject to the competitive bid requirements of the Chief Procurement Officer.

F. Not more than 150 days after receiving the request under paragraph B, the Office of Affordable Health Care shall produce a report on its review of the material change transaction's cost and market impact report containing the findings and conclusions of the review as long as the health care entity has complied with the requests for information or documents pursuant to this section within 21 days of the request or by a later date set by mutual agreement of the health care entity and the office. The report must be posted publicly and may not disclose confidential information.

G. The department may charge costs to the transacting parties for all actual, reasonable and direct costs incurred in reviewing, evaluating and making the determination referred to in this section, including, without limitation, administrative costs, costs incurred by the Office of Affordable Health Care and costs of contracted experts or consultants.

4. Approval authority. This subsection governs the department's approval authority.

A. The department may approve, conditionally approve or disapprove of any material change transaction for which the department receives notice under subsection 1. Any conditions imposed pursuant to this section must specify a time period for compliance, an expiration date or that the condition applies indefinitely.

B. The department shall inform the health care entity of the determination under paragraph A within 60 days of notice under subsection 1 or, in the case of comprehensive review, within 60 days of the department's receiving the report of the completed review of the material change transaction's cost and market impact from the Office of Affordable Health Care. A proposed material change transaction may not be completed before the department

has informed the health care entity of the determination.

C. In making the determination pursuant to paragraph A, the department may consider any factors that the department considers relevant, including, but not limited to, the likely impact, as described in the cost and market impact review report when applicable, of the material change transaction on:

(1) Health care costs, prices and affordability;

(2) The availability or accessibility of health care services to the affected individuals and groups;

(3) The potential effects of the transaction on health outcomes, quality, access, equity or workforce for residents of this State or the potential loss or change in access to essential health care services;

(4) Health care provider cost trends and containment of total state health care spending;

(5) Access to health care services in medically underserved areas;

(6) Rectifying historical problems and contemporary factors contributing to a lack of health equity or access to health care services;

(7) The functioning and competitiveness of the markets for health care and health insurance;

(8) Whether the transaction is contrary to or violates any applicable law, including, without limitation, state antitrust laws, laws restricting the corporate practice of medicine and consumer protection laws;

(9) Whether the benefits of the transaction are likely to outweigh the anticompetitive effects from the transaction; and

(10) Whether the transaction is in the public interest.

D. This subsection does not limit or alter any authority of the Attorney General or any state agency to enforce any other law, including state or federal antitrust law, or to review nonprofit transactions.

5. Post-transaction oversight. This subsection governs post-transaction oversight.

A. This paragraph governs enforcement by the Attorney General.

(1) The Attorney General may subpoena any records necessary to enforce any provision of this chapter or to investigate suspected violations of any provision of this chapter or any condition imposed by conditional approval pursuant to subsection 4.

(2) The Attorney General may enforce any requirement of this chapter and any conditions imposed by a conditional approval pursuant to subsection 4 to the fullest extent provided by law, including damages. In addition to any legal remedies the Attorney General may have, the Attorney General is entitled to specific performance, injunctive relief and other equitable remedies a court considers appropriate for any violation or imminent violation of any requirement of this chapter or breach of any of the conditions and is entitled to recover attorney's fees and costs incurred in remedying each violation.

(3) This subsection does not narrow, abrogate or otherwise alter the authority of the Attorney General to prosecute violations of antitrust or consumer protection requirements.

B. This paragraph governs enforcement by the department.

(1) The department may audit the books, documents, records and data of any entity that is subject to a conditional approval under subsection 4 to monitor compliance with the conditions.

(2) Any entity that violates any provision of this chapter, any rules adopted pursuant to this chapter or any condition imposed pursuant to a conditional approval under subsection 4 is subject to an administrative penalty of \$10,000 per day in violation of this chapter. The department may hold these funds in a special revenue account that may be used only to support material change transaction reviews, such as for hiring expert analysts on a short-term consulting basis.

(3) The department may refer any entity to the Attorney General to review for enforcement of any noncompliance with this chapter and any conditions imposed by conditional approval pursuant to subsection 4.

(4) In order to effectively monitor ongoing compliance with the terms and conditions of any material change transaction subject to prior notice, approval or conditional approval under this chapter, the department may, in its sole discretion, conduct a review or audit and may contract with experts and consultants to assist in this regard.

(5) One year, 2 years and 5 years following the completion of the material change transaction approved or conditionally approved by the department after a comprehensive review under subsection 3, and at future intervals determined at the discretion of the department, the health care entity or the person, corporation or

partnership or any other entity that acquired direct or indirect control over the health care entity shall submit reports to the department that:

(a) Demonstrate compliance with conditions placed on the transaction, if any;

(b) Analyze cost trends and cost growth trends of the parties to the transactions; and

(c) Analyze any changes or effects of the transaction on patient access, availability of services, workforce, quality or equity.

C. The department may charge costs to the transacting parties for all actual, reasonable and direct costs incurred in monitoring ongoing compliance with the terms and conditions of the material change transaction, including contractor and administrative costs.

6. Assessment. The department shall adopt rules setting minimum and maximum filing fees under this chapter. Initial fees may not be less than \$2,000 nor more than \$10,000. In addition to rules regarding filing fees, the department shall adopt rules to establish reasonable and necessary fees to carry out the provisions of this chapter. When filing written notice pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph A, the health care entity shall pay a nonrefundable filing fee pursuant to this subsection. All fees received by the department under this subsection must be placed in a separate, nonlapsing account to be used in accordance with this chapter. The department shall hold these funds in a special revenue account that may be used only to support staff positions and other expenses necessary to administer this section.

7. Exemption. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, this section does not apply to an independent provider organization, without any ownership or control entities, consisting of 6 or fewer individual providers that experience a material change transaction.

§373. Rulemaking

The department may, after notice and hearing pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2, adopt rules to carry out this chapter. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are major substantive rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §8710-A is enacted to read:

§8710-A. Ownership and control of health care entities

1. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, all terms have the same meanings as in section 371 and "affiliate" means:

A. A person, entity or organization that directly, indirectly or through one or more intermediaries

controls, is controlled by or is under common control or ownership with another person, entity or organization;

B. A person whose business is operated under a lease, management or operating agreement by another entity or a person substantially all of whose property is operated under a management or operating agreement with that other entity;

C. An entity that operates the business or substantially all the property of another entity under a lease, management or operating agreement; or

D. Any out-of-state operations and corporate affiliates of an affiliate as defined in paragraph A, B or C, including significant equity investors, real estate investment trusts and management services organizations.

2. Reporting of ownership and control of health care entities. A health care entity shall report to the organization once no later than July 1, 2027 and subsequently upon the completion of a material change transaction involving the health care entity in a form and manner required by the organization the following information:

A. The legal name of the health care entity;

B. The business address of the health care entity;

C. Locations of operations of the health care entity;

D. The business identification numbers of the health care entity, as applicable, including:

(1) Taxpayer identification number;

(2) National provider identifier;

(3) Employer identification number; and

(4) United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services certification number;

E. The name and contact information of a representative of the health care entity;

F. A current organizational chart showing the business structure of the health care entity, including affiliates and subsidiaries; and

G. For a health care entity that is a hospital:

(1) The affiliated health care providers identified by name, license type, specialty, national provider identifier and any other applicable identification number described in paragraph D; the address of the principal practice location; and whether the affiliated health care provider is employed or contracted by the health care entity; and

(2) The name and address of affiliated health care facilities by license number, license type and capacity in each major service area.

3. Exceptions. The following health care entities are exempt from the reporting requirements under subsection 2:

A. A health care entity that is an independent provider organization, without any ownership or control entities, consisting of 6 or fewer individual providers; and

B. A health care provider or provider organization that is owned or controlled by another health care entity, if the health care provider or provider organization is shown in the organizational chart submitted under subsection 2, paragraph F and the controlling health care entity reports all the information required under subsection 2 on behalf of the controlled or owned entity, except that health care facilities are not subject to this exception.

4. Sharing of ownership information to improve transparency. This subsection governs the sharing of ownership information to improve transparency.

A. Information provided under this subsection is public information and may not be considered confidential, proprietary or a trade secret, except that any individual health care provider's taxpayer identification number that is also their social security number and any business identification number of a health care entity listed in subsection 2, paragraph D is confidential.

B. No later than January 1, 2029 and annually thereafter, the organization shall post on a publicly accessible website a report with respect to the previous one-year period, including:

(1) The number of health care entities reporting for that previous one-year period, disaggregated by the business structure of each specified health care entity;

(2) The name, address and business structure of any health care entity;

(3) Any change in ownership or control for each health care entity;

(4) In accordance with paragraph A, any change in the tax identification number of a health care entity; and

(5) As applicable in accordance with subsection 2, paragraph G, the name, address, tax identification number and business structure of affiliates and subsidiaries of a health care entity that is a hospital, including the business type and the tax identification number of each.

C. The organization may share information reported under this section with the Office of Affordable Health Care, the Attorney General, other state agencies and other state officials to reduce or avoid duplication in reporting requirements or to facilitate oversight or enforcement pursuant to the laws

of the State, except that any tax identification numbers that are individual social security numbers may be shared only with other state agencies or other state officials that agree to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

Sec. 3. Effective date. This Act takes effect January 1, 2027.

Effective January 1, 2027.

CHAPTER 691 H.P. 1506 - L.D. 2231

An Act to Support Owners of Manufactured Housing, Mobile Homes and Tiny Homes

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §9093-B, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 399, §2, is amended to read:

§9093-B. Manufactured housing community increase in lot rent and fees

1. Lot rent and fees; notice requirement. An owner of a manufactured housing community shall provide notice of an increase in lot rent or fees no less than 90 days before the effective date of the increase to the owner of a manufactured home in the community.

1-A. Lot rent increase; limitation per calendar year. An owner of a manufactured housing community may not increase the lot rent more than once per calendar year.

2. Notice contents. The notice under subsection 1 must include:

A. The name, address, telephone number and e-mail address of the owner of the manufactured housing community;

B. The amount of the increase in lot rent or fees, in dollars, and the type of fee increased;

~~C. The average lot rent and fees by the type of fee, as a dollar amount, for a manufactured housing community with equivalent services and amenities in the area at the time of the notice;~~

~~D. The average lot rent, calculated pursuant to paragraph C, increased by 1% above the Consumer Price Index for the Northeast Region, or its successor index, as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics or its successor agency, in dollar amounts, referred to in this section as "the allowed lot rent increase";~~

~~E. The average fee for each type of fee, calculated pursuant to paragraph C, increased by 1% above~~

~~the Consumer Price Index for the Northeast Region, or its successor index, as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics or its successor agency, in dollar amounts, referred to in this section as "the allowed fee increase"; and~~

F. A statement of the manufactured home owner's right to request mediation and the requirements to make a request; and

G. The percentage change for the previous 12-month period in the Consumer Price Index for the Northeast Region, or its successor index, as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, or its successor agency, beginning with the month the notice is provided.

3. Request for mediation. If the dollar amount of the proposed lot rent increase is above the allowed lot rent increase or the dollar amount of the proposed fee increase is above the allowed fee increase for the type of fee increased percentage increase in lot rent or fees is greater than the percentage change under subsection 2, paragraph G plus 1%, owners of manufactured homes in the housing community may request the proposed lot rent or fee increase be subject to mediation, if:

A. A number of owners representing 51% or more of the households in the community sign a written request for mediation; and

B. The written request is mailed, by certified mail, to the owner of the manufactured housing community within 90 days of the date of the notice required by subsection 1.

4. Mediation. Within 15 days of the date of the notice under subsection 3, paragraph B, the parties shall mutually select an independent 3rd-party mediator to facilitate the discussion of the proposed lot rent or fee increase. Within 30 days of the date the request for mediation was mailed under subsection 3, the parties shall meet with the mediator for the purpose of attempting to resolve the dispute. The owner of the manufactured housing community shall pay all costs for the mediator and the mediation. If the owner of the manufactured housing community acts in bad faith with respect to the request for mediation or the mediation process, the lot rent or fee increase may not take effect for at least 6 months from the date the request for mediation is mailed under subsection 3. Failure of the owner of the manufactured housing community, or the owner's authorized representative, to participate in mediation, is an example of bad faith. It is bad faith for the owner of the manufactured housing community, or the owner's authorized representative, to require, request or obtain a nondisclosure agreement or similar agreement from a manufactured home owner as part of the mediation process.

For purposes of this section, "manufactured housing community" has the same meaning as in section

9081, subsection 2, except that in this section "manufactured housing community" includes a mobile home park.

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §669, as amended by PL 2019, c. 650, §8, is further amended to read:

§669. Cancellation of certificate of title to manufactured housing and tiny homes; conversion to residential real property

1. Real property transactions. This section governs cancellation of a certificate of title to manufactured housing or a tiny home by the owner of the manufactured housing or tiny home ~~when the manufactured housing or tiny home becomes affixed to real property owned by the owner of the manufactured housing or tiny home~~ issued by the Secretary of State and the conversion of the manufactured housing or tiny home to residential real property.

2. Cancellation. A certificate of title to manufactured housing or a tiny home may be cancelled by the Secretary of State if the owner of the ~~real property~~ manufactured housing or tiny home records the following documents in the registry of deeds for the county in which the real property is located upon which the manufactured housing or tiny home is permanently affixed is located and files a request under subsection 4:

- A. The original certificate of title to the manufactured housing or tiny home;
- B. A description of the manufactured housing or tiny home, including model year, make, width, length and identification number, and a statement by any recorded lienholder on the certificate of title that the security interest has been released or that such security interest will be released upon cancellation of the certificate of title as set forth in this section;
- C. The legal description of the real property upon which the manufactured housing or tiny home is permanently affixed; and
- D. A sworn statement by the owner of the real property upon which the manufactured housing or tiny home is permanently affixed, as shown on the real property deed, ~~that the owner of the real property is the owner of the manufactured housing or tiny home and that the manufactured housing or tiny home is permanently affixed to the real property in accordance with state law;~~

(1) That the owner of the real property upon which the manufactured housing or tiny home is permanently affixed is the owner of the manufactured housing or tiny home and that the manufactured housing or tiny home is permanently affixed to the real property in accordance with state law; or

(2) If the owner of the manufactured housing or tiny home does not own the real property upon which the manufactured housing or tiny home is permanently affixed, that the manufactured housing or tiny home is permanently affixed to real property under a lease agreement or other occupancy agreement.

3. Recording. The register of deeds, upon receipt of the documents set forth in subsection 2, shall record the documents.

4. Request for cancellation for purpose of conversion. An owner of manufactured housing or a tiny home shall file a written request with the Secretary of State for cancellation of the certificate of title to the manufactured housing or tiny home for the purpose of conversion to residential real property after completion of the requirements in subsections 2 and 3 and by returning the recorded certificate of title. ~~The Secretary of State shall cancel the certificate of title upon receipt of the written request from the owner of the manufactured housing or tiny home requesting cancellation of the certificate of title, accompanied by the certificate of title and documents listed in subsection 2 that have been recorded pursuant to subsection 3. Upon cancellation of the certificate of title, the Secretary of State shall issue a document certifying that the certificate of title has been cancelled.~~

A. Prior to cancelling the certificate of title, the Secretary of State shall provide the individual requesting cancellation with a written statement informing the individual that upon cancellation of the certificate of title and satisfaction of the requirements of subsection 9, the manufactured housing or tiny home will be converted to residential real property as defined in Title 33, section 171, subsection 6 and that the conversion may not be reversed. The Secretary of State shall obtain written confirmation that the individual received the statement.

B. The Secretary of State shall cancel the certificate of title upon receipt of the written request from the owner of the manufactured housing or tiny home requesting cancellation of the certificate of title for the purpose of conversion to residential real property, accompanied by the certificate of title and documents listed in subsection 2 that have been recorded pursuant to subsection 3. Upon cancellation of the certificate of title, the Secretary of State shall issue a document certifying that the certificate of title has been cancelled.

5. Liens. For purposes of perfection, realization and foreclosure of security interests, ~~if a certificate of title has been cancelled pursuant to this section, a separate security interest in the manufactured housing or tiny home does not exist, and the manufactured housing or tiny home may be secured only as part of the real property through a mortgage under Title 33;~~

A. If a certificate of title has been cancelled and the manufactured housing or tiny home converted pursuant to this section and the owner of the manufactured housing or tiny home owns the real property upon which the manufactured housing or tiny home is permanently affixed, a separate security interest in the manufactured housing or tiny home does not exist, and the manufactured housing or tiny home may be secured only as part of the real property through a mortgage under Title 33; and

B. If a certificate of title has been cancelled and the manufactured housing or tiny home converted pursuant to this section and the owner of the manufactured housing or tiny home does not own the real property upon which the manufactured housing or tiny home is permanently affixed, the manufactured housing or tiny home may be secured separately from the real property upon which it is permanently affixed.

6. Applicability. This section applies to manufactured housing or tiny homes required to be titled under section 651 and to any person who voluntarily elects to cancel a certificate of title to manufactured housing or a tiny home pursuant to this section.

7. Taxation not affected. ~~Nothing in this~~ This section may not be construed to affect the taxation of manufactured housing or tiny homes.

8. No change to common law. ~~Nothing in this~~ This section may not be construed to modify or change existing common law.

9. Conversion. Upon recording the document issued by the Secretary of State under subsection 4, paragraph B that certifies that the certificate of title has been cancelled in the registry of deeds for the county in which the real property upon which the manufactured housing or tiny home is permanently affixed is located, the manufactured housing or tiny home is converted to residential real property as defined in Title 33, section 171, subsection 6.

Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §4358, sub-§3, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. A, §45 and Pt. C, §10 and repealed and replaced by PL 1989, c. 506, §3 and amended by PL 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §6, is further amended to read:

A. Except as required under Title 38, or an ordinance adopted pursuant to Title 38, a municipality ~~shall may~~ not require for a new mobile home park or the expansion of an existing mobile home park:

(1) The size of any mobile home park lot served by a public sewer system to be larger than the smaller of:

(a) ~~Six~~ Four thousand ~~five hundred~~ square feet; ~~or and~~

(b) The area of the smallest residential lot permitted in the municipality;

(2) The size of any mobile home park lot with on-site subsurface ~~waste water~~ wastewater disposal to be larger than ~~20,000~~ 10,000 square feet; or

(3) The size of any mobile home park lot served by a central on-site subsurface ~~waste water~~ wastewater disposal system approved by the Department of Health and Human Services to be larger than ~~12,000~~ 5,000 square feet; ~~provided that a municipality may require that the overall density of the mobile home park be no more than one home for every 20,000 square feet.~~

Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §4358, sub-§3, ¶M, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 506, §3, is amended to read:

M. A municipality shall permit mobile home parks to expand and to be developed in a number of environmentally suitable locations in the municipality with reasonable consideration being given to permit existing mobile home parks to expand in their existing locations. A municipality may not select a location for a mobile home park development ~~which that~~ is not reasonably suitable because of:

- (1) Prior lot division;
- (2) Locational setting within the municipality;
- (3) Natural features; or
- (4) Other similar factors.

~~This paragraph is effective January 1, 1990.~~

Sec. 5. 33 MRSA §459-A is enacted to read:

§459-A. Manufactured housing and tiny homes

If a certificate of title to manufactured housing or a tiny home has been cancelled under Title 29-A, section 669 and a document issued by the Secretary of State certifying that cancellation is recorded in the registry of deeds for the county in which the real property upon which the manufactured housing or tiny home is permanently affixed is located pursuant to Title 29-A, section 669, subsection 9, the manufactured housing or tiny home is converted to residential real property as defined in section 171, subsection 6.

Sec. 6. 33 MRSA §767-A is enacted to read:

§767-A. Deed for manufactured housing or tiny home

A deed for manufactured housing or a tiny home may contain the following provisions.

1. Statement on ownership of tract or parcel of land. A deed for manufactured housing or a tiny home may contain one of the following provisions:

A. The tract or parcel of land upon which the manufactured housing or tiny home is situated, or is to be situated, is owned by by deed dated and recorded at Book, Page in the County Registry of Deeds.

Signed this day of, ...

(Here add acknowledgment); or

B., owner of the tract or parcel of land upon which the aforesaid manufactured housing or tiny home is situated, or is to be situated, hereby consents to the conveyance of the manufactured housing or tiny home.

Signed this day of, ...

(Here add acknowledgment).

2. Statement on relocation. A deed for manufactured housing or a tiny home may contain the following provision:

☐ Check box if the manufactured housing or tiny home has been relocated from one site to another within Maine. The home was previously located at (state name of park, if any, and street address), Town (City) of County, State of Maine and title, if any, to the same was recorded at Book, Page, in the County Registry of Deeds. If the relocation is to a county of the State of Maine other than the county in which the deed to the grantor was recorded, a duplicate original of the deed must be recorded in the registry of deeds of the county where the manufactured housing or tiny home is relocated at the same time this deed is recorded.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 692

H.P. 1512 - L.D. 2236

An Act Regarding Public Records Maintained by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10110, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 185, §1, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §10111 is enacted to read:

§10111. Records and databases related to licenses, permits, registrations, harvest records and applications

1. Definitions. For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Commercial record" means any paper or electronic record the department holds that is intended for business operations or that allows a person or entity to charge a fee for a product or service.

B. "Data" means information existing in a paper or electronic medium that may be contained within a records database.

C. "Noncommercial record" means any paper or electronic record the department holds, including, but not limited to, a license, permit, registration, harvest record and any application for these records, that is not intended for business operations and that does not allow a person or entity to charge a fee for a product or service.

D. "Personally identifiable information" means:

- (1) A person's social security number;
- (2) A person's telephone number;
- (3) A person's e-mail address;
- (4) A person's physical address;
- (5) A person's identification number in the department's online electronic system for people who hunt, fish or trap;
- (6) A person's date of birth;
- (7) A person's driver's license number; and
- (8) A person's taxpayer identification number.

With respect to a commercial record, "personally identifiable information" does not include a person's telephone number, e-mail address or physical address.

2. Individual records requests; confidentiality of personally identifiable information in records. Any personally identifiable information included in any data, commercial record or noncommercial record, whether contained in a records database or in individual or multiple records, is confidential, except that the department may disclose personally identifiable information:

A. For law enforcement purposes in accordance with section 13106-E and Title 16, section 805-A;

B. For the purposes described in section 13106-E, subsection 2 or section 13157-D, subsection 2;

C. For fish and wildlife management purposes;

D. To other state and federal government entities; or

E. To the person who is the subject of the record or to that person's agent.

3. Disclosure of data not personally identifiable.

The department may publicly disseminate data that is not personally identifiable information and may provide to persons, businesses and other entities copies of individual records and data that do not contain personally identifiable information. Notwithstanding subsection 1, paragraph D, subparagraph (4), information disseminated by the department pursuant to this subsection may include the names and mailing addresses contained within any license, permit or registration the department holds.

4. Reasonable fees. The department may charge reasonable fees for requests of both individual records and whole or partial databases of records at the expense of the person making the request. The cost of furnishing a copy of the record or records is not subject to the limitations of Title 1, section 408-A.

5. Exception to archive laws. Notwithstanding Title 5, section 95-C, subsection 1, paragraph C, personally identifiable information made confidential under this section must remain confidential until the relevant records have been in existence for 100 years.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §13106-E is enacted to read:

§13106-E. Snowmobile accident report data

1. Definitions. For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Data" means information existing in an electronic medium and contained in an accident report database.

B. "Nonpersonally identifiable accident report data" means any data in an accident report that are not personally identifiable accident report data.

C. "Personally identifiable accident report data" means:

- (1) A person's name, residential and post office box mailing address, social security number, date of birth and driver's license number;
- (2) A snowmobile registration number;
- (3) An insurance policy number;
- (4) Information contained in any free text data field of an accident report; and
- (5) Any other information contained in a data field of an accident report that may be used to identify a person.

2. Accident report information. An accident report made by a law enforcement officer or a report made by an operator as required by section 13106-B or 13106-C is for the purposes of statistical analysis and accident prevention. A report or statement contained in the accident report, or a report as required by section 13106-C, subsection 1, or a decision made as a result of

that report or statement contained in the accident report or report required by section 13106-C, subsection 1 is confidential and may not be admitted as evidence in any trial, civil or criminal, arising out of the accident. Such a report may be admissible as evidence solely to prove compliance with this section.

Notwithstanding this section, the Game Warden Colonel may disclose the date, time and location of the accident reported under section 13106-B or 13106-C; the names and addresses of operators, owners and injured persons; the names and addresses of witnesses; and the name and address of the investigating officer. On written request, the Game Warden Colonel may furnish a photocopy of the investigating officer's report at the expense of the person making the request.

3. Accident report database; public dissemination of accident report data. Data maintained, administered or contributed to by the Bureau of Warden Service must be treated as follows.

A. Except as provided in paragraph B, personally identifiable accident report data maintained, administered or contributed to by the Bureau of Warden Service is confidential.

B. The Bureau of Warden Service may disseminate a snowmobile registration number contained in an accident report database maintained, administered or contributed to by the Bureau of Warden Service to a person only if that person provides the Bureau of Warden Service an affidavit stating that the person will not:

- (1) Use the snowmobile registration number to identify or contact a person; or
- (2) Disseminate the snowmobile registration number to another person.

C. The Bureau of Warden Service may publicly disseminate nonpersonally identifiable accident report data maintained, administered or contributed to by the Bureau of Warden Service.

4. Reasonable fees. The Bureau of Warden Service may charge reasonable fees for snowmobile accident report data. The cost of furnishing a copy of the report is not subject to the limitations of Title 1, section 408-A.

5. Violation. A person commits a Class E crime if that person:

A. Is an operator involved in a reportable snowmobile accident and knowingly fails to give a correct name and address when requested by a law enforcement officer at the scene;

B. Is the operator involved in a reportable snowmobile accident under this section or is the owner of a snowmobile involved in a reportable accident and knowingly fails to produce the snowmobile or, if the snowmobile is operational, return it to the

scene when requested by the investigating officer; or

C. Obtains a snowmobile registration number pursuant to section 13104 and knowingly uses that snowmobile registration number to identify or contact a person or knowingly disseminates that snowmobile registration number to another person.

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §13157-D is enacted to read:

§13157-D. ATV accident report data

1. Definitions. For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Data" means information existing in an electronic medium and contained in an accident report database.

B. "Nonpersonally identifiable accident report data" means any data in an accident report that are not personally identifiable accident report data.

C. "Personally identifiable accident report data" means:

- (1) A person's name, residential and post office box mailing address, social security number, date of birth and driver's license number;
- (2) An ATV registration number;
- (3) An insurance policy number;
- (4) Information contained in any free text data field of an accident report; and
- (5) Any other information contained in a data field of an accident report that may be used to identify a person.

2. Accident report information. An accident report made by a law enforcement officer or a report of an ATV accident made by an operator as required by sections 13157-B and 13157-C is for the purposes of statistical analysis and accident prevention. A report or statement contained in the accident report, or a report as required by section 13157-B and section 13157-C, subsection 1, or a decision made as a result of that report or statement is confidential and may not be admitted as evidence in any trial, civil or criminal, arising out of the accident. Such a report may be admissible as evidence solely to prove compliance with this section.

Notwithstanding this section, the Game Warden Colonel may disclose the date, time and location of an accident reported under sections 13157-B and 13157-C; the names and addresses of operators, owners and injured persons; the names and addresses of witnesses; and the name and address of the investigating officer. On written request, the Game Warden Colonel may furnish a photocopy of the investigating officer's report at the expense of the person making the request.

3. Accident report database; public dissemination of accident report data. Data maintained, administered or contributed to by the Bureau of Warden Service must be treated as follows.

A. Except as provided in paragraph B, personally identifiable accident report data maintained, administered or contributed to by the Bureau of Warden Service is confidential.

B. The Bureau of Warden Service may disseminate an ATV registration number contained in an accident report database maintained, administered or contributed to by the Bureau of Warden Service to a person only if that person provides the Bureau of Warden Service an affidavit stating that the person will not:

- (1) Use the ATV registration number to identify or contact a person; or
- (2) Disseminate the ATV registration number to another person.

C. The Bureau of Warden Service may publicly disseminate nonpersonally identifiable accident report data maintained, administered or contributed to by the Bureau of Warden Service.

4. Reasonable fees. The Bureau of Warden Service may charge reasonable fees for ATV accident report data. The cost of furnishing a copy of the report is not subject to the limitations of Title 1, section 408-A.

5. Violation. A person commits a Class E crime if that person:

A. Is an operator involved in a reportable ATV accident and knowingly fails to give a correct name and address when requested by a law enforcement officer at the scene;

B. Is the operator involved in a reportable ATV accident under this section or is the owner of an ATV involved in a reportable accident and knowingly fails to produce the ATV or, if the ATV is operational, return it to the scene when requested by the investigating officer; or

C. Obtains an ATV registration number pursuant to section 13155 and knowingly uses that ATV registration number to identify or contact a person or knowingly disseminates that ATV registration number to another person.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 693
S.P. 826 - L.D. 2132

**An Act to Amend the Maine
Emergency Medical Services
Act of 1982 to Modify Penalties
for Unauthorized Operation or
Practice of Emergency Medical
Services, to Direct Maine
Emergency Medical Services to
Evaluate Improvements to
Maine's Trauma System
Reporting and to Make Certain
Technical Changes**

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §82, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2021, c. 220, §1, is further amended to read:

1. Licenses required. An ambulance service, ambulance, nontransporting emergency medical service, emergency medical services person, emergency medical services ambulance operator, emergency medical services educator, emergency medical services training center, emergency medical dispatch center or emergency medical dispatcher may not operate or practice unless duly licensed by the Emergency Medical Services' Board pursuant to this chapter, except as stated in subsection 2.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §82, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2007, c. 274, §3, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §82, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Unlicensed practice; criminal penalties. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a person that practices or represents to the public that the person is authorized to practice or engage in an activity that requires a license under this section and intentionally, knowingly or recklessly fails to obtain a license as required under this section or intentionally, knowingly or recklessly practices or represents to the public that the person is authorized to practice or engages in an activity that requires a license after the license required under this section has expired or has been suspended or revoked commits a Class E crime.

Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §82, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Unlicensed practice; civil violations. A person that practices or represents to the public that the person is authorized to practice or engage in an activity that requires a license under this section and fails to obtain a license as required under this section or practices or represents to the public that the person is authorized to practice or engage in an activity that requires a license after the license required under this section has expired

or has been suspended or revoked commits a civil violation punishable by a fine of not less than \$1,000 but not more than \$5,000 for each violation. An action under this subsection may be brought in the District Court or, in combination with an action under subsection 6, in the Superior Court.

Sec. 5. 32 MRSA §82, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Unlicensed practice; injunctions. The Attorney General may bring an action in the Superior Court to enjoin any person from violating subsection 5, whether or not proceedings have been or may be instituted in the District Court or whether or not criminal proceedings have been or may be instituted, and to restore to any person that has suffered any ascertainable loss by reason of that violation any money or personal or real property that may have been acquired by means of that violation and to compel the return of compensation received for engaging in that unlawful conduct.

A person that violates the terms of an injunction issued under this subsection shall pay to the State a fine of not more than \$10,000 for each violation. In any action under this subsection, when a permanent injunction has been issued, the court may order the person against whom the permanent injunction is issued to pay to the General Fund the costs of the investigation of that person by the Attorney General and the costs of suit, including attorney's fees. In any action by the Attorney General brought against a person for violating the terms of an injunction issued under this subsection, the court may make the necessary orders or judgments to restore to any person that has suffered any ascertainable loss of money or personal or real property or to compel the return of compensation received by reason of such conduct found to be in violation of an injunction.

Sec. 6. 32 MRSA §83, sub-§12-B is enacted to read:

12-B. Emergency medical services educator. "Emergency medical services educator" means a lead instructor of an emergency medical services licensure program.

Sec. 7. 32 MRSA §83, sub-§20, as amended by PL 2007, c. 274, §7, is further amended to read:

20. Regional council. "Regional council" means a business an entity recognized by the board that represents a geographical area of the State, as designated by the board, with respect to matters subject to this chapter.

Sec. 8. State Trauma Prevention and Control Advisory Committee report. The Director of Maine Emergency Medical Services within the Department of Public Safety, or the director's designee, shall convene the State Trauma Prevention and Control Advisory Committee under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, section 87-A, subsection 2 to evaluate opportunities to enhance the State's trauma care system and

to share uniform quality data as it relates to injury-related incidents. By September 1, 2027, the director shall submit a report with the findings of the advisory committee to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over emergency medical services matters. The joint standing committee may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature based on the report.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 694

H.P. 1450 - L.D. 2161

An Act to Modify Certain Statutes Governing Revocation of Probation, Victim Confidentiality and the Commissioner of Corrections

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

Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §1810, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. A, §2, is amended to read:

2. Contents of summons; probation officer to file motion for revocation. The summons delivered pursuant to subsection 1 must include the signature of the probation officer; a brief statement of the alleged violation; the time and place of the alleged violation; and the time, place and date the person is to appear in court or a statement that the court will notify the person of the time, place and date to appear. As soon as practical after service of the summons, the probation officer shall file with the court a motion for revocation of probation that sets forth the facts underlying the alleged violation. The motion must be approved by the prosecuting attorney before it is filed with the court. The motion may be withdrawn by either the probation officer or the prosecuting attorney. If the request to withdraw the motion is made by the probation officer, the request must state the position of the prosecuting attorney regarding that request.

Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA §1811, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. A, §2, is amended to read:

1. Timing of motion for probation revocation. A motion for probation revocation, which first must be approved by the prosecuting attorney, must be filed within 3 days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, of the arrest of a person on probation pursuant to section 1809. The motion may be withdrawn by either the probation officer or the prosecuting attorney. If the request to withdraw the motion is made by the probation officer, the request must state the position of the prosecuting attorney regarding that request.

Sec. 3. 17-A MRSA §1812, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. A, §2, is amended to read:

1. Place of hearing. The hearing on a motion to revoke probation must be held in the court that sentenced the person to probation in either the county or division in which the person resides or is incarcerated, unless the court orders otherwise in the interests of justice. A motion to transfer the hearing to another court may be filed by either the probation officer or the prosecuting attorney. If the motion to transfer the hearing to another court is filed by the probation officer, the motion must state the position of the prosecuting attorney at the time of the motion regarding the motion and, if applicable, the prosecuting attorney receiving the transfer. A motion for revocation of probation need not be heard by the justice or judge who originally imposed probation, but may be heard by any justice or judge.

Sec. 4. 17-A MRSA §2109, as amended by PL 2025, c. 139, §7, is further amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§2109. Certain communications by and information from victims confidential

Sec. 5. 17-A MRSA §2109, first ¶, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. A, §2, is amended to read:

The following communications and information are privileged from disclosure.

Sec. 6. 17-A MRSA §2109, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Information obtained by Department of Corrections; community-based programs. Information from a victim obtained by the Department of Corrections for the purpose of evaluating a client's ability to participate in a community-based program as described in Title 34-A, section 1216, subsection 1 is privileged from disclosure as provided in Title 34-A, section 1216, subsection 1. For the purposes of this subsection, "client" has the same meaning as in Title 34-A, section 1001, subsection 1-A.

Sec. 7. 34-A MRSA §1401, sub-§2, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 459, §6, is amended to read:

B. If the office of the commissioner is vacant or if the commissioner is absent or disabled, the deputy commissioner or an associate commissioner shall perform the duties and have the powers provided by law for the commissioner.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 695

H.P. 1452 - L.D. 2163

An Act to Enhance Crime Victims' Rights

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

Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §2102, sub-§1, ¶F-2, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 330, §6 and reallocated by RR 2021, c. 1, Pt. A, §14, is amended to read:

F-2. The final disposition of the charges against the defendant, including the amount of deductions to time served that a defendant has accumulated as of the date of sentencing. On or before the date of sentencing, the attorney for the State shall obtain information about the deductions to time served from each correctional facility at which a defendant was detained prior to sentencing on the relevant charges; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA §2102, sub-§1, ¶G, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. A, §2, is amended to read:

G. The right to comment on the proposed early termination of probation, early termination of administrative release or conversion of probation to administrative release, pursuant to section 2105;

Sec. 3. 17-A MRSA §2102, sub-§1, ¶H is enacted to read:

H. Any request for a subpoena for the victim's records as described in section 2110; the date and time of any criminal hearing or criminal court proceeding concerning the subpoena request; and that the victim must be given an opportunity to be heard at that hearing or proceeding; and

Sec. 4. 17-A MRSA §2102, sub-§1, ¶I is enacted to read:

I. The filing, scheduling and outcome of an appeal of a decision of the court by a defendant or the State involving a crime against the victim.

Sec. 5. 17-A MRSA §2110 is enacted to read:

§2110. Subpoenas for victim's records

A victim has the right to timely notice pursuant to section 2102, subsection 1, paragraph H and must be given an opportunity to be heard at any criminal hearing or criminal court proceeding concerning a subpoena issued to a person other than the victim for any record that implicates a privilege or a confidentiality or privacy protection for the benefit of the victim as described in Rule 17A(f) of the Maine Rules of Unified Criminal Procedure, including, but not limited to, the victim's medical records, mental health counseling or treatment records, educational records, electronic device content information and electronic device location information. For purposes of this paragraph, "electronic device content information" has the same meaning as in Title 16, chapter 3, subchapter 10 and "electronic device location information" has the same meaning as in Title 16, chapter 3, subchapter 11.

Sec. 6. 17-A MRSA §2111 is enacted to read:

§2111. Presence of victim's attorney or advocate

At any court proceeding in a criminal case in which a victim has a right to be heard, the victim may retain an attorney who may be present and speak on the victim's behalf or the victim may elect to have a victim witness advocate or victim witness coordinator speak on the victim's behalf. Except as required to comply with Rule 4.2 of the Maine Rules of Professional Conduct governing communications with persons represented by counsel, treatment of the victim may not be affected or altered in any way due to the victim's decision to exercise this right. For purposes of this section, "victim witness advocate" or "victim witness coordinator" has the same meaning as in Title 16, section 53-C, subsection 1, paragraph C.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 696

H.P. 1457 - L.D. 2168

**An Act to Increase
Accountability for Persons
Engaged in Commercial Sexual
Exploitation and Human
Trafficking and to Support
Victims**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §3360, sub-§3, ¶H, as amended by PL 2013, c. 537, §2, is further amended to read:

H. Sexual exploitation of a minor as described in Title 17-A, chapter 12; ~~or~~

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §3360, sub-§3, ¶J, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 537, §3, is amended to read:

J. Aggravated sex trafficking or sex trafficking as described in Title 17-A, sections 852 and 853, respectively; ~~or~~

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §3360, sub-§3, ¶K is enacted to read:

K. Commercial sexual exploitation of a minor or person with a mental disability under Title 17-A, section 855.

Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §3360-C, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by PL 2017, c. 348, §1, is further amended to read:

B. To or on behalf of any person who violated a criminal law that caused or contributed to the injury or death for which compensation is sought, except when the person was the victim of a criminal homicide and the claimant was not involved in the criminal conduct ~~or the person was a victim of aggravated sex trafficking or sex trafficking under Title 17-A, sections 852 and 853, respectively, sexual~~

exploitation of a minor under Title 17-A, section 282, commercial sexual exploitation of a minor or commercial sexual exploitation of a person with a mental disability under Title 17-A, section 855 and the violation of criminal law was the direct result of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation.

Sec. 5. 5 MRSA §3360-I, first ¶, as amended by PL 2025, c. 387, §1 and c. 528, §1, is further amended to read:

As part of the sentence or fine imposed, the court shall impose an assessment of \$70 on any person convicted of murder, a Class A crime, a Class B crime or a Class C crime and \$40 on any person convicted of a Class D crime or a Class E crime, except that the court shall impose an assessment of \$6,000 on any person convicted of aggravated sex trafficking as described in Title 17-A, section 852, an assessment of \$3,000 on any person convicted of sex trafficking as described in Title 17-A, section 853, an assessment of \$1,000 on any person for the first conviction and \$2,000 for each subsequent conviction of engaging a person for prostitution as described in Title 17-A, section 853-B, an assessment of \$1,000 on any person for the first conviction and \$2,000 for each subsequent conviction of soliciting a child for commercial sexual exploitation as described in Title 17-A, section 259-B and an assessment of \$1,000 \$3,000 on any person for the first conviction and \$2,000 \$6,000 for each subsequent conviction of commercial sexual exploitation of a minor or commercial sexual exploitation of a person with a mental disability as described in Title 17-A, section 855. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the court may not waive the imposition of the assessment required by this section. For purposes of collection and collection procedures, this assessment is considered part of the fine. At the time of commitment, the court shall inform the Department of Corrections or the county sheriff of any unpaid balances on assessments owed by the offender to the Victims' Compensation Fund. All funds collected as a result of these assessments or transferred in accordance with Title 34-A, section 1214-C, subsection 5 accrue to the Victims' Compensation Fund.

Sec. 6. Effective date. This Act takes effect April 1, 2027.

Effective April 1, 2027.

CHAPTER 697

S.P. 893 - L.D. 2192

An Act Regarding School Employee Investigations

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this legislation directs the Department of Education to convene a working group to further examine the issue of investigations into the conduct of school employees and determine whether additional procedures are necessary; and

Whereas, the working group must begin its work before the 90-day period expires in order that the work may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative session; and

Whereas, schools will benefit from timely receipt of information related to procedures for employee investigations; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §13025, as amended by PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. Z, §2, is further amended to read:

§13025. Investigations

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

B. "Covered investigation" means an investigation by a school entity into the conduct of a ~~holder of a credential~~ school employee that a school entity has a reasonable expectation would affect the ~~credential holder's~~ school employee's employment or contracted service because the alleged conduct involves alcohol; illegal drugs; physical abuse; emotional abuse; inappropriate contact between a ~~credential holder~~ school employee and a student; or a school employee and another school employee; harassment as described in Title 5, chapter 337-A; sexual assault as described in Title 17-A, chapter 11; stalking as described in Title 17-A, section 210-A; sexual exploitation of a minor as described in Title 17-A, chapter 12; or similar behavior that endangers the health, safety or welfare of a student or another school employee.

B-1. "School employee" means any person employed by a school, including, but not limited to, a credential holder, who is subject to the requirements of section 6103.

C. "School entity" means an approved private school, school administrative unit, public charter school, education service center, school in the unorganized territory or school operated by the State.

2. Subpoenas. When conducting an investigation relating to the credentialing of personnel under chapter 501 and this chapter and rules of the state board, the

commissioner may issue subpoenas for education records relevant to that investigation.

2-A. Duties of superintendents. Upon receipt of a complaint related to alleged misconduct by a school employee, a superintendent of a school entity shall conduct a covered investigation. The superintendent shall notify the department immediately upon initiating a covered investigation. For the purposes of this subsection, misconduct means any conduct described in subsection 1, paragraph B.

3. Duties of school entities. A school entity shall immediately place on paid leave a school employee who is the subject of a covered investigation. A school entity shall notify the department immediately if a ~~credential holder~~ school employee who is the subject of a covered investigation leaves the school entity's employment for any reason prior to the conclusion of the covered investigation. A school entity shall complete a covered investigation, even if the subject of the investigation resigns, is terminated or otherwise leaves employment with the school entity prior to the conclusion of the investigation. A school entity shall notify the department immediately of the findings and final outcome of any covered investigation, including, but not limited to, if the school entity determines that the allegations of misconduct were false or unsubstantiated or if a ~~credential holder~~ school employee is disciplined, suspended or terminated as a result of a covered investigation in which the school entity determined that a student's or another school employee's health, safety or welfare was endangered. The school entity shall provide to the department any final report produced in support of the school entity's decision to discipline, suspend or terminate the ~~credential holder~~ school employee. The ~~credential holder~~ school employee who is the subject of the report may submit to the department a written rebuttal to the report. The written rebuttal must be placed in the department's investigative file.

Prior to offering employment to an applicant, a school entity shall review the applicant's educator credentialing records or other school employee records maintained by the department to determine whether the applicant holds a valid and active certification appropriate for the position or is otherwise eligible for employment and whether any notation has been entered on the applicant's records pursuant to subsection 4, paragraphs D and E, and, if so, the current status of that notation.

4. Duties of department. The department shall act in accordance with this subsection.

A. The department shall notify the superintendent or chief administrative officer of a school entity within 15 business days of the department's initiating an investigation into a ~~holder of a credential~~ school employee who works for the school entity and shall notify the school entity immediately if the department takes action ~~on that credential~~ against the school employee. Within 5 business days after

completion of an investigation, the department shall notify each school entity for which the ~~credential holder~~ school employee works of the final outcome of the investigation, including, but not limited to, any actions taken, and shall provide to the school entity any final written decision.

B. Immediately upon receipt from a school entity of notification pursuant to subsection 3 of the discipline, suspension or termination of a ~~credential holder~~ school employee, or the leaving of employment by a ~~credential holder~~ school employee prior to the completion of a covered investigation of that ~~credential holder~~ school employee, the department shall notify the superintendent or chief administrative officer of all other school entities for which the ~~credential holder~~ school employee works, as reported to the department under section 13026, that the ~~credential holder~~ school employee was disciplined, suspended or terminated as a result of a covered investigation, or that the ~~credential holder~~ school employee left employment prior to completion of a covered investigation. ~~If a credential holder provides consent as part of that credential holder's application for employment with a school entity, the department shall notify the superintendent or the chief administrative officer of that school entity if that credential holder left employment with a school entity prior to the completion of a covered investigation of that credential holder.~~

C. The department shall destroy copies of all records and reports related to a finding resulting in discipline, suspension or termination of a ~~credential holder~~ school employee if the finding resulting in that discipline, suspension or termination is reversed upon appeal at the school entity level.

D. Upon receipt of notification from a school entity pursuant to subsection 3 of the initiation of a covered investigation, the department shall enter a notation on the educator credentialing records or other school employee records maintained by the department for that school employee indicating that a covered investigation is pending. The notation must be visible to superintendents and other authorized school administrators reviewing school employee records maintained by the department. For the purposes of this paragraph, "authorized school administrator" means a superintendent or any individual the superintendent designates to have superintendent-level capabilities in the department's online credentialing system.

E. Upon receipt from a school entity of the outcome of a covered investigation, the department shall:

(1) If the investigation concludes with a finding that by a preponderance of the evidence the

school employee committed misconduct, update the notation entered pursuant to paragraph D to reflect that finding; or

(2) If the investigation concludes, after all appeal rights are exhausted, with a finding that the school employee did not commit misconduct, remove the notation entered pursuant to paragraph D.

5. Confidentiality. The department may share information that is confidential pursuant to section 6101 or 13004 with a school entity in accordance with subsection 4. A school entity that receives confidential information shall maintain the confidentiality of that information.

7. Certification hearing officers; immunity. The commissioner shall appoint a certification hearing officer for covered investigations. For the purposes of this section, while carrying out their official duties, certification hearing officers appointed pursuant to this subsection are considered state employees and are entitled to the immunity provided state employees under the Maine Tort Claims Act.

8. Required disclosure of substantiated investigation regardless of agreement. Notwithstanding any confidentiality clause or any agreement between the school entity and a school employee, if, by a preponderance of the evidence, a school entity determines through its covered investigation pursuant to subsection 3 that a school employee committed misconduct, the information pertaining to that covered investigation and findings of misconduct must be disclosed to the department and to any school entity that requests that information.

Sec. 2. Department of Education to convene working group; report. The Department of Education shall convene a working group to review the procedures for investigations of credential holders in schools in accordance with this section.

1. The working group shall review how the investigation procedures established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 13025 are being used in approved private schools, school administrative units, public charter schools, education service centers, schools in the unorganized territory and schools operated by the State. The working group shall make recommendations to improve reporting requirements and the process by which investigations are conducted.

2. The working group must include, but is not limited to, the following members:

A. A member representing the Maine School Management Association;

B. A member representing the Maine Education Association;

C. A member who is a licensed attorney in the State and has expertise in employment law;

D. A member representing the Maine Children's Alliance;

E. A member representing the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault; and

F. Any other stakeholders the department considers appropriate.

3. The department shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by January 15, 2027. The report must include the number of investigations reported to the department, the outcomes of those investigations, the number of preliminary and covered investigations, a summary of how mandated reporting requirements impact covered investigations, whether consequences for not reporting should be established, a summary of how the department identifies individuals during the employment process who have been subjects of covered investigations, a summary and recommendations on training for school employees to conduct investigations, a summary of findings related to current practices for investigations of credential holders and recommendations of the working group, including any suggested legislation, to improve those practices. The joint standing committee may report out a bill related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 15, 2026.

CHAPTER 698

H.P. 1407 - L.D. 2092

An Act to Update Certain Terms and References Regarding Information Technology and Cybersecurity

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §1825-B, sub-§2, ¶F, as amended by PL 2023, c. 516, Pt. A, §1, is further amended to read:

F. The procurement of goods or services involves expenditures of \$25,000 or less, in which case the Director of the Bureau of General Services may accept informal written quotes or bids; ~~or~~

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §1825-B, sub-§2, ¶G, as amended by PL 1999, c. 105, §3, is further amended to read:

G. The procurement of goods or services involves expenditures of \$10,000 or less, and procurement from a single source is the most economical, effective and appropriate means of fulfilling a demonstrated need.;

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §1825-B, sub-§2, ¶H is enacted to read:

H. The Chief Information Officer, after reasonable investigation, has determined that the procurement of information technology products or services through the procurement offerings to state and local governments from the United States General Services Administration is in the best interest of the State; or

Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §1825-B, sub-§2, ¶I is enacted to read:

I. The Chief Information Officer, after reasonable investigation, has determined that the procurement of information security or cybersecurity products or services on a retainer basis is necessary to detect, prevent and respond to cyberattacks.

Sec. 5. 5 MRSA §1972, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Cyberattack. "Cyberattack" has the same meaning as in Title 37-B, section 703, subsection 1-A.

Sec. 6. 5 MRSA §1972, sub-§4-B is enacted to read:

4-B. Cybersecurity. "Cybersecurity" means the protection of information and communications technology infrastructure, systems and services affecting the enterprise and the State's critical infrastructure, whether physical or nonphysical, by detecting, preventing and responding to cyberattacks.

Sec. 7. 5 MRSA §1972, sub-§7-A is enacted to read:

7-A. Information security. "Information security" means the ability to protect or defend the information and communications technology infrastructure, systems or services affecting the enterprise or the State's critical infrastructure, whether physical or nonphysical, from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification or destruction to provide confidentiality, integrity and availability.

Sec. 8. 5 MRSA §1973, sub-§5, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 388, §14, is amended to read:

B. Approve the ~~Division of Purchases'~~ standards and evaluation procedures of the division of purchases within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services for standard information and telecommunications technology acquisitions and contracts.

Sec. 9. 5 MRSA §1974, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 388, §14, is amended to read:

1. Approve the acquisition and use of equipment. The Chief Information Officer, or the Chief Information Officer's designee, working with the ~~Division of Purchases~~ division of purchases within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services and in accordance with written standards established by this chapter, shall approve acquisition and use of all data processing and telecommunications services, equipment and systems by state agencies.

Sec. 10. 5 MRSA §1974, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 388, §14, is amended to read:

2. Develop training and development programs in data processing. The Chief Information Officer, or the Chief Information Officer's designee, is responsible for developing training and development programs for state employees in data processing and for the implementation of these programs.

Sec. 11. 5 MRSA §1974, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. SS, §12, is further amended to read:

3. Develop and administer written standards for data processing and telecommunications. The Chief Information Officer, or the Chief Information Officer's designee, shall develop and administer written standards for data processing and telecommunications. These written standards pertain to:

- A. Acquisition of equipment;
- B. Acquisition of computer software and systems;
- C. Development of computer systems and computer programs;
- D. Computer operations; ~~and~~
- D-1. Information security and cybersecurity policies, procedures and related operations; and
- E. Any other standards determined necessary by the Chief Information Officer ~~and the board~~.

Sec. 12. 5 MRSA §1975, as amended by PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. SS, §15, is further amended to read:

§1975. Noncompliance

The purchase of data processing equipment, software or services or internal systems development efforts may not be made except in accordance with this chapter. An agency may not purchase any data processing equipment, software or services without the prior written approval of the commissioner or the Chief Information Officer or the Chief Information Officer's designee. The State Controller may not authorize payment for data processing equipment, software or services without evidence of prior approval of the purchases by the commissioner or the Chief Information Officer or the Chief Information Officer's designee.

1. Noncompliance defined. A state agency is in noncompliance with this chapter if the agency:

- A. Purchases data processing equipment, software or services in noncompliance with this chapter; or
- B. Fails to adhere to the data processing standards established by the commissioner and the Chief Information Officer or the Chief Information Officer's designee.

2. Penalty. Any state agency found to be in noncompliance as defined in this section is prohibited from acquiring or purchasing data processing equipment, software and services until the commissioner or the Chief Information Officer determines that the state agency is in compliance with this chapter.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the commissioner or the Chief Information Officer may act to acquire or purchase data processing equipment, software and services to maintain or meet the emergency needs of a state agency.

3. Cybersecurity services. Notwithstanding the requirements of sections 1553 and 1825-B, or any other statutory or regulatory provisions to the contrary, the Chief Information Officer, after reasonable investigation, may procure cybersecurity services on a retainer basis when determined necessary to ensure the State is prepared to detect, prevent and respond to cyberattacks.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 699

H.P. 1431 - L.D. 2116

An Act to Extend the Sunset Date of the Affordable Housing Income Tax Credit

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

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §5219-WW, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 555, §6, is amended to read:

3. Maximum credit; carry-forward. The total credit amount available pursuant to this section and section 2534 to be allocated by the authority for each calendar year beginning on or after January 1, 2021 and ending on or before December 31, ~~2028~~ 2036 is subject to the following limitations.

- A. The total allocation may not exceed \$10,000,000. Any portion of that amount not allocated in a calendar year may be carried forward and available to be allocated in subsequent calendar years, except that:

- (1) Any previously allocated credits returned to the authority, excluding any credits recaptured under subsection 7, must be added to that amount; and

- (2) The authority may not allocate more than \$15,000,000 in any calendar year.

B. No more than 20% of credits allocated in any calendar year may be allocated under subsection 2, paragraph B.

C. Ten percent of credits first available to be allocated in any calendar year must be set aside to be allocated for the purpose of qualified rural development preservation projects pursuant to subsection 2, paragraph B. Any portion of the amount under this paragraph not allocated in a calendar year must be carried forward and be available to be allocated in subsequent calendar years for the purpose of qualified rural development preservation projects. To the extent that any amounts set aside under this paragraph are not allocated on or before December 31, ~~2028~~ 2036, those amounts may be allocated by the authority without regard to whether the project is a qualified rural development preservation project.

D. Only those credits that have been carried forward or returned, excluding any credits recaptured under subsection 7, as described in this subsection may be allocated by the authority after December 31, ~~2028~~ 2036.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 700

S.P. 813 - L.D. 2127

An Act to Increase the Cap on Bonds Issued by the Maine State Housing Authority to Reflect Current Housing Production Needs in the State

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4907, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2023, c. 559, §1, is further amended to read:

1. Limitations on amount of outstanding principal. The Maine State Housing Authority may not at any time have an aggregate principal amount outstanding, in excess of ~~\$3,000,000,000~~ \$4,000,000,000 of mortgage purchase bonds secured by the Housing Reserve Fund or a Capital Reserve Fund to which section 4906, subsection 3, paragraph A applies. Mortgage purchase bonds of the Maine State Housing Authority secured by capital reserve funds to which section 4906,

subsection 3, paragraph A does not apply, bond or mortgage insurance, direct or indirect contract with the United States, purchase or repurchase agreement of guaranty with a banking or other financial organization or other credit arrangements securing the bonds may be issued up to \$100,000,000 per calendar year in an aggregate principal amount outstanding at any time not to exceed \$300,000,000.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 701

S.P. 835 - L.D. 2136

An Act to Support Victims of Trafficking in Maine in Response to Federal Funding Cuts

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

Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services to provide funding to support Preble Street anti-trafficking program. The Department of Health and Human Services, notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1825-B, shall provide funds to support the Preble Street anti-trafficking program.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Purchased Social Services 0228

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for anti-trafficking services.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$317,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$317,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 702

S.P. 864 - L.D. 2146

An Act to Increase Access to Critical Vaccinations

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1066, sub-§3, ¶E, as amended by PL 2025, c. 440, §11 and affected by §17, is further amended to read:

E. By January 1, 2011 and annually thereafter, the board shall determine the list of vaccines to be

made available by the program during the succeeding program year beginning July 1st. In making its determination, the board shall consider:

- (1) Vaccines that are available under contract with the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, by direct manufacturer purchase, through the Minnesota Multistate Contracting Alliance for Pharmacy or a its successor organization or by any other low-cost bulk purchase option;
- (2) Recommendations of the department; ~~and~~
- (3) Clinical and cost-benefit analyses; ~~and~~
- (4) Recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians or the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists or their successor organizations as long as any recommendation preserves and strengthens access to vaccines as part of the routine standard of care; is based on evidence from scientific and public health experts; and is not intended to weaken or replace evidence-based immunization standards of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices or its successor organization.

The board shall review new vaccines and update the list of vaccines to be made available through the program on a timely basis in accordance with the considerations described in this paragraph.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §1066, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Additional funding request. Notwithstanding subsection 5, the board may request funding from the State to cover the cost of vaccines for children who qualify for vaccines under the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Vaccines for Children Program for those vaccines that are recommended by the department or the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians or the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists or their successor organizations in accordance with subsection 3, paragraph E. Any funding request made by the board under this subsection is subject to legislative approval in the biennial budget process. The board shall submit the funding request to the State Budget Officer in accordance with the provisions of law that apply to departments of State Government and Title 5, section 1665. At the same time that the funding request is submitted to the State Budget Officer, the board shall also notify the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters of the amount of the funding request.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §1066, sub-§5, ¶G, as amended by PL 2025, c. 440, §12 and affected by §17, is further amended to read:

G. If the assessments under this subsection are insufficient to cover the cost of vaccines to be provided to individuals covered by assessed entities, the State is not required to cover the cost of vaccines for those individuals, except as otherwise provided in subsection 4-A.

Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §13831, sub-§8 is enacted to read:

8. Immunity from liability. A pharmacist licensed in this State who meets the qualifications and requirements of section 13832 and rules adopted by the board is not liable in any civil action alleging negligence for the act of administering a vaccine that is outside the guidelines recommended by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, or its successor organization, as long as the administration of the vaccine is in accordance with guidelines recommended by the State or the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians or the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists or their successor organizations.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 703

H.P. 1497 - L.D. 2220

An Act to Establish the Maine Home Energy Navigator and Coaching Resource Hub

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §10314 is enacted to read:

§10314. Maine Home Energy Navigator and Coaching Resource Hub

The Maine Home Energy Navigator and Coaching Resource Hub, referred to in this section as "the resource hub," is established within the department to promote community-based energy coaching services to residential consumers that provide guidance, particularly to those in low-income, rural and underserved communities, to understand and navigate energy efficiency and clean energy investment options to affordably meet their home energy needs. Through the resource hub, the department shall make available standardized training curricula and program materials that may be used by communities to implement their own energy coaching programs. The department, as funding allows, shall administer the resource hub.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ENERGY RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF

Department of Energy Resources Z424

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the development and maintenance of standardized training curriculum and program materials for the Maine Home Energy Navigator and Coaching Resource Hub.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$100,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$100,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 704

H.P. 1505 - L.D. 2228

An Act to Eliminate Inactive Boards and Commissions

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-G, sub-§10-E, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 593, §1, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §12004-G, sub-§29-D, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 366, §1, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§74-H, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 316, §1 and affected by §5, is repealed.

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA c. 437, headnote is amended to read:

CHAPTER 437

~~STATE EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES TASK FORCE~~ EDUCATIONAL OUTCOME DATABASE

Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §12901, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 593, §2, is repealed.

Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §12902, first ¶, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 243, §1, is amended to read:

No later than January 1, 2022, and biennially thereafter, the Department of Labor, in consultation with the Department of Education ~~and the task force~~, shall update the educational outcome database. For the purposes of this section, "educational outcome database" means the Department of Labor's educational outcome database, which includes but is not limited to information and data on education results, program completion, graduation, credentials earned and employment and earnings outcomes for graduates of postsecondary educational institutions in the State over time.

Sec. 7. 32 MRSA §7352, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 316, §3 and affected by §5, is repealed.

Sec. 8. 32 MRSA §7353, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 316, §3 and affected by §5, is repealed.

Sec. 9. 32 MRSA c. 86, sub-c. 3, as amended, is repealed.

Sec. 10. 32 MRSA §8103, sub-§1-A, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 366, §9, is repealed.

Sec. 11. 32 MRSA §8103-A, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 366, §16, is repealed.

Sec. 12. 32 MRSA §8116, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2011, c. 366, §49, is further amended to read:

3. Rules. The chief ~~with the advice of the board~~ may adopt rules necessary to administer this chapter, including, but not limited to, rules regarding standards of acceptable professional conduct and training requirements for and sponsorship of investigative assistants. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 13. 32 MRSA §8124, first ¶, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 295, §1, is amended to read:

The home address and home telephone number of a professional investigator or investigative assistant obtained by the State under this chapter are confidential and may not be disclosed ~~by the board~~ except by written consent of the subject of the information, by court order, for criminal justice purposes or for permitting purposes by law enforcement agencies or permitting authorities.

Sec. 14. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

LEGISLATURE

Legislature 0081

Initiative: Deappropriates the Legislature's funding for the eliminated State Education and Employment Outcomes Task Force.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$880)
All Other	\$0	(\$1,620)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$2,500)

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 705

S.P. 344 - L.D. 785

An Act to Amend Certain Tax Laws Regarding the Wabanaki Nations

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

PART A

Sec. A-1. 3 MRSA §1, 2nd ¶, as amended by PL 2009, c. 636, Pt. A, §1, is further amended to read:

The Tribal Clerk of the Penobscot Indian Nation shall, on or before the day preceding the meeting of the Legislature, furnish to the Clerk of the preceding House of Representatives a certification, under the seal of the Nation, of the name and residence of the Representative-elect of the Penobscot Indian Nation to the Legislature. The Tribal Clerk of the Passamaquoddy Tribe of the reservation from which the Representative-elect of that tribe has been chosen shall, on or before the day preceding the meeting of the Legislature, furnish the Clerk of the preceding House of Representatives a certification of the name and residence of the Representative-elect of the Passamaquoddy Tribe to the Legislature. Beginning with the 126th Legislature, the Tribal Clerk of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians shall, on or before the day preceding the meeting of the Legislature, furnish to the Clerk of the preceding House of Representatives a certification of the name and residence of the Representative-elect of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians to the Legislature. Beginning with the 133rd Legislature, the Tribal Clerk of the Mi'kmaq Nation shall, on or before the day preceding the meeting of the Legislature, furnish to the Clerk of the preceding House of Representatives a certification, under the seal of the Nation, of the name and residence of the Representative-elect of the Mi'kmaq Nation to the Legislature.

Sec. A-2. 3 MRSA §2, 9th ¶, as amended by PL 2023, c. 2, §4, is further amended to read:

The member of the Penobscot Indian Nation, the member of the Passamaquoddy Indian Tribe ~~and, beginning with the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature,~~ the member of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians ~~and, beginning with the First Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature,~~ the member of the Mi'kmaq Nation elected to represent their tribes at the Legislature are entitled to receive a salary equal to the salary of members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, including a cost-of-living adjustment, for each regular session and an allowance for constituent service and allowances for travel-related expenses, which are housing, meals, mileage and tolls, to the same extent as members of the House of Representatives for attendance at each legislative session or authorized committee meeting. For the duration of any special session of the

Legislature, they are entitled to receive the same per diem payment and allowances, including travel-related expenses, which are housing, meals, mileage and tolls, as any member of the Senate and House of Representatives.

PART B

Sec. B-1. 36 MRSA §5102, sub-§5-B is enacted to read:

5-B. Tribal member compensation. "Tribal member compensation" means compensation received by an individual who is a tribal member, and by an estate of a decedent who at the time of death was a tribal member, for personal services performed as an employee of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians or the Mi'kmaq Nation. For purposes of this subsection, "compensation" means all taxable remuneration and benefits for services performed by the individual as an employee of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians or the Mi'kmaq Nation, including the cash value of any taxable remuneration and benefits paid in any medium other than cash.

Sec. B-2. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§2, ¶BBB is enacted to read:

BBB. To the extent included in federal adjusted gross income and to the extent otherwise subject to Maine income tax, an amount equal to tribal member compensation, notwithstanding where the tribal member resides.

Sec. B-3. Application. This Part applies to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2027.

PART C

Sec. C-1. 36 MRSA §1760, sub-§113, as amended by PL 2025, c. 271, Pt. B, §2 and affected by §5, is further amended to read:

113. Tribal members. Sales of new manufactured housing for installation on tribal land and sales to a tribal member that are sales sourced to tribal land, except that, if the property or service is used by the purchaser, including any lessee, primarily outside of tribal land, the purchaser is liable for use tax based on the original sale price, unless otherwise exempt under this Part.

For purposes of this subsection:

A. "Primarily" means more than 50% of that period of time that begins on the date on which the property or service is first placed in service by the purchaser and ends one year from that date or at the time that the property or service is sold, scrapped, destroyed or otherwise permanently removed from service, whichever occurs first; ~~and~~

B. "Sales sourced to tribal land" means sales sourced pursuant to section 1819 to a location on tribal land. ~~In addition, sales of motor vehicles other than those that are being leased for a period of less than one year to a tribal member are sales sourced to tribal land if the vehicle is intended to be driven or transported to tribal land immediately upon receipt of the vehicle, as well as:~~

(1) Sales of motor vehicles other than those that are being leased for a period of less than one year to a tribal member, if the vehicle is intended to be driven or transported to tribal land immediately upon receipt of the vehicle; and

(2) Sales of new manufactured housing to a tribal member, if the new manufactured housing is intended to be installed on tribal land immediately upon receipt or delivery; and

C. "Sales of new manufactured housing for installation on tribal land" means sales to a construction contractor or subcontractor of new manufactured housing that is intended to be physically incorporated in, and become a permanent part of real property located on, tribal land for sale to a tribal member or to the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians or the Mi'kmaq Nation.

Sec. C-2. Application. This Part applies to sales occurring on or after January 1, 2027.

PART D

Sec. D-1. 36 MRSA §1760, sub-§114, as amended by PL 2025, c. 271, Pt. B, §3 and affected by §5, is further amended to read:

114. Tribal entities. Sales to a tribal entity that are sales sourced to tribal land, except that, if the property or service is used by the purchaser, including any lessee, primarily outside of tribal land, the purchaser is liable for use tax based on the original sale price, unless otherwise exempt under this Part.

For purposes of this subsection:

A. "Primarily" means more than 50% of that period of time that begins on the date on which the property or service is first placed in service by the purchaser and ends one year from that date or at the time that the property or service is sold, scrapped, destroyed or otherwise permanently removed from service, whichever occurs first; ~~and~~

B. "Sales sourced to tribal land" means sales sourced pursuant to section 1819 to a location on tribal land or to a location on specific tribally owned fee land identified in rules adopted pursuant to paragraph C. In addition, sales of motor vehicles other than those that are being leased for a period of less than one year to a tribal entity are sales

sourced to tribal land if the vehicle is intended to be driven or transported to tribal land immediately upon receipt of the vehicle; and

C. The bureau shall, by rule, identify the tribally owned fee lands eligible for the sales tax exemption set forth in this subsection and the sales tax transfer in section 1815 in accordance with the following requirements.

(1) The Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and the Mi'kmaq Nation, referred to in this paragraph as "Wabanaki Nation," may each file a written request with the bureau by August 1st of each year that the sales tax exemption in this subsection and the sales tax transfer in section 1815 apply, effective January 1st of the following year, at any one time to no more than one parcel of land or 2 abutting parcels of land that are jointly used to operate a business. To qualify for the exemption, the parcel or parcels of land must be:

(a) Owned in fee by the requesting Wabanaki Nation or a tribal entity owned by the requesting Wabanaki Nation, a tribal member or members of the requesting Wabanaki Nation or some combination thereof;

(b) Used by the requesting Wabanaki Nation or tribal entity to operate a business; and

(c) Located within Aroostook County, Hancock County, Franklin County, Penobscot County, Piscataquis County, Somerset County, Oxford County or Washington County.

(2) If a parcel or parcels of land identified by rule as eligible for the sales tax exemption set forth in this subsection and the sales tax transfer in section 1815 cease to meet the requirements of subparagraph (1) or if a Wabanaki Nation elects to change that Wabanaki Nation's parcel or parcels of land identified to the bureau for purposes of this subsection and section 1815, the requesting Wabanaki Nation shall notify the bureau and may submit a new request under subparagraph (1) that the sales tax exemption set forth in this subsection and the sales tax transfer in section 1815 apply to a different parcel or parcels of land.

(3) If the parcel or parcels of land that a Wabanaki Nation requests to be subject to the sales tax exemption in this subsection and the sales tax transfer in section 1815 meet the requirements of subparagraph (1), the bureau shall adopt rules identifying the parcel or parcels of land as tribally owned fee lands eligible

for the sales tax exemption set forth in this subsection and the sales tax transfer in section 1815.

Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. D-2. 36 MRSA §1815, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2025, c. 470, Pt. D, §3 and affected by §6, is further amended to read:

2. Monthly transfer. By the 20th day of each month, the assessor shall notify the State Controller and the Treasurer of State of the amount of revenue attributable to the tax collected under this chapter in the previous month on sales occurring on the Passamaquoddy Indian territory, the Penobscot Indian territory, the Houlton Band Trust Land and the Mi'kmaq Nation Trust Land, respectively, reduced by the transfer to the Local Government Fund required by Title 30-A, section 5681. When notified by the assessor, the State Controller shall transfer those amounts to the Passamaquoddy fund, the Penobscot fund, the Maliseet fund and the Mi'kmaq fund, respectively.

For purposes of this subsection, a sale occurs on the Passamaquoddy Indian territory, the Penobscot Indian territory, the Houlton Band Trust Land or the Mi'kmaq Nation Trust Land if:

A. The business location of the seller from which the purchase is made is on Passamaquoddy Indian territory, Penobscot Indian territory, Houlton Band Trust Land or Mi'kmaq Nation Trust Land, respectively, or on the Passamaquoddy Tribe's, the Penobscot Nation's, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indian's or the Mi'kmaq Nation's respective tribally owned fee land identified in rules adopted pursuant to section 1760, subsection 114, paragraph C; and

B. The tangible personal property or taxable service is received by the purchaser also on Passamaquoddy Indian territory, Penobscot Indian territory, Houlton Band Trust Land or Mi'kmaq Nation Trust Land, respectively, or on the Passamaquoddy Tribe's, the Penobscot Nation's, the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indian's or the Mi'kmaq Nation's respective tribally owned fee land identified in rules adopted pursuant to section 1760, subsection 114, paragraph C. For purposes of this paragraph, "received" has the same meaning as in section 1819.

PART E

Sec. E-1. 36 MRSA §651, sub-§1, ¶F, as corrected by RR 2013, c. 1, §51, is amended to read:

F. All airports and landing fields and the structures erected thereon or contained therein of public municipal corporations whether located within or without the limits of such public municipal corporations. Any structures or land contained within such airport not used for airport or aeronautical

purposes ~~shall~~ may not be entitled to this exemption. Any public municipal corporation ~~which that~~ is required to pay taxes to another such corporation under this paragraph with respect to any airport or landing field ~~shall must~~ be reimbursed by the county wherein the airport is situated; ~~and~~

Sec. E-2. 36 MRSA §651, sub-§1, ¶G, as enacted by PL 1967, c. 115, is amended to read:

G. The pipes, fixtures, conduits, buildings, pumping stations and other facilities of a public municipal corporation used for sewage disposal, if located outside the limits of such public municipal corporation; and

Sec. E-3. 36 MRSA §651, sub-§1, ¶H is enacted to read:

H. For property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2027, the property of a federally recognized Indian tribe in the State if the property is used for governmental or public purposes; the property is located within 50 miles of the federally recognized Indian tribe's tribal land; and there is a pending application to have the United States Secretary of the Interior acquire the property in trust for the benefit of the federally recognized Indian tribe pursuant to the federal Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980, Public Law 96-420, federal Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Supplementary Claims Settlement Act of 1986, Public Law 99-566 or the federal Aroostook Band of Micmacs Settlement Act, Public Law 102-171.

PART F

Sec. F-1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Revenue Services, Bureau of 0002

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for administrative expenses, including the costs of adding a new line to the Municipal Valuation Return and associated programming and testing.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$88,460
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$88,460

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$88,460
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$88,460

LEGISLATURE

Legislature 0081

Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for the costs of an additional Legislator.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$43,611
All Other	\$0	\$60,376
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$103,987

Legislature 0081

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the costs of adding a new Legislator.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$80,047
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$80,047

LEGISLATURE DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$184,034
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$184,034

SECTION TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$272,494
SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$272,494

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 706

H.P. 1433 - L.D. 2118

An Act to Eliminate the Natural Areas Program and Reassign Certain Responsibilities Under the Program to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and to Amend the Law Governing Administration of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Bureau of Resource Management

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §541-A, as amended by PL 2021, c. 398, Pt. YYY, §1, is further amended to read:

§541-A. Division of Geology, Natural Areas and Coastal Resources

The Division of Geology, Natural Areas and Coastal Resources is established within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and is administered by the commissioner. The division consists of the Maine Geological Survey, referred to in this chapter as "the 'survey,' and the Natural Areas Program."

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §544, as amended by PL 2011, c. 655, Pt. II, §3 and affected by §11 and amended by c. 657, Pt. W, §§5 and 6, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §544-B, as amended by PL 2007, c. 395, §§10 and 11, is repealed.

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §544-C, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 556, §13, is repealed.

Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §10001, sub-§19, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

19. Endangered fish or wildlife species. "Endangered fish or wildlife species" means a species of fish or wildlife that has been determined by the commissioner to be in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range and that is listed as a state endangered species under section 12803, subsection 3.

Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §10001, sub-§35-A is enacted to read:

35-A. Invasive species. "Invasive species" means a nonnative fish, wildlife or plant species that causes economic or environmental harm by developing self-sustaining populations that become dominant or disruptive to native species or natural habitats.

Sec. 7. 12 MRSA §10001, sub-§42-D is enacted to read:

42-D. Natural area. "Natural area" means an area of land or water, or both land and water, whether publicly or privately owned, that retains or has reestablished its natural character, though it need not be completely natural and undisturbed, and that supports, harbors or otherwise contains endangered, threatened or rare plants, animals and ecosystems or associated habitats of scientific and ecological value.

Sec. 8. 12 MRSA §10001, sub-§52-A is enacted to read:

52-A. Rare plant. "Rare plant" means a species of native plant listed as endangered, threatened or considered vulnerable in the State due to factors such as endemism, scarcity, special habitat, range limits or population decline.

Sec. 9. 12 MRSA §10001, sub-§58-A, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 65, §1, is amended to read:

58-A. Species of special concern. "Species of special concern" means a species of fish or wildlife that is not an endangered fish or wildlife species or a threatened fish or wildlife species but meets criteria for being

of special concern as established by the commissioner by rule under section 10105, subsection 19.

Sec. 10. 12 MRSA §10001, sub-§62, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

62. Threatened fish or wildlife species. "Threatened fish or wildlife species" means a species of fish or wildlife that has been determined by the commissioner as likely to become an endangered fish or wildlife species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range and that is listed as a state threatened species under section 12803, subsection 3.

Sec. 11. 12 MRSA §10053, as amended by PL 2017, c. 205, §§2 to 4, is further amended to read:

§10053. Bureau of Resource Management

The Bureau of Resource Management is established within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The bureau is equal in organizational level and status with other major organizational units within the department or its successors. The bureau is administered by a director of wildlife and a director of fisheries and hatcheries who ~~is~~ are immediately responsible to the deputy commissioner. The ~~director possesses~~ directors possess full authority and responsibility for administering all the powers and duties of the bureau within their respective divisions, subject to the direction of the commissioner and except as otherwise provided by statute. The responsibilities of the bureau include, but are not limited to:

1. Wildlife conservation and management. The conservation and management of the wildlife resources in the State for their preservation, protection, enhancement and use;

2. Fisheries conservation and management. The conservation and management of the inland fisheries resources in the public waters of the State for their preservation, protection, enhancement and use;

3. Propagation of fish. The propagation of fish for the effective conservation and management of inland fisheries resources in public waters of the State;

4. Habitat conservation and management. The conservation and management of habitat for the protection, preservation, enhancement and use of inland fisheries and wildlife resources, plants and natural areas;

5. Wildlife sanctuaries; wildlife management areas. The management of wildlife sanctuaries and wildlife management areas for the State as designated in chapter 925;

6. Data collection. The collection of data for the effective conservation and management of inland fisheries and wildlife resources, plants and natural areas;

7. Research and monitoring. Research and monitoring activities for the effective conservation and management of inland fisheries and wildlife resources, plants and natural areas;

8. Animal damage control. The coordination of animal damage control functions throughout the State, including supplemental assistance for the control of coyotes and other nuisance wildlife that exceeds normal funding and staffing levels within the department;

9. Rules. The development of rules governing the effective conservation and management of the inland fisheries and wildlife resources of the State;

10. Land acquisition. The acquisition and development of land for the protection, preservation and enhancement of inland fisheries and wildlife resources, plants and natural areas; and

11. Resource planning. The coordination with other resource management staff to develop both short-term and long-term plans for the preservation, protection, enhancement and use of inland fisheries and wildlife resources, plants and natural areas. The bureau shall undertake activities as directed by the commissioner; and

12. Invasive species management. The management of invasive species for the protection of inland fisheries and wildlife resources, plants and natural areas.

Sec. 12. 12 MRSA §10105, sub-§19, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 65, §2, is amended to read:

19. Species Fish or wildlife species of special concern. The commissioner by rule shall establish criteria for determining when a species of fish or wildlife that is not an endangered fish or wildlife species or a threatened fish or wildlife species is of special concern. The rules may include different criteria for categories of species of special concern, including a category for species that are rare. The rules must list the species that meet the criteria established in rule. The commissioner shall use the list in administering section 12152 and may also use the list in administering any other laws or programs or when providing advisory recommendations to other entities or agencies on fish and wildlife matters in accordance with applicable laws or rules.

Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 13. 12 MRSA §10108, sub-§11, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §30 and affected by §422, is amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) An agent may use snares only for animal damage control purposes to help meet management goals established by the commis-

sioner for deer, threatened fish or wildlife species or endangered fish or wildlife species or other wildlife species or to benefit agricultural interests as described in paragraph C.

Sec. 14. 12 MRSA §10108, sub-§11, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §30 and affected by §422, is amended by amending the 2nd blocked paragraph to read:

The commissioner shall adopt policies and procedures on the use of snares as necessary to minimize the potential for taking nontarget species and to adequately protect threatened fish or wildlife species and endangered fish or wildlife species.

Sec. 15. 12 MRSA §10269 is enacted to read:

§10269. Natural Areas Conservation Fund

1. Fund established. The Natural Areas Conservation Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a nonlapsing separate account to be administered by the commissioner to fund investigation, conservation and management of native plants and natural areas as described in this chapter and for administrative and personnel costs for the purposes of this section.

2. Funding. Income from gifts, bequests, devises, grants, fees and other sources may be deposited in the fund.

3. Use of fund. The commissioner may make grants from the fund to any person, organization, state agency or other entity to undertake inventory of and research about native plants and natural areas.

Funds in the fund, including earnings, may not be deposited in the General Fund or any other fund except as provided by law.

Sec. 16. 12 MRSA §10301, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9 and amended by PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §6, is repealed.

Sec. 17. 12 MRSA §10307, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

3. Endangered fish or wildlife species and threatened fish or wildlife species. Fifteen percent of the money in the fund for endangered fish or wildlife species and threatened fish or wildlife species conservation projects; and

Sec. 18. 12 MRSA §10308, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9 and amended by PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §6, is further amended to read:

1. Members. The board consists of 7 members. The commissioner, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the ~~Coordinator of the Natural Areas Program~~ Commissioner of Marine Resources are permanent members and their designees

may represent them at board meetings. The Governor shall appoint the remaining 4 citizen members subject to the review of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources matters and confirmation by the Senate. One of these members must be a representative of a state ~~sportsmen's~~ organization of persons who hunt, fish or trap, one must be a representative of a state wildlife conservation organization and one must work in a field related to natural resources.

Sec. 19. 12 MRSA §10309, sub-§2, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

C. Habitat of a threatened fish or wildlife species or endangered fish or wildlife species listed under state or federal law;

Sec. 20. 12 MRSA §10309, sub-§2, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

D. Rare or exemplary natural communities or ecosystems as determined by the ~~State's Natural Areas Program database department~~;

Sec. 21. 12 MRSA §10309, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

3. Conservation of endangered fish or wildlife species and threatened fish or wildlife species and their habitats. For the category of conservation of endangered fish or wildlife species and threatened fish or wildlife species and their habitats:

- A. A species or species group listed as endangered or threatened under state or federal law;
- B. The habitat of one or more species or groups under paragraph A;
- C. A species or species group not listed as threatened or endangered but, based on the best available scientific information, potentially warranting listing in the near future;
- D. A species, group of species, natural community or ecosystem that has been documented as being in decline or recognized as being at risk of extirpation from the State;
- E. Any species, group of species, natural community or ecosystem thought in the best professional judgment of biologists to be in decline or in danger of extirpation from the State but whose status is undetermined; and
- F. Available matching funds; and

Sec. 22. 12 MRSA c. 925, headnote is amended to read:

CHAPTER 925

FISH AND WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AREAS MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH

Sec. 23. 12 MRSA c. 925, sub-c. 3, headnote is amended to read:

SUBCHAPTER 3

ENDANGERED FISH AND WILDLIFE SPECIES; MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH

Sec. 24. 12 MRSA §12803, as amended by PL 2023, c. 60, §§1 to 19, is further amended to read:

§12803. Designation of endangered fish or wildlife species

1. Standards. The commissioner shall recommend a species of fish or wildlife to be listed as endangered or threatened whenever the commissioner finds one of the following to exist:

- A. The present or threatened destruction, modification or curtailment of its habitat or range;
- B. Overutilization for commercial, sporting, scientific, educational or other purposes;
- C. Disease or predation;
- D. Inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or
- E. Other natural or human-made factors affecting its continued existence within the State.

2. Commissioner's duties. In recommending a species of fish or wildlife to be listed as endangered or threatened, the commissioner shall:

- A. Make use of the best scientific, commercial and other data available;
- B. Consult, as appropriate, with federal agencies, other interested state agencies, other states having a common interest in the species of fish or wildlife and interested persons and organizations;
- C. Maintain a list of all species of fish or wildlife that the Legislature has designated to be endangered or threatened, naming each species by both its scientific and common name, if any, and specifying over what portion of its range each species so designated is endangered or threatened; and
- D. Report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters no less frequently than every 4 years on any recommendations, status updates or changes to the list of fish or wildlife species designated as endangered or threatened.

3. Legislative authority. The Legislature, as sole authority, shall designate a species of fish or wildlife as a state endangered or state threatened species. The list of state endangered or state threatened species of fish or wildlife by common name, scientific name and status is as follows:

- A. Least tern, *Sterna antillarum*, endangered;
- B. Golden eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos*, endangered;
- C. Piping plover, *Charadrius melodus*, endangered;
- D. Sedge wren, *Cistothorus stellaris*, endangered;
- E. Grasshopper sparrow, *Ammodramus savannarum*, endangered;
- G. Black racer, *Coluber constrictor*, endangered;
- H. Roseate tern, *Sterna dougallii*, endangered;
- I. Northern bog lemming, *Synaptomys borealis*, threatened;
- J. Blanding's turtle, *Emydoidea blandingii*, endangered;
- K. Black tern, *Chlidonias niger*, endangered;
- L. American pipit, *Anthus rubescens* (breeding population only), endangered;
- M. Peregrine falcon, *Falco peregrinus* (breeding population only), endangered;
- N. Roaring Brook mayfly, *Epeorus frisoni*, threatened;
- O. Ringed boghaunter, *Williamsonia lintneri*, threatened;
- P. Clayton's copper, *Tharsalea dorcas claytoni*, threatened;
- Q. Edwards' hairstreak, *Satyrium edwardsii*, endangered;
- R. Hessel's hairstreak, *Callophrys hesseli*, endangered;
- S. Katahdin arctic, *Oeneis polixenes katahdin*, endangered;
- T. Spotted turtle, *Clemmys guttata*, threatened;
- V. Razorbill, *Alca torda*, threatened;
- W. Atlantic puffin, *Fratercula arctica*, threatened;
- X. Harlequin duck, *Histrionicus histrionicus*, threatened;
- Y. Arctic tern, *Sterna paradisaea*, threatened;
- Z. Upland sandpiper, *Bartramia longicauda*, threatened;
- AA. Swamp darter, *Etheostoma fusiforme*, threatened;
- BB. Tidewater mucket, *Atlanticoncha ochracea*, threatened;
- CC. Yellow lampmussel, *Lampsilis cariosa*, threatened;
- DD. Tomah mayfly, *Siphonisca aerodromia*, threatened;
- FF. Twilight moth, *Lycia rachelae*, threatened;
- GG. Pine barrens zanclognatha, *Zanclognatha martha*, threatened;
- HH. Redfin pickerel, *Esox americanus americanus*, endangered;
- II. Juniper hairstreak, *Callophrys gryneus*, endangered;
- KK. New England cottontail, *Sylvilagus transitionalis*, endangered;
- LL. Black-crowned night heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, endangered;
- MM. Common gallinule, *Gallinula galeata*, threatened;
- NN. Great cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo* (breeding population only), threatened;
- OO. Short-eared owl, *Asio flammeus* (breeding population only), threatened;
- PP. Arctic fritillary, *Boloria chariclea grandis*, threatened;
- QQ. Sleepy duskywing, *Erynnis brizo*, threatened;
- RR. Boreal snaketail, *Ophiogomphus colubrinus*, threatened;
- SS. Brook floater, *Alasmodonta varicosa*, threatened;
- TT. Barrow's goldeneye, *Bucephala islandica*, threatened;
- UU. Least bittern, *Ixobrychus exilis*, endangered;
- VV. Cobblestone tiger beetle, *Cicindela marginipennis*, endangered;
- WW. Frigga fritillary, *Boloria frigga saga*, endangered;
- XX. Little brown bat, *Myotis lucifugus*, endangered;
- YY. Northern long-eared bat, *Myotis septentrionalis*, endangered;
- ZZ. Eastern small-footed bat, *Myotis leibii*, threatened;
- AAA. Six-whorl vertigo, *Vertigo morsei*, endangered;
- BBB. Ashton's cuckoo bumble bee, *Bombus ash-toni*, endangered;
- CCC. Bank swallow, *Riparia riparia*, threatened;
- DDD. Bicknell's thrush, *Catharus bicknelli*, threatened;
- EEE. Blackpoll warbler, *Setophaga striata*, threatened;

FFF. Cliff swallow, *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*, threatened;

GGG. Margined tiger beetle, *Ellipsoptera marginata*, threatened;

HHH. Saltmarsh sparrow, *Ammodramus caudatus*, endangered; and

III. Tricolored bat, *Perimyotis subflavus*, threatened.

4. Process for recommendation; notice and hearings. Prior to recommending an addition, deletion or other change to the endangered and threatened species listed in subsection 3, the commissioner shall provide for public notice and at least one public hearing on that proposed recommendation in accordance with the provisions of Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2.

5. Designation by Legislature. The Legislature may not amend the list of endangered or threatened species in subsection 3 except upon the recommendation of the commissioner.

Sec. 25. 12 MRSA §12804, as amended by PL 2025, c. 333, §14, is further amended to read:

§12804. Conservation of threatened fish or wildlife species and endangered fish or wildlife species

1. Conservation of threatened fish or wildlife species and endangered fish or wildlife species. The commissioner may establish such programs as are necessary to bring any endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species to the point where it is no longer endangered or threatened, including:

A. Acquisition of land or aquatic habitat or interests in land or aquatic habitat;

B. Propagation;

C. Live trapping;

D. Transplantation. Prior to the transplantation, introduction or reintroduction of an endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species in the State, the commissioner shall, in conjunction with the Department of Marine Resources, when appropriate, develop a recovery plan for that species, conduct a public hearing on that recovery plan pursuant to Title 5, Part 18 and submit that plan to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters. The introduction or reintroduction of that species must be conducted in accordance with the recovery plan developed under this paragraph and may not begin sooner than 90 days after all conditions of this paragraph have been met; and

E. In the extraordinary case where population pressures for a given species cannot be otherwise relieved, regulated taking.

2. Habitat. For species of fish or wildlife designated as endangered or threatened under this subchapter the commissioner may by rule identify areas currently or historically providing physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species and that may require special management considerations. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

3. Protection guidelines. The commissioner may by rule develop guidelines for the protection of species of fish or wildlife designated as endangered or threatened under this subchapter. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

5. Confidential information. Specific information concerning the location of a threatened ~~or fish~~ or wildlife species, endangered fish or wildlife species or species of special concern is confidential if, in the judgment of the commissioner, disclosure of that information would threaten the continued existence of the threatened ~~or fish or wildlife species~~, endangered fish or wildlife species or species of special concern. If the commissioner determines that information is confidential under this subsection, the commissioner may not disclose the information except to the landowner whose property is the location of the threatened ~~or fish or wildlife species~~, endangered fish or wildlife species or species of special concern.

Sec. 26. 12 MRSA §12805, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. D, §7 and c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

§12805. Cooperative agreements

The commissioner may enter into agreements with federal agencies, other states, political subdivisions of this State or private persons for the establishment and maintenance of programs for the conservation of endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species and may receive all federal funds allocated for obligations to the State pursuant to these agreements.

Sec. 27. 12 MRSA §12806, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

A. Significantly alter the habitat identified under section 12804, subsection 2 of any species of fish or wildlife designated as threatened or endangered under this subchapter; or

Sec. 28. 12 MRSA §12806, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

A. The commissioner certifies that the proposed action would not pose a significant risk to any population of endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species within the State; and

Sec. 29. 12 MRSA §12808, as amended by PL 2019, c. 267, §§1 and 2 and corrected by RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §§11 and 12, is further amended to read:

§12808. Unauthorized activities regarding endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species

For the purposes of this section and section 12808-A, "to take," "take" and "taking" mean the act or omission that results in the death of any endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species.

1. Prohibited acts regarding endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species; negligence. Except as provided in section 12808-A, a person may not negligently:

A. Import into the State or export out of the State any endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species. A person who violates this paragraph commits a Class E crime, for which a fine of \$1,000 must be adjudged, none of which may be suspended;

B. Hunt, take, trap, harass or possess any endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species within the State. A person who violates this paragraph commits a Class E crime, for which a fine of \$1,000 must be adjudged, none of which may be suspended;

C. Possess, process, sell, offer for sale, deliver, carry, transport or ship, by any means whatsoever, any endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species or any part of an endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species. A person who violates this paragraph commits a Class E crime, for which a fine of \$1,000 must be adjudged, none of which may be suspended; or

D. Feed or set bait for any endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species. A person who violates this paragraph commits a Class E crime for which a fine of \$1,000 must be adjudged, none of which may be suspended.

1-A. Prohibited acts regarding endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species; intentional. Except as provided in section 12808-A, a person may not intentionally:

A. Import into the State or export out of the State any endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species. A person who violates this paragraph commits a Class D crime, for which a fine of \$2,000 must be adjudged, none of which may be suspended;

B. Hunt, take, trap, harass or possess any endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species within the State. A person who violates this paragraph commits a Class D crime, for

which a fine of \$2,000 must be adjudged, none of which may be suspended;

C. Possess, process, sell, offer for sale, deliver, carry, transport or ship, by any means whatsoever, any endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species or any part of an endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species. A person who violates this paragraph commits a Class D crime, for which a fine of \$2,000 must be adjudged, none of which may be suspended; or

D. Feed or set bait for any endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species. A person who violates this paragraph commits a Class D crime, for which a fine of \$2,000 must be adjudged, none of which may be suspended.

Sec. 30. 12 MRSA §12808-A, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 423, §2, is amended to read:

§12808-A. Authorized activities regarding endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species

Notwithstanding section 12808 and notwithstanding section 10650 as it applies to rules adopted in accordance with this subchapter, the commissioner may authorize certain activities regarding endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species in accordance with the following.

1. Education, research, conservation and transportation. Under such terms and conditions as the commissioner prescribes, the commissioner may:

A. Authorize an act prohibited by section 12808 or by rule for educational or scientific purposes or to enhance the recovery or survival of an endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species; and

B. Authorize a person to transport without restriction but in accordance with the terms of any federal or state permit an endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species into, within or out of the State.

2. Specific activity; incidental take plan. Under such terms and conditions as the commissioner prescribes, the commissioner may authorize a person to take an endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species pursuant to an incidental take plan if:

A. The taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity;

B. The taking will not impair the recovery of any endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species; and

C. The person develops and implements an incidental take plan in accordance with subsection 5

and that plan is approved by the commissioner. The commissioner may modify or waive the requirement under this paragraph if the commissioner determines the criteria in subsection 5 are substantially addressed in another permit, license or agreement.

The commissioner shall seek input from knowledgeable individuals or groups on each proposed incidental take plan developed under this subsection.

If the person violates any of the terms or conditions of an authorization granted pursuant to this subsection, the authorization must be immediately suspended or revoked and the person is subject to the prohibitions and penalties in section 12808 for that violation.

3. Widespread activity; incidental take plan.

Under such terms and conditions as the commissioner prescribes, the commissioner may authorize the taking of an endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species pursuant to a widespread activity incidental take plan developed by the commissioner in accordance with subsection 5 if:

- A. The taking is incidental to, and not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity;
- B. The taking will not impair the recovery of any endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species; and
- C. The commissioner determines that the activity is widespread, is conducted by a reasonably identifiable group of participants and poses a manageable risk of taking an endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species.

The commissioner shall hold at least one public hearing and seek input from knowledgeable individuals or groups on each proposed incidental take plan developed under this subsection.

If a person violates any of the terms or conditions of an authorization granted pursuant to this subsection, the authorization must be immediately suspended or revoked for that person and that person is subject to the prohibitions and penalties in section 12808 for that violation.

4. Broad activity exemption. The commissioner may adopt rules to provide an exemption, under such terms and conditions as the commissioner determines necessary, for a specific activity otherwise prohibited by section 12808, if the commissioner determines the exemption:

- A. Addresses a specific activity that is widespread in its occurrence but may not have a reasonably identifiable group of participants;
- B. Poses little or no risk of taking an endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species; and

C. Will not individually or cumulatively impair the recovery of any endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species.

The commissioner shall hold at least one public hearing and seek input from knowledgeable individuals or groups on each proposed rule to provide a broad activity exemption.

Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

5. Incidental take plan criteria. The commissioner may approve or adopt an incidental take plan developed pursuant to subsection 2 or 3 that minimizes the incidental taking of an endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species and that provides the following:

- A. A description of the specific activities sought to be authorized by the incidental take plan and an analysis of potential alternatives;
- B. The individual and cumulative effects that may reasonably be anticipated to result from the proposed actions covered by the incidental take plan;
- C. The recovery measures the applicant will implement to prevent, minimize and mitigate the individual and cumulative effects and any provisions that are necessary to prevent, minimize and mitigate circumstances that are likely to impair the recovery of any endangered fish or wildlife species or threatened fish or wildlife species covered by the incidental take plan;
- D. The procedures for monitoring the effectiveness of the recovery measures in the incidental take plan;
- E. The anticipated costs of implementing the incidental take plan and the availability of necessary funding for the applicant to implement the plan; and
- F. Other modifications to the incidental take plan or additional measures, if any, that the commissioner may require and such other matters as the commissioner determines to be necessary for the recovery of species of fish or wildlife consistent with this section.

Sec. 31. 12 MRSA §12810, as amended by PL 2019, c. 267, §3, is further amended to read:

§12810. Delisted fish or wildlife species

1. Definition. For purposes of this section, "delisted fish or wildlife species" means a fish or wildlife species that was listed as a state endangered or threatened species under section 12803 and after 2007 was removed from that list by the Legislature. The following is a delisted fish or wildlife species:

- A. Bald eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*.

2. Prohibited acts regarding delisted fish or wildlife species. Except as otherwise authorized by the commissioner pursuant to this Part, a person may not intentionally:

A. Import into the State or export out of the State a delisted fish or wildlife species. A person who violates this paragraph commits a Class D crime, for which a fine of \$2,000 must be adjudged, none of which may be suspended;

B. Hunt, trap, harass or possess a delisted fish or wildlife species within the State. A person who violates this paragraph commits a Class D crime, for which a fine of \$2,000 must be adjudged, none of which may be suspended; or

C. Process, sell, offer for sale, deliver, carry, transport or ship, by any means whatsoever, a delisted fish or wildlife species or any part of a delisted fish or wildlife species. A person who violates this paragraph commits a Class D crime, for which a fine of \$2,000 must be adjudged, none of which may be suspended.

Sec. 32. 12 MRSA c. 925, sub-c. 4 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 4

NATURAL AREAS, RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT

§12821. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Endangered plant species. "Endangered plant species" means a native plant species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range within the State.

2. Threatened plant species. "Threatened plant species" means a species of native plant likely to become an endangered plant species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range in the State.

§12822. Commissioner's authority regarding conservation of natural areas

1. Inventory of natural areas. The commissioner shall conduct an ongoing statewide inventory of the State's natural areas, including, but not limited to, rare plants, animals, natural communities and ecosystems or associated habitats and may conduct investigations related to the population, habitat needs, limiting factors and other biological and ecological data to support the mandates of the department or other cooperating agencies.

2. Natural heritage database. The commissioner shall maintain a natural heritage database that must contain data from inventories and other data sources and

other relevant biological, ecological or other information about natural areas described in subsection 1 and about ecologically significant sites that harbor or otherwise contain these features. Information contained in the natural heritage database may be made available as necessary or appropriate for conservation and land use planning, environmental review, scientific research and inquiry, education or other appropriate use. For the purposes of this subsection, "appropriate use" means a use that will not jeopardize endangered plant species or habitats.

3. Ecological reserves database. The commissioner shall maintain a database of areas designated as ecological reserves as defined in section 1801, subsection 4-A and other public lands designated and managed for equivalent purposes and shall provide scientific review of areas on state land proposed as ecological reserves.

4. Promotion of conservation of natural areas. The commissioner shall promote the conservation of natural areas by:

A. Making available current and accurate information to all appropriate entities to interpret, educate or otherwise inform so as to support planning and conservation activities in this State;

B. Promoting voluntary action to conserve and protect natural areas in this State;

C. Entering into agreements with landowners of natural areas to promote appropriate and effective management of these areas in order to maintain and enhance the natural value of these areas. The commissioner shall notify landowners of natural areas of the natural value of their land and the implications of voluntary conservation; and

D. Developing and disseminating educational or technical materials for the purpose of informing the general public and other interested persons or institutions about natural areas and the value of these areas.

§12823. Endangered plant species and threatened plant species

The commissioner has the following responsibilities related to endangered plant species and threatened plant species.

1. Official list of endangered plant species and threatened plant species. The commissioner shall establish and maintain an official list of endangered plant species and threatened plant species of the State. The purpose of the list is informational and may be provided on an informational basis to public agencies, private institutions or individuals for environmental assessment, land management or educational purposes.

2. Identification procedures. The commissioner may establish procedures to substantiate the identification of endangered plant species and threatened plant species. In determining and revising the official list under subsection 1, the commissioner shall use the department's rare plant database and the knowledge of botanists in the State. In addition, the commissioner shall consult with federal agencies, interested state agencies, other states or provinces having a common interest and other interested persons and organizations. The commissioner shall determine criteria for each category. When establishing the list, the commissioner shall consider aspects of plant biology that contribute to a species' rarity, such as:

A. Endemism. A plant species or subspecies may be geographically restricted to the State or areas immediately adjacent to the State;

B. Scarcity. A plant species or subspecies may be scarce throughout its distribution in North America and occur in only a few locations in the State;

C. Special habitat. A plant species or subspecies may require habitat that is scarce in the State;

D. Limit of range. A plant species or subspecies in the State may be at the edge of its distribution or disjunct from its main distribution; and

E. Population decline or vulnerability. A plant species or subspecies may be threatened or seriously declining due to habitat modification or destruction or from overcollection for commercial, recreational or educational purposes.

3. Public hearing. The commissioner shall conduct at least one public hearing to allow for public comment before establishing or revising the official list under subsection 1.

4. Review of inventory. The commissioner shall review the official list under subsection 1 biennially and add or delete a plant species or subspecies based on new botanical inventory data, taxonomic or other scientific studies or other documentation.

§12824. Sensitive information

The commissioner may withhold specific information on the location of a plant species, subspecies or natural area and its component features if, in the judgment of the commissioner, disclosure of this information would threaten the existence of that species or subspecies or natural area. The commissioner may not deny a landowner or landowner's designee information about species, subspecies or natural areas occurring on the landowner's property or withhold this information from usual environmental review procedures of local, state or federal regulatory agencies.

§12825. Rulemaking

The commissioner may not adopt rules to protect plants and plant communities under this subchapter except when required for the conservation of rare fish or wildlife species, threatened fish or wildlife species or endangered fish or wildlife species.

This section is repealed September 30, 2029.

Sec. 33. 36 MRSA §1109, sub-§3, ¶M, as amended by PL 2007, c. 627, §29, is further amended to read:

M. The identification of the land or of outstanding natural resources on the land by a legislatively mandated program, on the state, local or federal level, as particular areas, parcels, land types or natural resources for protection, including, but not limited to, the register database of critical areas under identified pursuant to Title 12, section 544-B 10053; the laws governing wildlife sanctuaries and management areas under Title 12, section 10109, subsection 1 and Title 12, sections 12706 and 12708; the laws governing the State's rivers under Title 12, chapter 200; the natural resource protection laws under Title 38, chapter 3, subchapter 1, article 5-A; and the Maine Coastal Barrier Resources Systems under Title 38, chapter 21;

Sec. 34. 38 MRSA §480-B, sub-§1-C is enacted to read:

1-C. Critically imperiled. "Critically imperiled" means a natural community, ecosystem or species of fish, wildlife or plant that is at very high risk of extirpation in this State due to very restricted range, very few populations or occurrences, very steep declines, severe threats or other factors and that is ranked as critically imperiled in the state ranking scale applied to a natural community, ecosystem or species of fish, wildlife or plant as determined by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Sec. 35. 38 MRSA §480-B, sub-§5-D is enacted to read:

5-D. Imperiled. "Imperiled" means a natural community, ecosystem or species of fish, wildlife or plant that is at high risk of extirpation in this State due to restricted range, few populations or occurrences, steep declines, severe threats or other factors and that is ranked as imperiled in the state ranking scale applied to a natural community, ecosystem or species of fish, wildlife or plant as determined by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Sec. 36. 38 MRSA §480-B, sub-§10, ¶B, as amended by PL 2023, c. 156, §2, is further amended by amending subparagraph (4) to read:

(4) Habitat for state endangered and state threatened species of fish or wildlife listed under Title 12, section 12803, subsection 3 that is within another protected natural resource area or that is located wholly or partly within

the boundaries of a proposed project site that requires approval from:

(a) The department pursuant to this article or article 6, 7 or 8-A, except for activity or development on a residential lot that is not part of a proposed multi lot housing development; or

(b) The Maine Land Use Planning Commission pursuant to this article as provided in section 480-E-1 or, for subdivisions and nonresidential uses only, pursuant to Title 12, chapter 206-A.

Sec. 37. 38 MRSA §480-U, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 2009, c. 561, §38, is further amended by amending subparagraph (3) to read:

(3) Contains endangered plant species or threatened plant species as defined in determined pursuant to Title 12, section 544 12823;

Sec. 38. 38 MRSA §480-X, sub-§5, as amended by PL 1999, c. 556, §32, is further amended to read:

5. Additional projects not eligible for Tier 2 review. An activity in freshwater wetlands containing a natural community that is imperiled (~~S2~~) or critically imperiled (~~S4~~), as defined determined by the Natural Areas Program pursuant to Title 12, section 544 Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is not eligible for Tier 2 review unless the department determines that the activity will not negatively affect the freshwater wetlands and other protected natural resources present.

Sec. 39. 38 MRSA §480-Y, sub-§2, ¶C, as amended by PL 1999, c. 556, §33, is further amended to read:

C. The pond may not be located in a wetland containing endangered or threatened plant species as determined pursuant to Title 12, section ~~544-B, subsection 3 12823~~ or containing a natural community that is imperiled (~~S2~~) or critically imperiled (~~S4~~) as defined determined by the Natural Areas Program pursuant to Title 12, section 544 Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Sec. 40. 38 MRSA §480-BB, first ¶, as amended by PL 2023, c. 156, §3, is further amended to read:

The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall adopt rules that define "significant vernal pool habitat," "high and moderate value waterfowl and wading bird habitat," "shorebird nesting, feeding and staging areas" and "habitat for state endangered and state threatened species of fish or wildlife listed under Title 12, section 12803, subsection 3" under section 480-B, subsection 10, paragraph B. The Department of Environmental Protection shall adopt rules regarding the criteria used to determine whether an area is significant

vernal pool habitat, high and moderate value waterfowl and wading bird habitat, shorebird nesting, feeding and staging areas or habitat for state endangered and state threatened species of fish or wildlife listed under Title 12, section 12803, subsection 3 under section 480-B, subsection 10, paragraph B. The rules, as applicable, must:

Sec. 41. 38 MRSA §490-D, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2009, c. 293, §5, is further amended to read:

1. Significant wildlife habitat and other protected areas. Affected land may not be located in, on or over a significant wildlife habitat or other type of protected natural resource, as defined in section 480-B, or in an area listed pursuant to ~~the Natural Areas Program, Title 12, section 544 12822~~. The department may allow excavation to occur under this section as long as a permit is obtained pursuant to article 5-A. Permit requirements for certain excavations in, on or over high and moderate value inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat are also governed by section 480-GG.

Sec. 42. 38 MRSA §490-Z, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2009, c. 293, §6, is further amended to read:

1. Significant wildlife habitat and other protected areas. Affected land may not be located in, on or over a significant wildlife habitat or other type of protected natural resource, as defined in section 480-B, or in an area listed pursuant to ~~the Natural Areas Program, Title 12, section 544 12822~~. The department may allow excavation to occur under this section as long as a permit is obtained pursuant to article 5-A. Permit requirements for certain excavations in, on or over high and moderate value inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat are also governed by section 480-GG.

Sec. 43. Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife report. No later than November 4, 2026, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall provide a report, including any findings and recommendations, to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters and agriculture, conservation and forestry matters on the reassignment of duties under the Natural Areas Program from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Each committee may submit legislation related to the subject matter of the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Sec. 44. Report regarding rulemaking. No later than February 15, 2029, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall provide a report, including any findings and recommendations, to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters and agriculture, conservation and forestry matters regarding the effect of the prohibition established in the Maine Revised

Statutes, Title 12, section 12825, which provides that the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife may not adopt rules to protect plants and plant communities under Title 12, chapter 925, subchapter 4 except when required for the conservation of rare fish or wildlife species, threatened fish or wildlife species or endangered fish or wildlife species. Each committee may submit legislation related to the subject matter of the report to the 134th Legislature in 2029.

Sec. 45. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is authorized to transfer up to \$150,000 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations, after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the All Other line category of the Resource Management Services - Inland and Fisheries Wildlife program, General Fund account for the purpose of funding early detection and rapid response efforts to eradicate invasive stilt grass. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

Sec. 46. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is authorized to transfer up to \$25,000 of available balances of Personal Services appropriations, after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the All Other line category of the Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program, General Fund account for the purpose of funding an update to the State's official list of threatened and endangered plants. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

Sec. 47. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

Natural Areas Program Z821

Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Manager II position, one Resource Management Coordinator position and 5 Biologist II positions from the Natural Areas Program within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Resource Management Services

- Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. This initiative also transfers All Other funds from the Natural Areas Program within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$418,180)
All Other	\$0	(\$66,242)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$484,422)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$179,238)
All Other	\$0	(\$133,082)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$312,320)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$302,202)
All Other	\$0	(\$605,699)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$907,901)

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	(\$484,422)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	(\$312,320)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	(\$907,901)
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	(\$1,704,643)

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE, DEPARTMENT OF

Natural Areas Conservation Fund N548

Initiative: Provides baseline allocation to establish the account.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$500

Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 0534

Initiative: Transfers one Public Service Manager II position, one Resource Management Coordinator position

and 5 Biologist II positions from the Natural Areas Program within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. This initiative also transfers All Other funds from the Natural Areas Program within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Resource Management Services - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$418,180
All Other	\$0	\$66,242
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$484,422
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$179,238
All Other	\$0	\$133,082
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$312,320
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$302,202
All Other	\$0	\$605,699
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$907,901
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE, DEPARTMENT OF		
DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$484,422
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$312,320
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$908,401
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$1,705,143
SECTION TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$0
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$500
SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$500

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 707

S.P. 27 - L.D. 14

An Act to Provide Indigenous Peoples Free Access to State Parks

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §1819-C is enacted to read:

§1819-C. Free admission for members of federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band

Notwithstanding section 1819, a member of a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in this State is not required to pay a fee for admission to any state-owned park, historic site, camping area or beach managed by the State. To qualify for free admission under this section, a person shall present a qualifying tribal identification, as approved by the respective tribal government, to the bureau staff on duty or other designee of the director.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 708

H.P. 238 - L.D. 338

An Act to Increase the Size and Balance of Jury Pools

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

Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §1252-A, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 705, Pt. G, §11, is amended to read:

1. Lists used. The lists of licensed drivers, persons issued an identification card by the Secretary of State, registered voters from the central voter registration system, recipients of state unemployment compensation and any person ~~persons who notifies~~ persons who notify the clerk of the court in the county of their residence and ~~request~~ request to be put on the source list of prospective jurors ~~shall~~ must serve as the source for prospective jurors in each county. These lists may be supplemented with names from other lists specified by the Supreme Judicial Court.

Sec. 2. Effective date. This Act takes effect January 1, 2028.

Effective January 1, 2028.

CHAPTER 709
H.P. 325 - L.D. 496

**An Act Regarding the Issuance
of Silver Alerts**

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2202, as amended by PL 2021, c. 62, §2, is further amended to read:

§2202. Silver Alert Program

In accordance with this chapter and with the cooperation of the Department of Transportation, the Maine Turnpike Authority, a statewide organization representing broadcast groups in the State, the Office of the Governor and appropriate law enforcement agencies, the department shall develop and implement the Silver Alert Program to be activated on behalf of missing endangered persons. The program must include standards of procedure for local law enforcement agencies to determine that a missing person is a missing endangered person, to determine information to be released regarding the missing endangered person or the circumstances of the person's disappearance and to appropriately activate a Silver Alert to local or statewide law enforcement agencies and to the media, a plan for providing relevant information to the public through an existing system of dynamic message signs located across the State when necessary and training for all law enforcement officers. The Silver Alert Program must require that all Silver Alerts be issued to all hospitals and homeless shelters in the State and to a statewide association of libraries. The Silver Alert Program must be developed and implemented using existing resources.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 710
S.P. 265 - L.D. 582

**An Act to Require Health
Insurance Carriers to Provide
Coverage for Blood Testing for
Perfluoroalkyl and
Polyfluoroalkyl Substances**

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

Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §4320-W is enacted to read:

§4320-W. Coverage for blood testing for PFAS

1. Definition. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances" or "PFAS" means any

member of the class of fluorinated organic chemicals containing at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom.

2. Required coverage. A carrier offering a health plan in this State shall provide coverage for blood testing for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances that is recommended by a provider as medically necessary health care for an enrollee. For the purposes of this subsection, blood testing for PFAS is presumed to be medically necessary health care for an enrollee if a provider determines that the enrollee meets clinical guidelines for blood testing for PFAS established by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, its successor organization or a comparable organization.

Sec. 2. Application. This Act applies to all policies, contracts and certificates executed, delivered, issued for delivery, continued or renewed in this State on or after January 1, 2027. For purposes of this Act, all contracts are deemed to be renewed no later than the next yearly anniversary of the contract date.

Sec. 3. Exemption from mandate review. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 24-A, section 2752, this Act is enacted without review and evaluation by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL
SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF**

State Benefit Mandate Defrayal Z373

Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for the cost of the benefit mandate providing coverage of blood testing for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, beginning January 1, 2027.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$90,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$90,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 711
H.P. 792 - L.D. 1187

**An Act to Include Certain
Mental Health Assessment
Data in Firearm Fatalities and
Hospitalizations Reports**

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA c. 256-A, headnote is amended to read:

CHAPTER 256-A

**REPORTING OF FIREARM FATALITIES AND,
HOSPITALIZATIONS AND MENTAL HEALTH
ASSESSMENT DATA**

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §1425, as amended by PL 2021, c. 676, Pt. A, §32, is further amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§1425. Annual report on firearm fatalities and, hospitalizations and mental health assessment data

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §1425, sub-§1, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 369, §1, is amended to read:

C. Unintentional discharges, further separated by the ages of the victims; ~~and~~

Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §1425, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2021, c. 676, Pt. A, §32, is further amended to read:

2. Hospitalizations. Hospitalizations that occurred as a result of a firearm but did not result in death; and

Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §1425, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Risk assessments. The number of assessments by a medical practitioner performed pursuant to Title 34-B, section 3862-A, the number of individuals assessed who received a referral for mental health treatment and services and any aggregate demographic information about the individuals assessed that can be released without risking individual identification.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 712

H.P. 986 - L.D. 1502

**An Act to Update the
Requirements for Health
Insurance Coverage of Prostate
Cancer Screening**

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

Sec. 1. 24 MRSA §2325-C, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 754, §1, is amended to read:

§2325-C. Coverage for prostate cancer screening

1. Definition Services for the early detection of prostate cancer; definition. As used in this section, "services for the early detection of prostate cancer" means the following procedures provided to a man for the purpose of early detection of prostate cancer:

- A. A digital rectal examination; and
- B. A prostate-specific antigen test.

1-A. Nationally recognized clinical practice guideline; definition. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "nationally recognized clinical practice guideline" means an evidence-based clinical practice guideline:

A. Developed using a transparent methodology and reporting structure by an independent organization or medical professional society that has adopted a conflict of interest policy;

B. That establishes a standard of care informed by a systematic review of evidence and an assessment of the benefits and risks of alternative care options; and

C. That includes recommendations intended to optimize patient care.

2. Required coverage for prostate cancer screening. All individual and group nonprofit hospital and medical services plan contracts must provide coverage for services for the early detection of prostate cancer. The contracts must reimburse for services for the early detection of prostate cancer, if recommended by a physician, ~~at least once a year for men 50 years of age or older until a man reaches the age of 72~~ when supported by medical and scientific evidence according to the most recently published nationally recognized clinical practice guideline.

3. Application. ~~The requirements of this section apply to all policies, contracts and certificates executed, delivered, issued for delivery, continued or renewed in this State on or after September 1, 1998. For purposes of this section, all contracts are deemed to be renewed no later than the next yearly anniversary of the contract date.~~

4. Cost sharing prohibited. An individual or group nonprofit hospital and medical services plan contract may not impose any deductible, copayment, co-insurance or other cost-sharing requirement for the costs of services for the early detection of prostate cancer required to be covered under subsection 2. This subsection does not apply to a contract offered for use with a health savings account unless the federal Internal Revenue Service determines that the requirements in this subsection are permissible in a high deductible health plan as defined in the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, Section 223(c)(2).

Sec. 2. 24-A MRSA §2745-G, as reallocated by RR 1997, c. 2, §51, is amended to read:

§2745-G. Coverage for prostate cancer screening

1. Definition Services for the early detection of prostate cancer; definition. As used in this section, "services for the early detection of prostate cancer" means the following procedures provided to a man for the purpose of early detection of prostate cancer:

- A. A digital rectal examination; and

B. A prostate-specific antigen test.

1-A. Nationally recognized clinical practice guideline; definition. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "nationally recognized clinical practice guideline" means an evidence-based clinical practice guideline:

A. Developed using a transparent methodology and reporting structure by an independent organization or medical professional society that has adopted a conflict of interest policy;

B. That establishes a standard of care informed by a systematic review of evidence and an assessment of the benefits and risks of alternative care options; and

C. That includes recommendations intended to optimize patient care.

2. Required coverage for prostate cancer screening. All individual insurance policies and contracts except accidental injury, specified disease, hospital indemnity, Medicare supplement, long-term care and other limited benefit health insurance policies and contracts must provide coverage for services for the early detection of prostate cancer. The contracts must reimburse for services for the early detection of prostate cancer, if recommended by a physician, ~~at least once a year for men 50 years of age or older until a man reaches the age of 72~~ when supported by medical and scientific evidence according to the most recently published nationally recognized clinical practice guideline.

3. Application. The requirements of this section apply to all policies, contracts and certificates executed, delivered, issued for delivery, continued or renewed in this State on or after September 1, 1998. For purposes of this section, all contracts are deemed to be renewed no later than the next yearly anniversary of the contract date.

4. Cost sharing prohibited. An individual insurance policy or contract may not impose any deductible, copayment, coinsurance or other cost-sharing requirement for the costs of services for the early detection of prostate cancer required to be covered under subsection 2. This subsection does not apply to a policy or contract offered for use with a health savings account unless the federal Internal Revenue Service determines that the requirements in this subsection are permissible in a high deductible health plan as defined in the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, Section 223(c)(2).

Sec. 3. 24-A MRSA §2837-H, as reallocated by RR 1997, c. 2, §52, is amended to read:

§2837-H. Coverage for prostate cancer screening

1. Definition Services for the early detection of prostate cancer; definition. As used in this section, "services for the early detection of prostate cancer"

means the following procedures provided to a man for the purpose of early detection of prostate cancer:

A. A digital rectal examination; and

B. A prostate-specific antigen test.

1-A. Nationally recognized clinical practice guideline; definition. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "nationally recognized clinical practice guideline" means an evidence-based clinical practice guideline:

A. Developed using a transparent methodology and reporting structure by an independent organization or medical professional society that has adopted a conflict of interest policy;

B. That establishes a standard of care informed by a systematic review of evidence and an assessment of the benefits and risks of alternative care options; and

C. That includes recommendations intended to optimize patient care.

2. Required coverage for prostate cancer screening. All group insurance policies and contracts except accidental injury, specified disease, hospital indemnity, Medicare supplement, long-term care and other limited benefit health insurance policies and contracts must provide coverage for services for the early detection of prostate cancer. The contracts must reimburse for services for the early detection of prostate cancer, if recommended by a physician, ~~at least once a year for men 50 years of age or older until a man reaches the age of 72~~ when supported by medical and scientific evidence according to the most recently published nationally recognized clinical practice guideline.

3. Application. The requirements of this section apply to all policies, contracts and certificates executed, delivered, issued for delivery, continued or renewed in this State on or after September 1, 1998. For purposes of this section, all contracts are deemed to be renewed no later than the next yearly anniversary of the contract date.

4. Cost sharing prohibited. A group insurance policy or contract may not impose any deductible, copayment, coinsurance or other cost-sharing requirement for the costs of services for the early detection of prostate cancer required to be covered under subsection 2. This subsection does not apply to a policy or contract offered for use with a health savings account unless the federal Internal Revenue Service determines that the requirements in this subsection are permissible in a high deductible health plan as defined in the federal Internal Revenue Code, Section 223(c)(2).

Sec. 4. 24-A MRSA §4244, as reallocated by RR 1997, c. 2, §53, is amended to read:

§4244. Coverage for prostate cancer screening

1. Definition Services for the early detection of prostate cancer; definition. As used in this section, "services for the early detection of prostate cancer" means the following procedures provided to a man for the purpose of early detection of prostate cancer:

- A. A digital rectal examination; and
- B. A prostate-specific antigen test.

1-A. Nationally recognized clinical practice guideline; definition. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "nationally recognized clinical practice guideline" means an evidence-based clinical practice guideline:

- A. Developed using a transparent methodology and reporting structure by an independent organization or medical professional society that has adopted a conflict of interest policy;
- B. That establishes a standard of care informed by a systematic review of evidence and an assessment of the benefits and risks of alternative care options; and
- C. That includes recommendations intended to optimize patient care.

2. Required coverage for prostate cancer screening. All health maintenance organization individual and group contracts must provide coverage for services for the early detection of prostate cancer. The contracts must reimburse for services for the early detection of prostate cancer, if recommended by a physician, at least once a year for men 50 years of age or older until a man reaches the age of 72 when supported by medical and scientific evidence according to the most recently published nationally recognized clinical practice guideline.

3. Application. The requirements of this section apply to all policies, contracts and certificates executed, delivered, issued for delivery, continued or renewed in this State on or after September 1, 1998. For purposes of this section, all contracts are deemed to be renewed no later than the next yearly anniversary of the contract date.

4. Cost sharing prohibited. An individual or group contract may not impose any deductible, copayment, coinsurance or other cost-sharing requirement for the costs of services for the early detection of prostate cancer required to be covered under subsection 2. This subsection does not apply to a contract offered for use with a health savings account unless the federal Internal Revenue Service determines that the requirements in this subsection are permissible in a high deductible health plan as defined in the federal Internal Revenue Code, Section 223(c)(2).

Sec. 5. Application. This Act applies to all policies, contracts and certificates executed, delivered, issued for delivery, continued or renewed in this State on

or after January 1, 2027. For purposes of this Act, all contracts are deemed to be renewed no later than the next yearly anniversary of the contract date.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 713

H.P. 1093 - L.D. 1652

An Act to Expand the Dental Care Access Credit

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

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §5219-CCC is enacted to read:

§5219-CCC. Dental care access credit

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Eligible dentist" means a person licensed as a dentist under Title 32, chapter 143 who, on or after January 1, 2027:

- (1) First begins practicing dentistry in the State by joining an existing dental practice in an underserved area or establishing a new dental practice or purchasing an existing dental practice in an underserved area;
- (2) Agrees to practice full-time for at least 5 years in an underserved area;
- (3) Is an enrolled MaineCare provider serving a patient panel consisting of no less than 15% MaineCare members; and
- (4) Is certified under subsection 3 to be eligible by the oral health program.

B. "Oral health program" means the program within the Department of Health and Human Services with responsibility for oral health promotion and dental disease prevention activities.

C. "Underserved area" means an area in the State that is a dental health professional shortage area as defined by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration.

2. Credit. An eligible dentist determined to be eligible on or after January 1, 2027 but before January 1, 2033 is allowed a credit for each tax year, not to exceed \$6,000 in the first year, \$9,000 in the 2nd year, \$12,000 in the 3rd year, \$15,000 in the 4th year and \$18,000 in the 5th year, against the taxes due under this Part. The credit may be claimed in the first year that the eligible dentist meets the conditions of eligibility for at least 6

months and each of the 4 subsequent years. The credit is not refundable.

3. Eligibility limitation; certification. The oral health program shall certify up to 5 eligible dentists in each year from 2027 to 2032. Additional dentists may not be certified after 2032. The oral health program shall monitor certified dentists to ensure that they continue to be eligible for the credit under this section and shall decertify any dentist who ceases to meet the conditions of eligibility. The oral health program shall notify the bureau whenever a dentist is certified or decertified. A decertified dentist ceases to be eligible for the credit under this section beginning with the tax year during which the dentist is decertified.

4. Annual report. By March 1, 2028 and annually thereafter, the oral health program shall submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over taxation matters a report that analyzes the effectiveness of the credit provided by this section in attracting dentists to underserved areas and recommending whether the credit should be retained, repealed or amended. The committee may submit legislation to any regular or special session of the Legislature related to the report.

5. Rules. The Department of Health and Human Services may adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

6. Repeal. This section is repealed December 31, 2037.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 714

S.P. 691 - L.D. 1773

An Act to Criminalize Certain Offenses Related to Gift Card Thefts

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

Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §363, sub-§2 is enacted to read:

2. As used in this section, "retail merchandise" means any product, good or other item of value that is displayed, held, stored or offered by a retailer for retail sale to consumers. "Retail merchandise" includes, but is not limited to, tangible personal property, gift cards, electronics and commodities.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 715

S.P. 745 - L.D. 1904

An Act to Establish the Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §450 is enacted to read:

§450. Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund

1. Fund established. The Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within the department to provide financial assistance to municipalities that have incurred or expect to incur legal costs in pursuing shoreland zoning violations. The fund consists of money received from any public or private source, including, but not limited to, any monetary penalties deposited in the fund in accordance with section 480-R, subsection 1. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Interest earned by the fund must be credited to the fund. Any unexpended balances remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year do not lapse and must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

2. Administration; use of money in fund. The department shall administer the fund. In accordance with rules adopted by the department pursuant to subsection 4, the department shall use money in the fund to provide financial assistance to municipalities that have incurred or expect to incur legal costs in pursuing shoreland zoning violations. The department may use money in the fund to cover the department's actual costs incurred in administering the fund.

3. Reimbursement. In accordance with rules adopted by the department pursuant to subsection 4, a municipality that receives financial assistance from the fund under subsection 2 may be required to reimburse the fund following the settlement or final adjudication of the legal claim for which the financial assistance was received.

4. Rules. The department shall adopt rules necessary for the implementation and administration of the fund, including, but not limited to, rules establishing standards for the provision of financial assistance from the fund to a municipality pursuant to subsection 2 and rules establishing standards for municipal reimbursement of financial assistance received from the fund pursuant to subsection 3. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §480-R, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 809, §2, is amended by enacting at the end a new first blocked paragraph to read:

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, of the total penalties paid by all persons found to have violated this article in any fiscal year, the commissioner shall ensure that \$100,000 of that amount, or the total amount of penalties paid in the fiscal year if that amount is less than \$100,000, is deposited in the Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund established in section 450.

Sec. 3. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; Department of Environmental Protection, Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund. On or before September 1, 2026, the State Controller shall transfer \$100,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Environmental Protection, Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account to provide financial assistance to municipalities that have incurred or expect to incur legal costs in pursuing shoreland zoning violations in accordance with the provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 450.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,
DEPARTMENT OF**

Land Resources Z188

Initiative: Provides funding for one Environmental Specialist III position and associated All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL		
Personal Services	\$0	\$79,114
All Other	\$0	\$22,767

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$101,881

Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund N528

Initiative: Provides ongoing allocations to allow for the provision of financial assistance to municipalities that have incurred or expect to incur legal costs in pursuing shoreland zoning violations in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 450.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$100,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$100,000

**ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION,
DEPARTMENT OF**

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$101,881
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$100,000

DEPARTMENT TOTAL -	\$0	\$201,881
ALL FUNDS		

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 716

S.P. 810 - L.D. 1997

**An Act to Authorize Issuance
of Securities to Modernize and
Consolidate Certain Court
Facilities**

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

Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §1610-Q, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 684, §1, is amended to read:

§1610-Q. Additional securities; judicial branch facilities in Androscoggin, Cumberland, Franklin, Hancock, Penobscot, Sagadahoc and Somerset counties

Notwithstanding any limitation on the amount of securities that may be issued pursuant to section 1606, subsection 2, the authority may issue additional securities from time to time in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$205,000,000 outstanding at any one time for the purposes of paying the costs associated with the planning, purchasing, financing, acquiring, constructing, renovating, furnishing, equipping, improving, extending, enlarging and consolidating new and existing facilities and projects relating to the judicial branch in the counties of Androscoggin, Cumberland, Franklin, Hancock, Penobscot, Sagadahoc and Somerset and planning for other court facilities.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 717

H.P. 1347 - L.D. 2017

**An Act to Update Certain
Statutes Governing School
Nutrition**

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6601-A, as repealed and replaced by PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. A, §44, is amended to read:

§6601-A. Free or reduced-price school meals; Internet-based school meal applications

The department ~~shall~~ may contract for the development and implementation of an Internet-based application for free or reduced-price meals under the National

School Lunch Program under 7 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 210 and the School Breakfast Program under 7 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 220 or otherwise make available to public schools an Internet-based application for those programs. The department ~~shall~~ may make available to public schools ~~the an~~ an Internet-based application for free or reduced-price meals developed under this section ~~on the department's~~ a publicly accessible website. The department shall make ~~the any~~ an Internet-based application developed pursuant to this section in an understandable and uniform format and, to the maximum extent practicable, in a language that parents and legal guardians can understand. A public school may make ~~the an~~ an Internet-based application available for school meal applications on the public school's publicly accessible website. All public schools shall continue to distribute paper applications for school meals to all students. A public school is ~~solely~~ responsible for processing that school's online applications. Data submitted through ~~the an~~ an Internet-based application may not be visible to the department and must be transmitted directly to the applicable public school or other agency making the determination for a student's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals. All public schools shall accept data submitted through ~~the an~~ an Internet-based application.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§1, ¶F, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 556, §1, is amended to read:

F. Except as provided under paragraph G, a school administrative unit with a public school in which at least 50% of students qualified for a free or reduced-price lunch during the preceding school year shall operate an alternative breakfast delivery service that provides breakfast after the start of the school day and before any lunch period in the school begins for students at that public school. ~~A school administrative unit with a public school in which at least 70% of students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals under paragraph A participate in the breakfast program under paragraph B is exempt from the requirements of this paragraph.~~

The department shall publish annually, by July 1, 2020 and every July 1st thereafter, on its publicly accessible website, information regarding schools required to comply with and schools exempt from this paragraph in the preceding school year, including, but not limited to, the name of the school, any alternative breakfast delivery service operated, free and reduced-price breakfast participation rate and the financial impact of the program on the school nutrition budget.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§1, ¶G, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 556, §2, is amended by repealing the 2nd blocked paragraph.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

School Finance and Operations Z078

Initiative: Reduces funding due to the removal of a requirement for an Internet-based application for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$250,000)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$250,000)

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 718

H.P. 1479 - L.D. 2200

An Act Relating to Noncompete Agreements Between Employers and Health Care Practitioners

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §599-A, sub-§1, ¶A-1 is enacted to read:

A-1. "Health care practitioner" means an individual qualified or licensed under state law to perform or provide health care services to persons in the State.

Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §599-A, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 513, §1, is amended by enacting at the end a new last blocked paragraph to read:

A noncompete agreement between an employer and a health care practitioner that is enforceable under this subsection must recognize an individual's right to choose that individual's own health care practitioner.

Sec. 3. 26 MRSA §599-A, sub-§3, ¶C is enacted to read:

C. The employee is a health care practitioner who is employed by an entity in which that health care practitioner does not have an ownership interest.

Sec. 4. 26 MRSA §599-A, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 513, §1, is amended to read:

5. Effective date of a noncompete agreement. Except for a noncompete agreement between an employer and ~~an allopathic physician or an osteopathic physician licensed under Title 32, chapter 48 or chapter 36, respectively~~ a health care practitioner, the terms of a noncompete agreement do not take effect until after

one year of the employee's employment with the employer or a period of 6 months from the date the agreement was signed, whichever is later.

Sec. 5. Application. This Act applies to all non-compete agreements entered into or renewed on or after the effective date of this Act.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 719

H.P. 343 - L.D. 524

An Act to Protect Children from Technology-facilitated Sexual Abuse

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this Act extends the prohibitions in current state law against the creation, dissemination and possession of sexually explicit material depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct to similarly prohibit the creation, dissemination and possession of images that have been modified or generated, including through the use of artificial intelligence, or AI, technology, so that the images appear to depict minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct; and

Whereas, perpetrators of these crimes have already begun creating child sexual abuse material using technology through which they modify existing images of identifiable children or through which they wholly create images that appear to depict children engaged in sexually explicit conduct, but these perpetrators cannot be prosecuted because this conduct is not currently prohibited by state law; and

Whereas, as generative artificial intelligence technology continues to advance, it is becoming more and more difficult to distinguish between unaltered child sexual abuse material subject to prosecution under current law and modified or AI-generated child sexual abuse material not currently subject to prosecution; and

Whereas, it is essential to clarify state law as soon as possible to prevent sexual exploitation of children; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §281, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 711, Pt. B, §12, is amended to read:

§281. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. "Disseminate" means to manufacture, publish, send, promulgate, distribute, exhibit, issue, furnish, sell or transfer or to offer or agree to do any of these acts.

1-A. "Child sexual abuse material" means any image, including a computer-generated image, that depicts or has been created or modified so that it appears to depict a minor, regardless of whether that depiction is an identifiable child, engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

1-B. "Generative AI or machine learning" means any computer algorithm or model that creates content, including, but not limited to, text, images, audio or video.

1-C. "Identifiable child" means a person:

A. Who is recognizable as an actual person by that person's face, likeness or other distinguishing characteristic, such as a unique birthmark or other recognizable feature; and

B. Who was a minor at the time an unaltered image was created or whose likeness when the person was a minor was used in creating, adapting or modifying an image.

"Identifiable child" does not require proof of the actual identity of the identifiable child.

1-D. "Image" means something that is made, captured, generated or saved as a print, negative, slide, motion picture, photograph, computer data file, animation, video, livestream or other mechanically, electronically or chemically reproduced visual image or material.

2. "Minor" means a person who has not attained ~~18~~ 16 years of age.

3. ~~"Photograph" means to make, capture, generate or save a print, negative, slide, motion picture, computer data file, videotape or other mechanically, electronically or chemically reproduced visual image or material.~~

3-A. "Obscene material" means material that:

A. To the average individual, applying contemporary community standards, appeals to the prurient interest. For purposes of this paragraph, if it appears from the nature of an image or the circumstances of the image's dissemination, distribution or exhibition that the image is designed for clearly defined deviant sexual groups, the appeal of the image must be judged with reference to its intended recipient group;

B. Depicts or describes, in a patently offensive manner, ultimate sexual acts, excretory functions, masturbation or lewd exhibition of the genitals; and

C. Considered as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value. For purposes of this paragraph:

(1) The fact that the defendant knew that the image depicts a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct is a factor that may be considered in making the determination that an image taken as a whole lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value; and

(2) If circumstances of production, presentation, sale, dissemination, distribution or exhibition indicate that an image is being exploited by the defendant for the sake of its prurient appeal, this evidence is probative with respect to the nature of the image and may justify the conclusion that the image lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.

4. "Sexually explicit conduct" means any of the following acts:

A. A sexual act;

B. Bestiality;

C. Masturbation;

D. Sadomasochistic abuse for the purpose of sexual stimulation;

E. Lewd exhibition of the genitals, anus or pubic area of a person. An exhibition is considered lewd if the exhibition is designed for the purpose of eliciting or attempting to elicit a sexual response in the intended viewer; or

F. Conduct that creates the appearance of the acts in paragraphs A to D and also exhibits any uncovered or covered portions of the genitals, anus or pubic area.

Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA §282, as amended by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. B, §15, is further amended to read:

§282. Sexual exploitation of minor

1. A person is guilty of sexual exploitation of a minor if:

A. Knowing or intending that the conduct will be photographed used to create an image for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of that person or another person, the person intentionally or knowingly employs, solicits, entices, persuades or uses another person a minor, not that person's spouse, who has not in fact attained 16 years of age, to engage in sexually explicit conduct to create child sexual abuse material, except that it is not a violation of this paragraph if the other person minor is 14 or 15 years of age and the person is less

than 5 years older than the other person minor. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime;

A-1. Knowing or intending that the conduct will be photographed used to create an image, the person intentionally or knowingly compels or induces by any threat another person, not that person's spouse, who is in fact a minor, to engage in sexually explicit conduct. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime. For purposes of this paragraph, "minor" means a person who has not attained 18 years of age;

A-2. The person intentionally or knowingly modifies or alters an image of an identifiable child to create child sexual abuse material, except that it is not a violation of this paragraph if the minor is 14 or 15 years of age and the person is less than 5 years older than the minor. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime;

A-3. The person intentionally or knowingly manufactures or creates, including using generative AI or machine learning, obscene material that is child sexual abuse material and the person knows or has reason to know that the material is child sexual abuse material. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime;

B. The person violates paragraph A ~~or~~, A-1, A-2 or A-3 and, at the time of the offense, the person has one or more prior convictions under this section or for engaging in substantially similar conduct to that contained in this section in another jurisdiction. Violation of this paragraph is a Class A crime;

C. The person violates paragraph A ~~or~~, A-1, A-2 or A-3 and the minor or identifiable child has not ~~in fact~~ attained 12 years of age. Violation of this paragraph is a Class A crime;

D. Being a parent, legal guardian or other person having care or custody of ~~another person who has not in fact attained 16 years of age a minor~~, that person ~~knowingly or intentionally or knowingly permits that person who has not in fact attained 16 years of age to engage in sexually explicit conduct, knowing or intending that the conduct will be photographed the minor to create child sexual abuse material~~. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime;

E. The person violates paragraph D and, at the time of the offense, the person has one or more prior convictions under this section or for engaging in substantially similar conduct to that contained in this section in another jurisdiction. Violation of this paragraph is a Class A crime; or

F. The person violates paragraph D and the minor has not ~~in fact~~ attained 12 years of age. Violation of this paragraph is a Class A crime.

2. The following mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment apply to sexual exploitation of a minor.

A. A court shall impose upon a person convicted under subsection 1, paragraph A, A-1, ~~A-2, A-3~~ or D a sentencing alternative involving a term of imprisonment of at least 5 years.

B. A court shall impose upon a person convicted under subsection 1, paragraph B or E a sentencing alternative involving a term of imprisonment of at least 10 years.

The court may not suspend a minimum term of imprisonment imposed under this section unless it sets forth in detail, in writing, the reasons for suspending the sentence. The court shall consider the nature and circumstances of the crime, the physical and mental well-being of the minor and the history and character of the defendant and may only suspend the minimum term if the court is of the opinion that the exceptional features of the case justify the imposition of another sentence. Section 9-A governs the use of prior convictions when determining a sentence.

3. Aggravating sentencing factor of victim under 12 years of age. If the State pleads and proves that a crime under this section was committed against ~~an individual~~ a minor, including an identifiable child, who had not attained 12 years of age, the court, in determining the appropriate sentence, shall treat the age of the ~~victim~~ minor as an aggravating sentencing factor.

4. The following may be reasonably inferred from the contents of an image or may be established through competent medical evidence or other expert testimony:

A. The age of an individual depicted in the image;

B. The age of an individual who appears to be depicted in the image; and

C. That an individual depicted or who appears to be depicted in the image is an identifiable child.

5. A person is subject to prosecution pursuant to this section in this State if the person, the minor or the identifiable child was in the State at the time of the offense.

Sec. 3. 17-A MRSA §283, as amended by PL 2015, c. 394, §3, is further amended to read:

§283. Dissemination of ~~sexually explicit~~ child sexual abuse material

1. A person is guilty of dissemination of ~~sexually explicit~~ child sexual abuse material if ~~that person:~~

~~A. The person intentionally~~ Intentionally or knowingly disseminates or possesses with intent to disseminate any ~~book, magazine, newspaper, print, negative, slide, motion picture, videotape, computer data file or other mechanically, electronically or chemically reproduced visual image or~~ child sexual abuse material that depicts any person who

~~has not in fact attained 16 years of age of an identifiable child~~ who the person knows or has reason to know is a ~~person under 16 years of age engaging in sexually explicit conduct~~ minor, except that it is not a violation of this paragraph if the ~~person depicted~~ identifiable child is 14 or 15 years of age and the person is less than 5 years older than the ~~person depicted~~ identifiable child. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime;

A-1. Intentionally or knowingly disseminates or possesses with intent to disseminate any obscene material that is child sexual abuse material, including an image created using generative AI or machine learning, and the person knows or has reason to know that the material is child sexual abuse material. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime;

~~B. The person violates~~ Violates paragraph A or ~~A-1~~ and, at the time of the offense, has one or more prior convictions under this section or for engaging in substantially similar conduct to that contained in this section in another jurisdiction. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime;

~~C. The person intentionally or knowingly disseminates or possesses with intent to disseminate any book, magazine, newspaper, print, negative, slide, motion picture, videotape, computer data file or other mechanically, electronically or chemically reproduced visual image or material that depicts any minor who is less than 12 years of age who the person knows or has reason to know is a minor less than 12 years of age engaging in sexually explicit conduct~~ Violates paragraph A and the identifiable child in the child sexual abuse material has not attained 12 years of age and the person knows or has reason to know the identifiable child has not attained 12 years of age. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime; or

C-1. Violates paragraph A-1 and the person knows or has reason to know that the child sexual abuse material appears to depict a minor who has not attained 12 years of age. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime; or

~~D. The person violates~~ Violates paragraph C or ~~C-1~~ and, at the time of the offense, has one or more prior convictions under this section or for engaging in substantially similar conduct to that contained in this section in another jurisdiction. Violation of this paragraph is a Class A crime.

Section 9-A governs the use of prior convictions when determining a sentence.

2. For the purposes of this section, possession of ~~10 100~~ or more ~~copies~~ images of any of the materials as described in subsection 1 gives rise to a permissible inference under the Maine Rules of Evidence, Rule 303

that the person possesses those items with intent to disseminate.

3. For purposes of this section, any element of age of ~~the person depicted~~ a minor or identifiable child means the age of the ~~person~~ minor or identifiable child at the time of the sexually explicit conduct ~~occurred in the child sexual abuse material~~, not the age of the ~~person depicted~~ minor or identifiable child at the time of dissemination or possession of the ~~sexually explicit visual image or child sexual abuse material~~.

4. The following may be reasonably inferred from the contents of an image or may be established through competent medical evidence or other expert testimony:

A. The age of an individual depicted in the image;

B. The age of an individual who appears to be depicted in the image; and

C. That an individual depicted or who appears to be depicted in the image is an identifiable child.

Sec. 4. 17-A MRSA §284, as amended by PL 2015, c. 394, §4, is further amended to read:

§284. Possession of ~~sexually explicit~~ child sexual abuse material

1. A person is guilty of possession of ~~sexually explicit~~ child sexual abuse material if that person:

A. Intentionally or knowingly transports, exhibits, purchases, possesses or accesses with intent to view any ~~book, magazine, newspaper, print, negative, slide, motion picture, computer data file, videotape or other mechanically, electronically or chemically reproduced visual image or child sexual abuse material that the person knows or should know depicts another person engaging in sexually explicit conduct, and; of an identifiable child who the person knows or has reason to know is a minor, except that it is not a violation of this paragraph if the identifiable child is 14 or 15 years of age and the person is less than 5 years older than the identifiable child.~~

(1) ~~The other person has not in fact attained 16 years of age; or~~

(2) ~~The person knows or has reason to know that the other person has not attained 16 years of age.~~

~~It is not a violation of this paragraph if the person depicted is 14 or 15 years of age and the person is less than 5 years older than the person depicted.~~

Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime;

A-1. Intentionally or knowingly transports, exhibits, purchases, possesses or accesses with intent to view any obscene material that is child sexual abuse material, including an image of a minor created using generative AI or machine learning, and

the person knows or has reason to know that the material is child sexual abuse material. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime;

B. Violates paragraph A ~~or A-1~~ and, at the time of the offense, has one or more prior convictions under this section or for engaging in substantially similar conduct to that contained in this section in another jurisdiction. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime;

C. ~~Intentionally or knowingly transports, exhibits, purchases, possesses or accesses with intent to view any book, magazine, newspaper, print, negative, slide, motion picture, computer data file, videotape or other mechanically, electronically or chemically reproduced visual image or material that the person knows or should know depicts another person engaging in sexually explicit conduct, and; Violates paragraph A and the identifiable child in the child sexual abuse material has not attained 12 years of age or the person knows or has reason to know that the identifiable child has not attained 12 years of age.~~

(1) ~~The other person has not in fact attained 12 years of age; or~~

(2) ~~The person knows or has reason to know that the other person has not attained 12 years of age.~~

Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; ~~or~~

C-1. Violates paragraph A-1 and the person knows or has reason to know that the child sexual abuse material appears to depict a minor who has not attained 12 years of age. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime; or

D. Violates paragraph C ~~or C-1~~ and, at the time of the offense, has one or more prior convictions under this section or for engaging in substantially similar conduct to that contained in this section in another jurisdiction. Violation of this paragraph is a Class B crime.

Section 9-A governs the use of prior convictions when determining a sentence.

2. It is a defense to a prosecution under this section that the person depicted was the spouse of the person possessing the ~~sexually explicit child sexual abuse material~~ at the time the material was produced.

3. ~~The age of the person depicted and that the person depicted is an actual person following may be reasonably inferred from the depiction. Competent medical evidence or other expert testimony may be used to establish the age and authenticity of the person depicted. contents of an image or may be established through competent medical evidence or other expert testimony;~~

A. The age of an individual depicted in the image;

B. The age of an individual who appears to be depicted in the image; and

C. That an individual depicted or who appears to be depicted in the image is an identifiable child.

4. Any child sexual abuse material that depicts a person who has not attained 16 years of age engaging in sexually explicit conduct is declared to be contraband and may be seized by the State.

5. For purposes of this section, any element of age of ~~the person depicted a~~ minor or identifiable child means the age of the ~~person~~ minor or identifiable child at the time of the sexually explicit conduct ~~occurred in the child sexual abuse material~~, not the age of the ~~person depicted~~ minor or identifiable child at the time of the transporting, exhibiting, purchasing, possession or accessing of the ~~sexually explicit visual image or child sexual abuse material~~.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 16, 2026.

CHAPTER 720

H.P. 1492 - L.D. 2213

An Act Making Supplemental Allocations from the Highway Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the 90-day period may not terminate until after the beginning of the next fiscal year; and

Whereas, certain obligations and expenses incident to the operation of state departments and institutions will become due and payable immediately; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

PART A

Sec. A-1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF

State Police 0291

Initiative: Provides funding across programs for the approved reorganization of 8 Public Safety Mechanic positions to 8 Auto Mechanic III positions.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$10,887
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$10,887

State Police 0291

Initiative: Establishes 4 State Police Detective positions and provides funding for related All Other costs.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$268,408
All Other	\$0	\$22,554
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$290,962

State Police 0291

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of 5 Senior Laboratory Scientist positions from range 29 to range 31 and related All Other costs.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$20,976
All Other	\$0	\$407
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$21,383

State Police 0291

Initiative: Provides funding for an increase in rent for the northern field troop barracks.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$35,000
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$35,000

State Police 0291

Initiative: Establishes one State Police Lieutenant position and provides funding for related All Other costs for additional staffing related to the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act. This initiative also provides funding for one Ford Police Interceptor Utility Hybrid vehicle for this position.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$14,808	\$63,677
All Other	\$1,158	\$20,011
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$16,800
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$15,966	\$100,488

State Police 0291

Initiative: Establishes one Forensic Chemist II position and one DNA Forensic Analyst position and provides funding for related All Other costs, a mobile office unit and a contracted trainer for the tracking system.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$21,680	\$93,514
All Other	\$10,823	\$50,287
Capital Expenditures	\$14,000	\$0
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$46,503	\$143,801

State Police 0291

Initiative: Transfers one State Police Lieutenant position from the Traffic Safety program, 100% Highway Fund to the State Police program, 65% General Fund and 35% Highway Fund and provides funding for related All Other costs.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$71,008
All Other	\$0	\$4,192
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$75,200

State Police - Support 0981

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reclassification of one Office Associate II position to an Office Specialist I position effective November 17, 2025.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$6,029
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$6,029

Traffic Safety 0546

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one State Police Pilot position to a State Police Lieutenant position.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$15,737
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$15,737

Traffic Safety 0546

Initiative: Transfers one State Police Lieutenant position from the Traffic Safety program, 100% Highway Fund to the State Police program, 65% General Fund and 35% Highway Fund and provides funding for related All Other costs.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	(1.000)
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	(\$187,145)
All Other	\$0	(\$4,192)
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$191,337)

Traffic Safety - Commercial Vehicle Enforcement 0715

Initiative: Provides funding across programs for the approved reorganization of 8 Public Safety Mechanic positions to 8 Auto Mechanic III positions.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$13,975
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$13,975

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2025-26	2026-27
HIGHWAY FUND	\$62,469	\$522,125
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$62,469	\$522,125

Sec. A-2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF

Administration - Motor Vehicles 0077

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Public Service Coordinator I position from range 26 to range 28.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$7,222
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$7,222

Administration - Motor Vehicles 0077

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of 4 Customer Representative Associate II positions to Office Specialist I positions.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$21,440
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$21,440

Administration - Motor Vehicles 0077

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of 3 Accounting Associate I positions to Office Associate II positions.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$16,241
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$16,241

Administration - Motor Vehicles 0077

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Office Associate II position to an Office Associate II Supervisor position.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$5,392
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$5,392

Administration - Motor Vehicles 0077

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Senior Technical Support Specialist position to a Systems Section Manager position.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$11,942
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$11,942

Administration - Motor Vehicles 0077

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Program Audit Manager position from range 27 to range 28.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$4,333
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$4,333

Administration - Motor Vehicles 0077

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of 8 Office Associate I positions to Office Associate II positions.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$44,073
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$44,073

Administration - Motor Vehicles 0077

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Accounting Associate I position to a Business Manager I position.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$13,580
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$13,580

Administration - Motor Vehicles 0077

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Office Associate I position to a Management Analyst II position.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$14,441
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$14,441

Administration - Motor Vehicles 0077

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Clerk IV position to an Office Specialist II Supervisor position.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$7,810
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$7,810

Administration - Motor Vehicles 0077

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Public Service Coordinator I position to a Public Service Manager II position.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27

Personal Services	\$0	\$10,680
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$10,680

SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2025-26	2026-27
HIGHWAY FUND	\$0	\$157,154
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$157,154

Sec. A-3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF Administration 0339

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the cost of 5 Public Service Coordinator I positions from 96% Highway Fund and 4% Federal Expenditures Fund within the Maintenance and Operations program to 100% Administration program, Highway Fund. This initiative also transfers All Other to Personal Services in the Administration program, Highway Fund to partially fund the transfer and reallocation.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	5.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$582,482
All Other	\$0	(\$23,300)
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$559,182

Administration 0339

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the cost of one Public Service Manager I position from 100% Administration program, Highway Fund to 96% Highway Fund and 4% Federal Expenditures Fund within the Maintenance and Operations program. This initiative also provides All Other funding in the Maintenance and Operations program to maintain the department's Highway Fund allocation.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	(1.000)
Personal Services	\$0	(\$155,495)
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$155,495)

Fleet Services 0347

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the cost of one Office Associate II position from 100% Fleet Services program, Fleet Services Fund - DOT to 96% Highway Fund and 4% Federal Expenditures Fund within the Maintenance and Operations program. This initiative also transfers All Other to Personal Services in the Maintenance and Operations program, Highway Fund to fund that portion of the transfer and reallocation.

FLEET SERVICES FUND - DOT	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	(1.000)
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	(\$84,497)
FLEET SERVICES FUND - DOT TOTAL	\$0	(\$84,497)

Highway and Bridge Capital 0406

Initiative: Provides the allocation to spend GARVEE bond proceeds for highway and bridge needs.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$50,000,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$50,000,000

Highway and Bridge Capital 0406

Initiative: Provides position count for one Engineering Aide position by increasing the Legislative Count from 0.5 to 1.0.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	0.500
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

Highway and Bridge Capital 0406

Initiative: Provides funding in the Highway and Bridge Capital program and Maintenance and Operations program for the approved reorganization of 90 Senior Technician positions to Lead Technician positions. This initiative also transfers All Other to Personal Services to fund the portion of the reorganization allocated to the Highway Fund.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$434,519
All Other	\$0	(\$434,519)
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$391,018
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$391,018

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$43,468
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$43,468

Highway and Bridge Capital 0406

Initiative: Provides funding for the approved reorganization of one Public Service Manager II position from range 30 to range 33 and transfers All Other to Personal

Services to fund the portion of the reorganization allocated to the Highway Fund.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$9,042
All Other	\$0	(\$9,042)
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$8,139
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$8,139

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$903
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$903

Maintenance and Operations 0330

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the cost of 5 Public Service Coordinator I positions from 96% Highway Fund and 4% Federal Expenditures Fund within the Maintenance and Operations program to 100% Administration program, Highway Fund. This initiative also transfers All Other to Personal Services in the Administration program, Highway Fund to partially fund the transfer and reallocation.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	(5.000)
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	(\$559,182)
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$559,182)

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$23,300)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$23,300)

Maintenance and Operations 0330

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the cost of one Public Service Manager I position from 100% Administration program, Highway Fund to 96% Highway Fund and 4% Federal Expenditures Fund within the Maintenance and Operations program. This initiative also provides All Other funding in the Maintenance and Operations program to maintain the department's Highway Fund allocation.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$149,276
All Other	\$0	\$6,219
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$155,495

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$6,219
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$6,219

Maintenance and Operations 0330

Initiative: Transfers and reallocates the cost of one Office Associate II position from 100% Fleet Services program, Fleet Services Fund - DOT to 96% Highway Fund and 4% Federal Expenditures Fund within the Maintenance and Operations program. This initiative also transfers All Other to Personal Services in the Maintenance and Operations program, Highway Fund to fund that portion of the transfer and reallocation.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$81,117
All Other	\$0	(\$81,117)
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$3,380
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$3,380

Maintenance and Operations 0330

Initiative: Provides funding in the Industrial Drive Facility Fund for increased costs of maintaining and operating the facilities on Industrial Drive in Augusta.

INDUSTRIAL DRIVE FACILITY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$250,000
INDUSTRIAL DRIVE FACILITY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$250,000

Maintenance and Operations 0330

Initiative: Provides funding in the Highway and Bridge Capital program and Maintenance and Operations program for the approved reorganization of 90 Senior Technician positions to Lead Technician positions. This initiative also transfers All Other to Personal Services to fund the portion of the reorganization allocated to the Highway Fund.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$175,744
All Other	\$0	(\$175,744)
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$7,323

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$7,323

Multimodal Transportation Fund Z017

Initiative: Provides funding to align allocations with projected expenditures and available resources.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$743,753	\$1,365,912
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$743,753	\$1,365,912

TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
HIGHWAY FUND	\$0	\$0
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$392,779
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$743,753	\$51,410,283
FLEET SERVICES FUND - DOT	\$0	(\$84,497)
INDUSTRIAL DRIVE FACILITY FUND	\$0	\$250,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$743,753	\$51,968,565

PART B

Sec. B-1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF Highway and Bridge Capital 0406

Initiative: RECLASSIFICATIONS

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$9,644	\$440,642
All Other	(\$9,644)	(\$440,642)
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$8,678	\$396,558
All Other	(\$6,632)	(\$353,453)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$2,046	\$43,105

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$963	\$44,021
All Other	(\$735)	(\$39,236)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$228	\$4,785

Maintenance and Operations 0330**Initiative: RECLASSIFICATIONS**

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$68,013
All Other	\$0	(\$68,013)
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$2,500
All Other	\$0	(\$2,500)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$0
TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
HIGHWAY FUND	\$0	\$0
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$2,046	\$43,105
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$228	\$4,785
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$2,274	\$47,890

PART C

Sec. C-1. Carrying provision; Department of Secretary of State, Administration - Motor Vehicles. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall carry forward up to \$2,500,000 in unexpended balances in the Personal Services and All Other line categories in the Department of Secretary of State, Administration - Motor Vehicles program, after all financial commitments for obligations and budgetary adjustments have been made, at the end of fiscal year 2025-26 to the next fiscal year to the All Other line category in the Department of Secretary of State, Administration - Motor Vehicles program to be used to continue the modernization of Bureau of Motor Vehicles systems and services provided to the public. These funds do not lapse and are intended to carry until expended.

PART D

Sec. D-1. 23 MRSA §1652, 2nd ¶, as amended by PL 2011, c. 392, Pt. L, §2, is further amended to read:

Any balance of any allocation or subdivision of an allocation from the Highway Fund made by the Legislature for any department or agency, ~~which that~~ that at any time ~~may~~ is not be required for the purposes named in that allocation or subdivision, may be transferred at any time prior to the closing of the books, to any other allocation or subdivision of an allocation from the Highway Fund made by the Legislature for the same fiscal year subject to review by the joint standing committee of the

Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters. In addition to transfers of Highway Fund allocations and subdivisions of allocations from the Highway Fund, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters shall review all other allocations or subdivisions of allocations to the Department of Transportation. Financial orders describing these transfers must be submitted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of the Budget to the Office of Fiscal and Program Review 30 days before the transfer is to be implemented. In the case of extraordinary emergency transfers, the 30-day prior submission requirement may be waived by vote of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters.

PART E

Sec. E-1. Transfer of Personal Services balances to All Other; Department of Public Safety. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Public Safety is authorized to transfer up to \$339,948 of available balances of Personal Services allocations, after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the All Other line category of the State Police program for the purposes of funding consoles at 3 regional emergency communication centers and a contract for firearms examiner services. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

Sec. E-2. Transfer of Personal Services balances to Capital Expenditures; Department of Public Safety. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, for fiscal year 2026-27, the Department of Public Safety is authorized to transfer up to \$16,450 of available balances of Personal Services allocations, after all salary, benefit and other obligations are met, to the Capital Expenditures line category of the State Police program for the purposes of funding a heat pump and generator for the Pittsfield barracks and updating the security system at the Bangor barracks. These amounts may be transferred by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor. These transfers are not considered adjustments to appropriations.

PART F

Sec. F-1. Programmed GARVEE bonding level for 2026-2027 biennium. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary and pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, chapter 19, subchapter 3-A, for the 2026-2027 biennium, the Maine Municipal Bond Bank may issue from time to time up to \$50,000,000 of GARVEE bonds for highway and bridge needs statewide to be repaid solely from annual

federal transportation appropriations for funding for qualified transportation projects.

PART G

Sec. G-1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF State Police 0291

Initiative: Reverses a Part A initiative that transfers one State Police Lieutenant position from the Traffic Safety program, 100% Highway Fund to the State Police program, 65% General Fund and 35% Highway Fund and provides funding for related All Other costs.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$71,008)
All Other	\$0	(\$4,192)
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$75,200)

Traffic Safety 0546

Initiative: Reverses a Part A initiative that transfers one State Police Lieutenant position from the Traffic Safety program, 100% Highway Fund to the State Police program, 65% General Fund and 35% Highway Fund and provides funding for related All Other costs.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL		
Personal Services	\$0	\$187,145
All Other	\$0	\$4,192
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$191,337

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
HIGHWAY FUND	\$0	\$116,137
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$116,137

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 16, 2026.

CHAPTER 721 H.P. 1507 - L.D. 2232

An Act to Increase County Jail Funding

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, state funding for county jail operations has remained stagnant while the costs to operate county jails have rapidly increased, creating an undue burden on property tax payers; and

Whereas, it is necessary that this Act take effect prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. Credit of funds for county jails for jail operations costs. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1532, in fiscal year 2025-26, prior to the credit of any investment earnings on the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund, the State Controller shall first credit \$4,000,000 of investment earnings to the County Jail Operations Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account in the Department of Corrections for distributions to counties for jail operations costs.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

CORRECTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF

County Jail Operations Fund Z227

Initiative: Provides a one-time allocation to the County Jail Operations Fund for distribution to counties for jail operations costs.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$4,000,000	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$4,000,000	\$0

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 16, 2026.

CHAPTER 722 H.P. 1140 - L.D. 1705

An Act Regarding Adult Education Funding and Oversight

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §8606-A, sub-§8 is enacted to read:

8. Annual assessment and reporting. The department shall annually assess adult education needs in the State relative to funding appropriated by the Legislature. By December 3, 2026 and annually thereafter, the department shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters with the findings of the assessment. The report must include:

A. Funding allocated to each adult education program in the State;

B. The full funding amount that each adult education program in the State is eligible for and the amount that figure has been prorated by the department;

C. The impact of funding on adult education program outcomes;

D. Additional funding needs;

E. A plan for gradually increasing annual funding to adult education programs in order to reach 100% of the State's obligation for adult education funding in accordance with subsection 4; and

F. Recommendations on improvements to adult education.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §8606-A, sub-§9 is enacted to read:

9. Funds not disbursed; justification. If funds appropriated for adult education are not disbursed in accordance with the reimbursement procedures and rates described in this section and in section 8607-A, the department shall submit to the Legislature a detailed written explanation describing the reason the funds were not disbursed and describing the purpose of the funds.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §8607-B is enacted to read:

§8607-B. Program oversight

1. Guidelines. The department shall adopt and maintain clear, transparent and consistent guidelines for the use of state funds for adult education programs to ensure fiscal responsibility and alignment with state goals.

2. Stakeholder input. Prior to finalizing its budget, the department shall biennially convene a stakeholder group to provide the department with input on statewide goals for adult education, funding priorities and statewide program improvements. The stakeholder group must include, but is not limited to:

A. One or more members that serve as directors of adult education programs in the State;

B. One or more members representing a statewide adult education professional association;

C. One or more members that serve as adult education instructors in the State; and

D. One or more members representing adult education students.

Sec. 4. Distribution of funding. The Department of Education may not distribute any funding attributable to adult education programs through a school administrative unit starting in fiscal year 2027-28. The department shall distribute all funding associated with the college transitions programs under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688-A, subsection 2 directly to adult education programs through the subsidy outlined in Title 20-A, section 8607-A.

Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Adult Education 0364

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to support adult education programs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$150,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$150,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 723

H.P. 1164 - L.D. 1746

An Act to Reduce Dental Disease and Ensure Access to Essential Preventive Dental Care Among Maine Children

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-S, sub-§2-A, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 635, Pt. AAA, §1, is amended to read:

2-A. School-based preventive oral health services. By January 1, 2025 2027, the department shall provide preventive oral health services through the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention in all public schools in the State. The department shall establish public-private partnerships between state agencies or public schools and private corporations, individuals or organizations to allow mobile dental services providers to offer additional preventive oral health and disease intervention services in public schools.

Sec. 2. Mobile dental services providers in public health districts. The Department of Health and Human Services shall establish a model to provide for a mobile dental services provider in each public health district as described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 411, subsection 5, based on the Cumberland County School Oral Health Project. For the purposes of this section, "mobile dental services"

means dental services provided at a setting other than a permanent dental clinic. The department shall establish public-private partnerships between the department or school districts and private corporations, individuals or organizations to initially set up mobile dental services providers with equipment, supplies, logistics and methods of operation.

Sec. 3. Department of Health and Human Services to provide training and education to primary care providers. The oral health program within the Department of Health and Human Services shall provide training and education to primary care providers on minimally invasive dental disease treatment for infants and small children. The department shall ensure that all training and education is provided by licensed dental health professionals. The department shall use guidance from the From the First Tooth program or its successor program and the American Academy of Pediatrics to encourage the use of silver diamine fluoride by pediatricians in primary care settings to reduce dental disease and prevent cavities.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
DEPARTMENT OF**

**Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
0143**

Initiative: Provides funding to contract with mobile dental services providers to deliver services in public schools and provides funding for ongoing training and education for primary care providers on minimally invasive dental disease treatment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$325,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$325,000

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 724
H.P. 1264 - L.D. 1893**

**An Act to Establish an
Independent Office of the
Child Advocate**

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

Sec. 1. 2 MRSA §6, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2019, c. 343, Pt. 000, §1, is further amended to read:

5. Range 86. The salaries of the following state officials and employees are within salary range 86:

State Archivist;

Director, Division of Land Use Planning, Permitting and Compliance;

Chair, Maine Unemployment Insurance Commission;

Child ~~Welfare Services Ombudsman~~ Advocate; and

Director of the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §12004-G, sub-§5-B is enacted to read:

5-B.

<u>Children's Services</u>	<u>Advisory</u>	<u>Not</u>	<u>5 MRSA c.</u>
	<u>Committee to</u>	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>641</u>
	<u>the</u>		
	<u>Child</u>		
	<u>Advocate</u>		

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA Pt. 32 is enacted to read:

PART 32

CHILD ADVOCATE

CHAPTER 641

OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

§26201. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Advisory committee. "Advisory committee" means the Advisory Committee to the Child Advocate under section 26209.

2. Child. "Child" means a person who is under 18 years of age who is in the custody of or receiving services from or arranged through a state agency, or is qualified to receive such services, or in the past 3 years has been in such custody or received such services. "Child" also means a person who is under 18 years of age and is in custody or detention in any Department of Corrections juvenile correctional facility.

3. Child Advocate. "Child Advocate" means the individual appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature pursuant to section 26204 to serve as the administrator of the Office of the Child Advocate and to perform all other duties as assigned in this chapter.

4. Office. "Office" means the Office of the Child Advocate established in section 26202.

5. Oversight. "Oversight" means reviewing, monitoring and recommending changes to a state agency's implementation of laws and rules and all contracted programs, providers, services and activities of that state agency as well as that state agency's policies, procedures and practices.

6. Record. "Record" means information created, received, possessed or controlled by or on behalf of a state agency.

7. Safety science. "Safety science" means the systematic application of evidence-based methods of incident review that recognize human error not as cause, but consequence and symptom of conditions of the system in which decisions are made. A process grounded in safety science takes into account all the influencing factors on decision making to determine the adequacy of the infrastructure that supports decisions and influences outcomes.

8. Services. "Services" means residential or home and community-based children's behavioral health services or child welfare services provided directly by the Department of Health and Human Services or indirectly through a private provider or services provided by the Department of Corrections in a secure facility for children involved in the juvenile justice system. "Services" does not include standard juvenile correctional security practices.

9. State agency. "State agency" means a department, bureau or office of the State, including any public or private child service agency providing services under contract or agreement with a state agency to a child.

§26202. Office of the Child Advocate established; fund

1. Office established; purposes. The Office of the Child Advocate is established as an independent agency to provide independent oversight of state agencies and promote the best interests of children and ensure that children receive timely, safe and effective services in accordance with state and federal law. The office, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, shall operate with full independence from any state official or state agency. The office is established within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services for administrative purposes only.

2. Fund. A fund is established within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to support the operation of the office. Any unexpended balance remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year does not lapse and must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

§26203. Powers and duties of office

1. Complaints. The office shall review complaints and determine if the office considers it necessary to:

A. Investigate the actions of a state agency and make recommendations to address concerns;

B. Identify whether a complaint raises a systemic issue that must be addressed and make recommendations to a state agency that is implicated; and

C. Make recommendations to a state agency related to specific complaints.

2. Case-specific reviews. The office may complete a case-specific review on the receipt of a complaint or on the office's own initiative. When coordinating a case-specific review, the office shall coordinate efforts with the state agencies involved to minimize the impact and trauma to the child, family and department personnel involved.

A. In a child welfare case, if there is a pending criminal investigation or prosecution in state or federal court identified prior to or during a case-specific review, the office may consult with the Attorney General before proceeding with the review. The consultation with the Attorney General does not halt or delay the case-specific review.

B. If a review requires the office to interview a child receiving services from the Department of Health and Human Services, the office shall consult with the Attorney General. An interview must be conducted using trauma-informed and developmentally sensitive interview techniques.

C. If a review requires the office to interview a child in the custody of the Department of Corrections, the prosecuting attorney, the defense attorney for the child and the Attorney General must all agree to the interview, including any specific terms of the interview. An interview must be conducted using trauma-informed and developmentally sensitive interview techniques.

3. Systems-wide or periodic review; recommendations. The office may complete systems-wide or periodic review of policies, programs, rules, procedures or services offered to children and provide recommendations to address systemic concerns in order to improve the quality of care in order to provide children with the opportunity to live full and productive lives.

4. Consultation. The Child Advocate shall regularly consult with state agencies and the advisory committee and participate in conferences, meetings and studies aimed at improving the performance of state agencies.

5. Information and referral services. The office shall provide information and referral assistance to families and the public to assist families and the public in navigating and accessing services available through state agencies and to promote the child's best interest. The provision of information under this subsection does not constitute legal representation of a child or parent. A family may seek and must receive information regardless of whether the family is represented by legal counsel. The information must be provided free of charge. Failure to provide information under this subsection does not create a cause of action or have any effect on a child protective proceeding.

6. Outreach and advocacy. The office shall perform educational outreach and advocacy initiatives as part of the mission and responsibilities of the office and in coordination with other relevant advocacy organizations. The office shall provide information through a toll-free telephone number and a publicly accessible website.

§26204. Child Advocate; term; appointment; removal

1. Appointment. The Governor shall appoint the Child Advocate to supervise the office, serve as the office's administrator and perform all other duties as assigned by this chapter. The appointment must be made on the recommendation of the advisory committee from the list provided pursuant to section 26209, subsection 4, paragraph A and is subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and to confirmation by the Legislature. No later than 8 weeks after receiving the list of candidates from the advisory committee, the Governor shall designate a candidate for Child Advocate from among those recommended by the advisory committee and submit the appointment for approval by the Legislature. If a candidate withdraws from consideration prior to approval by the Legislature, the Governor shall designate another candidate from among the remaining candidates recommended by the advisory committee to the Governor. If the Governor fails to designate a candidate within 8 weeks after receiving the recommendations of the advisory committee, the candidate ranked first by the advisory committee is deemed appointed and submitted for approval by the Legislature. The position of Child Advocate is a full-time, unclassified position.

2. Term. The Child Advocate serves a term of 5 years and until a successor is appointed and approved. A vacancy in the position of Child Advocate must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made for the remainder of the unexpired term. The Child Advocate's term may be renewed as described in subsection 3.

3. Reappointment. The advisory committee may recommend reappointment of the Child Advocate by providing notice to the Governor. If the Governor does not respond to the recommendation for reappointment within 8 weeks after receiving the recommendation from the advisory committee, the Child Advocate's reappointment must be referred to the Legislature for approval.

4. Qualifications. A person appointed to the position of Child Advocate must be selected without regard to political affiliation and on the basis of integrity and demonstrated ability and must possess a professional graduate degree in law, health care, public health, social work or a related field and be qualified by education, experience and expertise to perform the duties of the position. The appointee must have knowledge of

safety science and juvenile correctional practices or be willing to undergo training as determined by industry standards for safety science-based system and juvenile correctional practices.

5. Removal. The Child Advocate may be removed from office for cause by the Governor with approval by a 2/3 vote of the Senate. As used in this subsection, "cause" includes, but is not limited to, substantial neglect of duty, gross misconduct or conviction of a crime. The cause for removal of the Child Advocate must be stated in writing, and that document must be sent to the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives and is a public document.

6. Associate Child Advocate hire; other personnel. The Child Advocate shall hire an Associate Child Advocate, who must meet the same qualifications required of the Child Advocate as specified in subsection 4. The Child Advocate may, subject to available appropriations, hire such other personnel as the Child Advocate considers necessary for the efficient management of the office. The duties of the personnel must be performed under the supervision of the Child Advocate. If a vacancy occurs in the position of Child Advocate and until such time as a candidate has been appointed by the Governor and approved by the Legislature, the Associate Child Advocate shall serve as the acting Child Advocate and is entitled to the compensation and privileges of and exercises the powers of the Child Advocate.

§26205. Access to personnel, files, records and facilities; confidentiality

When necessary to fulfill its duties as described in this chapter, the office has access to files, records, personnel and facilities as described in this section.

1. Access to Department of Health and Human Services and certain facilities and residential programs. Access by the office to the Department of Health and Human Services and facilities and residential programs serving children is governed by this subsection.

A. The office has access, for which a fee may not be imposed, to files and records of the Department of Health and Human Services and to the personnel of the department for the purposes of an investigation of a complaint or for a case-specific review. The office may also enter the premises of the department for the purposes of investigation of a complaint or case-specific review without prior notice.

B. The office may visit facilities and residential programs serving children.

C. Information obtained by the office under this subsection is confidential. Disclosure may be made as allowed or required in accordance with the provisions of Title 22, section 4008, subsections 2

and 3. Unlawful dissemination is subject to the provisions of Title 22, section 4008, subsection 4.

2. Access to Department of Corrections. Access by the office to the Department of Corrections is governed by this subsection.

A. The Child Advocate has access, for which a fee may not be imposed, to information regarding juveniles, subject to the limitations specified in Title 34-A, section 1216, held by the Department of Corrections, except that juvenile intelligence and investigative record information remains subject to Title 15, section 3308-A and personnel records remain subject to section 7070. The Child Advocate may also enter the premises of the department for the purposes of investigation of an inquiry or complaint without prior notice as long as such entry does not create a safety and security concern.

B. Information obtained under this subsection is confidential. Disclosure may be made as allowed under Title 34-A, section 1216 and Title 15, section 3308-A. Unlawful dissemination is subject to the provisions of Title 34-A, section 1216, subsection 3.

§26206. Confidentiality of records

1. Confidentiality; disclosure. A record held by or created by the office is confidential and may be disclosed only as described in subsection 2 and section 26205.

2. Disclosure of investigation findings. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, if the Child Advocate determines that the health, safety or welfare of a child is at risk, the office may disclose to the relevant entity only those details of investigation findings necessary to address the issue, subject to the following limitations.

A. The name, address or other identifying information of an individual who is the subject of a confidential proceeding or that is subject to a statutory confidentiality provision may not be released by the relevant entity to the public.

B. Unless agreed to by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Corrections and the Office of the Attorney General, investigation findings may not be released by the relevant entity if there is a pending child protection action, a pending criminal investigation, a pending prosecution or a pending proceeding under the Maine Juvenile Code.

3. Exception to archive laws. Notwithstanding section 95-C, subsection 1, paragraph C, any records held by or created by the Child Advocate must remain confidential until the relevant records have been in existence for 100 years.

§26207. Notification of child death

The Department of Health and Human Services shall notify the Child Advocate of a death of a child if:

1. Child welfare involvement. The child was involved with child welfare services at any time; or

2. Abuse or neglect. The fatality is suspected of being the result of abuse or neglect as defined in Title 22, section 4002, subsection 1.

Notification under this section must occur within 48 hours of a determination by the department that this section applies to the child death. The notification may be provided by oral or electronic communication.

§26208. Reporting and oversight

1. Annual report. Beginning in 2028, the Child Advocate shall report annually by January 15th to the Governor, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over juvenile justice matters and the advisory committee on the activities of the office. The report must include an account of complaints received, case-specific reviews conducted, systems-wide recommendations, information and referral services, outreach and advocacy and any obstacles to carrying out the requirements of the office. The report is a public record.

2. Oversight. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters shall review the operations of the office and may make recommendations to the Governor regarding the operations and administration of the office. The joint standing committee may report out legislation related to the annual report under subsection 1.

§26209. Advisory Committee to the Child Advocate

1. Membership. The Advisory Committee to the Child Advocate, as established in section 12004-G, subsection 5-B, consists of the following members:

A. A member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate;

B. A member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House;

C. Two members with lived experience with children's services administered by a state agency, including child protection, juvenile justice and developmental or educational services, as a child or family member, one of whom is appointed by the President of the Senate and one of whom is appointed by the Speaker of the House;

D. One member with expertise in special education appointed by the President of the Senate;

E. One member with expertise in mental health and substance use disorder treatment appointed by the Speaker of the House;

F. One member with expertise in juvenile justice systems and restorative justice appointed by the President of the Senate;

G. One member with policy expertise in children's behavioral health services or child welfare appointed by the Speaker of the House;

H. One member representing the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics or a successor organization appointed by the Governor;

I. One member with expertise in standards that apply in juvenile correctional facilities appointed by the Governor; and

J. A member of the public appointed by the Governor.

The advisory committee members shall elect a chair at the beginning of each calendar year. The chair may be reelected by the advisory committee.

2. Designees. A member of the advisory committee may appoint a designee to represent the member on the advisory committee. A designee, once appointed, qualifies as a full voting member of the advisory committee with all the rights and privileges of full membership on the advisory committee.

3. Terms of members. Legislative members of the advisory committee serve a term coterminous with their term in office. All other members serve 3-year terms. Members may be reappointed. Any vacancy on the advisory committee must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment, but for the unexpired term.

4. Duties. The advisory committee shall:

A. Recommend at least 3 qualified candidates to the Governor, ranked in order by qualifications, for appointment to the position of Child Advocate, except that, at the conclusion of the Child Advocate's 5-year term and upon receipt of a request from the Child Advocate to be considered for reappointment, the advisory committee shall determine whether to recommend reappointment;

B. Evaluate the Child Advocate's performance as determined necessary based on feedback received related to the Child Advocate;

C. Annually recommend whether the Child Advocate should receive a cost-of-living increase, salary increase or both in accordance with performance evaluations and request that the Governor include the necessary appropriation in the next biennial or supplemental budget;

D. Advise the Child Advocate on the strategic direction of the office and its mission and help promote the use of, engagement in and access to the office;

E. Work cooperatively with the Child Advocate to provide fiscal oversight of the general operating budget of the office and ensure that the office operates in compliance with the provisions of this chapter and state and federal laws relating to children's services; and

F. Provide consultation to the office in its effort to promote an effective, comprehensive and coordinated system of services and programs for children and families.

5. Quorum; meetings. Six members of the advisory committee constitute a quorum for a meeting. The advisory committee may meet as often as necessary but no less than 3 times a year.

§26210. Rules

The office shall adopt rules to carry out this chapter. The rules must include, but are not limited to, procedures and processes related to the complaint system, case-specific reviews and coordination with other entities with overlapping jurisdiction and during co-occurring investigations or reviews, including state agencies; child advocacy centers established pursuant to Title 22, section 4019; the child death and serious injury review panel established pursuant to Title 22, section 4004, subsection 1, paragraph E; and criminal justice agencies as defined in Title 16, section 803, subsection 4 with responsibility for juvenile justice records collected pursuant to Title 15, sections 3308-A and 3308-B. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 4. 18-C MRSA §5-127, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 and affected by PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14, is amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

The organization shall maintain records on the training and background checks of agents, including the content and dates of training and full transcripts of background checks, for a period of not less than 5 years after the minor attains 18 years of age. The organization shall make the records available to a parent or guardian executing a power of attorney under this section and to the ombudsman Office of the Child Advocate under Title 22, section 4087-A chapter 641 and any local, state or federal authority conducting an investigation involving the agent, the parent or guardian or the minor.

Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §4004, sub-§1, ¶E, as amended by PL 2023, c. 261, §1, is further amended to read:

E. Establishing a child death and serious injury review panel for reviewing deaths and serious injuries to children. The panel consists of the following members: the Chief Medical Examiner, a pediatrician, a public health nurse, forensic and community mental health clinicians, law enforcement officers,

departmental child welfare staff, district attorneys, criminal or civil assistant attorneys general and the ~~ombudsman pursuant to section 4087-A~~ Child Advocate or a designee of the ~~ombudsman~~ Child Advocate.

The purpose of the panel is to recommend to state and local agencies methods of improving the child protection system, including modifications of statutes, rules, policies and procedures. Beginning January 1, 2023 and every 2 years thereafter, the department shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters.

The panel shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters at least every 3 months. The panel may submit a combined report with the child welfare advisory panel established in section 4010-D or any judicial branch task force or panel with a focus on the child welfare system or child protective proceedings. Any presentation of the report to the committee must be presented by the citizen members of the panels to the extent possible. Each quarterly report must contain, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) A summary of generalized and anonymized observations in the prior 3-month period regarding efforts by the Office of Child and Family Services to improve the child welfare system;
- (2) A summary of the collaboration between the child welfare advisory panel and the child death and serious injury review panel as well as any judicial branch task force or panel with a focus on the child welfare system or child protective proceedings; and
- (3) Any recommendations on how to further protect the State's children through department policy and rulemaking and through legislation;

Sec. 6. 22 MRSA c. 1071, sub-c. 10-A, as amended, is repealed.

Sec. 7. Funds transferred. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, sections 1585 and 1586, all accrued expenditures, assets, liabilities, balances or allocations, transfers, revenues or other available funds in any account or subdivision of an account of the Department of Health and Human Services or the Executive Department and authorized for use by the child welfare services ombudsman program under Title 22, section 4087-A must be reallocated to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of the Child Advocate under Title 5, chapter 641 on October 1, 2026.

Sec. 8. Personnel transfer. As of October 1, 2026, 3 personnel from the child welfare services ombudsman program employed under the contract on the effective date of this Act are transferred to the Office of the Child Advocate at their existing budgeted compensation until such time as the Legislature has confirmed the Child Advocate. As authorized by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 26204, subsection 6, the Child Advocate confirmed by the Legislature shall hire an Associate Child Advocate and any staff necessary for the efficient management of the Office of the Child Advocate. The Child Advocate may hire any of the staff transferred to the office during the interim period. All personnel employed by the Office of the Child Advocate are state employees with all the rights and privileges of state employees.

Sec. 9. Interim Child Advocate. The Governor shall appoint an interim Child Advocate no later than October 1, 2026 to serve until a Child Advocate is appointed according to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 641, giving preference to the child welfare services ombudsman contracted under Title 22, section 4087-A. The Governor shall appoint a Child Advocate no later than July 15, 2027.

Sec. 10. Implementation resource needs assessment. Prior to the Governor's appointment of the Child Advocate, the interim Child Advocate shall prepare an in-depth report of resource needs, including but not limited to staffing, equipment, travel, consultancies, access to records and any other requirements for implementing the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 641. The report must be submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters no later than February 15, 2027. The joint standing committee may report out legislation to the 133rd Legislature in 2027 to make any necessary adjustments to the Office of the Child Advocate related to the report.

Sec. 11. Appointments to Advisory Committee to the Child Advocate. Appointments to the Advisory Committee to the Child Advocate, as established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 26209, must be made by the relevant appointing authorities no later than March 15, 2027. Notwithstanding Title 5, section 26209, subsection 3, the members initially appointed pursuant to Title 5, section 26209, subsection 1, paragraphs D, E and J serve for a one-year term and the members initially appointed pursuant to Title 5, section 26209, subsection 1, paragraphs C and H serve for a 2-year term.

Sec. 12. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Office of the Child Advocate N580

Initiative: Establishes one Public Service Coordinator II position and 2 Public Service Coordinator I positions in the Office of the Child Advocate, beginning October 1, 2026.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	3.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$324,220
All Other	\$0	\$16,326
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$340,546

Office of the Child Advocate N580

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for office needs, staffing needs, contracting services and training during the transition into the Office of the Child Advocate.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$100,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$100,000

Office of the Child Advocate N580

Initiative: Establishes one Public Service Coordinator I position and one Office Associate II position, beginning April 1, 2027.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	2.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$55,204
All Other	\$0	\$3,628
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$58,832

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$499,378
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$499,378

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Ombudsman Program 0103

Initiative: Deappropriates and deallocates funding from the contract for the child welfare ombudsman program to be transferred over to the new Office of the Child Advocate, effective October 1, 2026.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$241,539)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$241,539)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$37,150)
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$37,150)

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	(\$241,539)
FEDERAL	\$0	(\$37,150)
EXPENDITURES FUND		
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	(\$278,689)

LEGISLATURE

Legislature 0081

Initiative: Appropriates funds for the costs of Legislators participating on the Advisory Committee to the Child Advocate.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$330
All Other	\$0	\$720
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,050

LEGISLATURE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$1,050
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$1,050

SECTION TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$258,889
FEDERAL	\$0	(\$37,150)
EXPENDITURES FUND		
SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$221,739

Sec. 13. Effective date. This Act takes effect October 1, 2026.

Effective October 1, 2026.

CHAPTER 725

S.P. 819 - L.D. 2003

An Act to Improve Localization of Emergency Broadcast Messaging

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

Sec. 1. Transfer of settlement funds. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer \$600,000 from the Administration - Attorney General, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of the Attorney

General from funds received from settlement agreements to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30, 2027.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING CORPORATION, MAINE

Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation 0033

Initiative: Provides one-time funds for broadcast infrastructure equipment to enable localization of public safety information and emergency alert messaging on the statewide radio network operated by the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$600,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$600,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 726

S.P. 827 - L.D. 2008

**An Act to Provide Funding to
the Maine School of Science
and Mathematics**

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

Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

General Purpose Aid for Local Schools 0308

Initiative: Provides one-time funds to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics for infrastructure upgrades to the school's dormitory.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$300,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$300,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 727

H.P. 1378 - L.D. 2054

**An Act to Clarify the Laws
Regarding Moose Hunting
Permits for Hunting Outfitters**

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11154, sub-§2, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 184, §3, is amended to read:

2. Issuance of moose hunting permits. In accordance with section 11552, the commissioner may issue moose hunting permits and may establish the number of moose hunting permits to be issued for each wildlife management district established by the commissioner by rule open to moose hunting. No more than 8% of the moose hunting permits may be issued to non-residents. No more than 2% of the moose hunting permits may be issued to hunting outfitters in accordance with subsection 14 14-A.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §11154, sub-§14, as amended by PL 2017, c. 458, §2, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §11154, sub-§14-A is enacted to read:

14-A. Moose hunting lodge permits. A moose hunting permit issued to a hunting outfitter, referred to in this section as a "moose hunting lodge permit," must be allocated through a chance drawing separate from the public chance drawing under subsection 9. The fee for a moose hunting lodge permit is \$1,500.

A. For the purposes of this subsection, "hunting outfitter" means a person that operates a sporting camp, as defined in Title 22, section 2491, subsection 11, that is licensed under Title 22, chapter 562 and:

(1) Offers a package deal that includes food, lodging and the services of a hunting guide licensed under chapter 927 for the purpose of hunting;

(2) Offers the services of a hunting guide licensed under chapter 927 for at least 3 months per year; and

(3) Has provided guided moose hunts in the State out of the sporting camp for at least 3 of the last 5 calendar years.

B. The department shall develop an affidavit that a hunting outfitter that applies for a moose hunting lodge permit must sign and attest that the hunting outfitter meets the requirements of this section.

C. A hunting outfitter that applies for a moose hunting lodge permit and identifies the wildlife management district in which the applicant's licensed sporting camp is located as the hunting outfitter's first choice on the application will be given preference for a permit in that wildlife management district in the moose hunting lodge permit chance drawing.

D. A hunting outfitter that receives a moose hunting lodge permit through the chance drawing described in this subsection may sell or transfer that permit only once, only to a hunter who is eligible

under paragraph H and only under the following conditions:

- (1) The sale or transfer must be part of a package deal that includes the food and lodging to be provided by the hunting outfitter to the person receiving the moose hunting lodge permit;
- (2) The hunter receiving the moose hunting lodge permit from the hunting outfitter must be accompanied during the hunt by a guide licensed under chapter 927;
- (3) The hunting outfitter must notify the department of the identity of the hunter receiving the moose hunting lodge permit;
- (4) The moose hunting lodge permit may not be sold or transferred by the hunter; and
- (5) The hunting outfitter may not buy, barter or sell or offer to buy, barter or sell a moose hunting lodge permit or the authority granted by a moose hunting lodge permit issued under this subsection to another hunting outfitter.

E. A hunting outfitter may be allocated more than one moose hunting lodge permit through the chance drawing described in this subsection.

F. A moose hunting lodge permit may be used only for the year, season, sex and wildlife management district for which the permit is issued except that:

- (1) A moose hunting lodge permit may be swapped with any other moose hunting lodge permit; and
- (2) A moose hunting lodge permit may not be swapped with a permit allocated under the public chance drawing under subsection 9 unless the original hunting outfitter that was awarded the moose hunting lodge permit wishes to swap for purposes of relocating that hunting outfitter's hunt to the wildlife management district where that hunting outfitter's licensed facility is located.

G. Moose hunting lodge permits allocated under this subsection may not exceed 5% of the total moose permits issued per year for each season, sex and wildlife management district permit type.

H. A resident or nonresident who is eligible to obtain a Maine hunting license or who will be eligible to obtain a Maine hunting license by the opening day of the open moose season is eligible to hunt with a moose hunting permit issued under this subsection.

I. A hunter who obtains a moose hunting lodge permit is ineligible to apply for or obtain a permit from the public chance drawing under subsection 9 until the 4th calendar year after the issuance of the last permit.

J. If proceeds in any year from the auction authorized under subsection 11 are less than \$107,000, proceeds from the sale of moose hunting lodge permits must be used to fund youth conservation education programs as provided under subsection 11 in an amount of up to \$107,000. The remainder must be deposited in the Moose Research and Management Fund under section 10263.

K. A recipient of a moose hunting lodge permit may not sell a subpermittee or an alternate subpermittee designation.

L. The commissioner may authorize a person who holds a moose hunting lodge permit to defer the permit pursuant to subsections 12 and 17.

Sec. 4. Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to update moose hunting lodge permit public chance drawing system.

The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall update the moose hunting lodge permit chance drawing system under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 11154, subsection 14-A to allow an applicant to indicate on the permit application the applicant's preference for moose hunting season and wildlife management district with the goal of reducing the need for hunting outfitters to swap permits.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 728

H.P. 1422 - L.D. 2107

An Act to Establish the Maine Nonprofit Security Grant Program

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

Sec. 1. 37-B MRSA §748 is enacted to read:

§748. Maine Nonprofit Security Grant Program

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Hate crime" means a crime in which the perpetrator selected the victim or the property that was damaged or otherwise affected by the crime because of the race, color, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or homelessness of the victim or of the owner or occupant of that property.

B. "Program" means the Maine Nonprofit Security Grant Program established in subsection 2.

C. "Serious bodily injury" has the same meaning as in Title 17-A, section 2, subsection 23.

D. "Terror attack" means an attack that causes serious bodily injury or death to multiple persons or causes substantial damage to a structure and is made for the purpose of intimidating or coercing a civilian population or to affect the conduct of government.

2. Program established. The Maine Nonprofit Security Grant Program is established in the agency to provide grants to assist nonprofit organizations to improve security at property owned or occupied by those nonprofit organizations to protect against hate crimes and terror attacks.

3. Eligibility. To be eligible for a grant from the program, a nonprofit organization must:

A. Be a tax-exempt organization under 26 United States Code, Section 501(c)(3); and

B. Demonstrate that the organization or the organization's facilities are at high risk of a hate crime or terror attack.

4. Use of grants. A nonprofit organization awarded a grant from the program shall use that grant for:

A. Physical security enhancements;

B. The cost of security personnel; or

C. The development or enhancement of security plans and protocols.

5. Administration. The agency shall administer the program and shall develop guidelines and criteria to award grants to eligible nonprofit organizations under subsection 3 using a request for proposals process.

6. Rules. The agency may adopt routine technical rules as described in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to implement this section.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Administration - Maine Emergency Management Agency 0214

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to provide grants to assist nonprofit organizations in improving security to protect against hate crimes and terror attacks. A portion of allocated funds may be used by the Maine Emergency Management Agency for program administration. Any balance remaining in the Maine Nonprofit Security Grant Program, General Fund account at the end of any fiscal year must be carried forward for use in the next fiscal year.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$200,000

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$200,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 729

H.P. 1439 - L.D. 2124

An Act to Support Emergency Shelter Funding Using Revenue from the Real Estate Transfer Tax

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

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §4641-B, sub-§4-B, ¶E-4 is enacted to read:

E-4. Notwithstanding paragraphs E-1 and E-2, the State Controller shall first credit \$1,012,617 in fiscal year 2026-27 of the revenues available to the Maine State Housing Authority under paragraph E-2, subparagraph (2), division (c) for the Housing Production Fund established in Title 30-A, section 4773 to the Maine State Housing Authority, which shall deposit the funds in the authority's shelter operating subsidy program to support emergency homeless shelters in the State.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE

Housing Production Fund N557

Initiative: Reduces allocations to reflect a one-time decrease in revenue from shifting 2% of real estate transfer tax revenue from the Housing Production Fund program to the Maine State Housing Authority to be used for the shelter operating subsidy program.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$1,012,617)

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$1,012,617)

Shelter Operating Subsidy 0661

Initiative: Provides a one-time allocation to support emergency homeless shelters in the State through the authority's shelter operating subsidy program.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,012,617

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$1,012,617

HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$0
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$0

Sec. 3. Effective date. This Act takes effect September 1, 2026.

Effective September 1, 2026.

CHAPTER 730 S.P. 836 - L.D. 2137

An Act to Modify Provisions of Law Governing Parking Enforcement on Property Accessible to the Public

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1500-LL, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Exemption. A municipality that has adopted an ordinance that regulates any parking rule applicable to property owned by the municipality and accessible to the public for the parking of motor vehicles and that includes fines, fees or charges for a violation of the ordinance is exempt from the requirements of subsection 1.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 731 S.P. 859 - L.D. 2141

An Act Regarding Enforcement of the Annual Reporting Requirement of the Laws Governing Unclaimed Beverage Container Deposits

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §3119, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2025, c. 241, §18, is further amended by enacting at the end a new first blocked paragraph to read:

An initiator of deposit that fails to report annually to the department in accordance with the requirements of this subsection commits a violation of this chapter, is subject to penalties under section 3111 and, as long as the violation exists, is prohibited from selling or distributing in the State any beverage container subject to the requirements of this chapter. A distributor or dealer

may not sell or distribute in the State any such containers of the initiator, and the department may remove from sale any such containers of the initiator.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 732 H.P. 1443 - L.D. 2154

An Act to Establish the Health Information Technology Fund to Support a State-designated Statewide Health Information Exchange

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1730-B is enacted to read:

§1730-B. Health Information Technology Fund

The Health Information Technology Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within the department.

1. Use of fund. The fund must be used to support the operation and sustainability of a state-designated statewide health information exchange operated in accordance with section 1711-C, subsection 18 and to meet the State's matching fund requirements to obtain federal funding to support the operation and sustainability of such an exchange. Funds received pursuant to subsection 2 may be used only for purposes directly related to the operation and sustainability of a state-designated statewide health information exchange. The department shall administer the fund in a manner that maximizes eligibility for available federal matching funds.

2. Source of funds; separate account; interest; nonlapsing fund. The fund is administered by the department. The fund consists of money appropriated or allocated by the Legislature, federal funds, grants, gifts and other funds from public or private sources. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Interest earned by the fund must be credited to the fund. Any unexpended balances remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year do not lapse and must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

Sec. 2. Transfer of settlement funds. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer \$350,000 from the Administration - Attorney General, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of the Attorney General from funds received from settlement agreements to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30, 2027.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Health Information Technology Fund N565

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to support the operations of a state-designated statewide health information exchange and to meet the State's matching fund requirements for available federal funding.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$350,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$350,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 733

H.P. 1461 - L.D. 2173

An Act to Update the Laws Regarding Housing Developments and Accessory Dwelling Units

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2463-B, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 385, §1, is amended to read:

§2463-B. Fire protection in accessory dwelling units

Fire suppression sprinklers are not required for an accessory dwelling unit unless the accessory dwelling unit is within or attached to a structure of that contains, or will contain upon completion of construction, more than 2 dwelling units, including accessory dwelling units. As used in this section, "accessory dwelling unit" has the same meaning as in Title 30-A, section 4301, subsection 1-C. This section may not be construed to exempt an accessory dwelling unit from fire protection requirements when the unit is located within or attached to a mixed-use or nonresidential building or when sprinkler protection is otherwise required based on occupancy classification, building use or hazard level under the National Fire Protection Association codes adopted pursuant to section 2452.

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §4351-A is enacted to read:

§4351-A. Definition

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, "public sewer system" means a sewer system managed, owned or operated by a municipality or quasi-municipal entity that is a municipal sewer department, a sewer district as defined in Title 38, section 1032, subsection 3, a standard district as defined in Title 38, section 1032, subsection 4 or a sanitary district formed under Title 38, chapter 11.

Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §4360, as amended by PL 2025, c. 385, §3 and affected by §23, is further amended to read:

§4360. Rate of growth ordinances

1. Ordinance review and update. A municipality that enacts a rate of growth ordinance shall review and update the ordinance at least every 3 years to determine whether the rate of growth ordinance is still necessary and how the rate of growth ordinance may be adjusted to meet current conditions.

1-A. Definition; common scheme of development. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "common scheme of development" means a plan or process of development that:

A. Takes place on contiguous parcels or lots in the same immediate vicinity; and

B. Exhibits characteristics of a unified approach, method or effect, such as:

(1) Unified ownership, management or supervision;

(2) Sharing common equipment or labor; or

(3) Common financing.

2. Differential ordinances. A municipality may enact rate of growth ordinances that set different limits on the number of building or development permits that are permitted in ~~designated rural~~ different areas. ~~A, except that a municipality may not enact or enforce rate of growth ordinances that limit residential development in designated growth areas, as defined in section 4301, subsection 6-C, except as authorized by this chapter subsection 3.~~

3. Ordinance requirements; growth areas. A municipality may adopt a rate of growth ordinance that applies to a designated growth area only if:

A. The ordinance is consistent with section 4314, subsection 3;

B. The ordinance sets the number of building or development permits for new residential dwellings, ~~not including permits for affordable housing,~~ at 105% or more of the mean number of total permits issued for new residential dwellings within the municipality during the 10 years immediately prior to the year in which the number is calculated. The mean is determined by adding together the total number of permits issued, ~~excluding permits issued for affordable housing,~~ for new residential dwellings for each year in the prior 10 years and then dividing by 10;

C. ~~In addition to the permits established pursuant to paragraph B, the ordinance sets the number of building or development permits for affordable~~

~~housing at no less than 10% of the number of permits set in the ordinance pursuant to paragraph B; and~~

C-1. The ordinance does not restrict the number of building permits or require a development permit for affordable housing as defined in section 5246, subsection 1;

D. The number of building or development permits for new residential dwellings allowed under the ordinance is recalculated every 3 years; and

E. Within the designated growth area, the ordinance does not limit the development permits allowed per project or per common scheme of development to a number that is less than 35% of the allocated permits for that area.

4. Ordinance requirements; other areas. A municipality may adopt a rate of growth ordinance applicable to all other areas without limitation by this section.

Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §4364, first ¶, as amended by PL 2023, c. 192, §1, is further amended to read:

For an affordable housing development approved on or after the implementation date, a municipality with density requirements shall apply density requirements and a municipality with height restriction requirements shall apply height allowance requirements in accordance with this section.

Sec. 5. 30-A MRSA §4364, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2025, c. 385, §4 and affected by §23 and amended by c. 388, Pt. D, §36, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. Density requirements. A municipality shall allow an affordable housing development where multi-family dwellings are allowed to have a dwelling unit density of at least 2 1/2 times the base density that is otherwise allowed in that location and may not require more than 2 off-street parking spaces for every 3 units. The development must be in a designated growth area of a municipality as identified in a comprehensive plan adopted pursuant to subchapter 2 or be served by a water system delivering water drawn from a public water source as defined in Title 22, section 2641 and a public sewer system.

Sec. 6. 30-A MRSA §4364, sub-§2-A, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 385, §5 and affected by §23, is amended to read:

2-A. Additional height allowance. Except as otherwise prohibited under Title 38, chapter 3 and municipal shoreland zoning ordinances, a municipality shall allow, ~~subject to review by a municipal fire official or designee,~~ an affordable housing development to exceed any municipal height restriction by ~~no less than one story or~~ 14 feet but only up to a total building height of

55 feet. To be eligible for the additional height allowance pursuant to this subsection, an affordable housing development must be approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal or a municipality registered under Title 25, section 2448-A and must be:

A. In a designated growth area of a municipality as identified in a comprehensive plan adopted pursuant to subchapter 2; or

B. Served by a water system delivering water drawn from a public water source as defined in Title 22, section 2641 and a public sewer system.

Sec. 7. 30-A MRSA §4364, sub-§5, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 672, §4, is amended to read:

~~A. If a housing unit is connected to a public, special district or other comparable sewer system,~~ proof of adequate service to support any additional flow created by the unit and proof of payment for the connection to the sewer system;

Sec. 8. 30-A MRSA §4364, sub-§5, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 672, §4, is amended to read:

~~C. If a housing unit is connected to a public, special district or other centrally managed water system served by a water system delivering water drawn from a public water source as defined in Title 22, section 2641,~~ proof of adequate service to support any additional flow created by the unit, proof of payment for the connection and the volume and supply of water required for the unit; and

Sec. 9. 30-A MRSA §4364, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2025, c. 385, §6 and affected by §23, is further amended by repealing the first blocked paragraph.

Sec. 10. 30-A MRSA §4364, sub-§9, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 264, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

9. Exceptions. This section does not apply to:

A. A lot or portion of a lot that is within the watershed of a water source that is located in the City of Lewiston or the City of Auburn and that is used to provide drinking water by a water utility that has received a waiver from filtration pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 141.70 to 141.76, as determined by the Department of Health and Human Services; or

B. A lot or a portion of a lot that is within an area identified as a coastal barrier in Title 38, section 1904; an area of special flood hazard as defined in Title 38, section 436-A, subsection 1-C; or an area within a coastal sand dune system as defined in Title 38, section 480-B, subsection 1 as long as a municipality exempts the lot or portion of the lot in a duly adopted ordinance.

Sec. 11. 30-A MRSA §4364-A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 385, §§7 to 12 and affected by §23 and amended by c. 388, Pt. D, §37, is further amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§4364-A. Residential areas; generally; up to 4 dwelling units allowed

Sec. 12. 30-A MRSA §4364-A, sub-§1, as repealed and replaced by PL 2025, c. 385, §7 and affected by §23 and amended by c. 388, Pt. D, §37, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

1. Use allowed. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, except Title 12, chapter 423-A, for any area in which residential uses are allowed, including as a conditional use, the following are permitted uses:

A. At least 3 dwelling units, attached or detached, inclusive of accessory dwelling units, per lot; and

B. At least 4 dwelling units, attached or detached, inclusive of accessory dwelling units, per lot if the lot is located in a designated growth area, as identified in a comprehensive plan adopted pursuant to subchapter 2, or the lot is served by a water system delivering water drawn from a public water source as defined in Title 22, section 2641 and a public sewer system.

A municipality may allow more dwelling units than the minimum number required by this subsection.

Sec. 13. 30-A MRSA §4364-A, sub-§1-B, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 264, §2 and reallocated by RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. A, §26, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

1-B. Exceptions. This section does not apply to:

A. A lot or portion of a lot that is within the watershed of a water source that is located in the City of Lewiston or the City of Auburn and that is used to provide drinking water by a water utility that has received a waiver from filtration pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 141.70 to 141.76, as determined by the Department of Health and Human Services; or

B. A lot or a portion of a lot that is within an area identified as a coastal barrier in Title 38, section 1904; an area of special flood hazard as defined in Title 38, section 436-A, subsection 1-C; or an area within a coastal sand dune system as defined in Title 38, section 480-B, subsection 1 as long as a municipality exempts the lot or portion of the lot in a duly adopted ordinance.

Sec. 14. 30-A MRSA §4364-A, sub-§2-A, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 385, §9 and affected by §23, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2-A. Limitations on municipal ordinances related to lot size and density allowance for private

property rights protection. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, except Title 12, chapter 423-A, this subsection applies to any area in which residential uses are allowed, including as a conditional use.

A. If a lot is located in a designated growth area and is served by a water system delivering water drawn from a public water source as defined in Title 22, section 2641 and a public sewer system, a municipal ordinance may not require a minimum lot size that exceeds 5,000 square feet and may not require more than 1,250 square feet of lot area per dwelling unit for the first 4 dwelling units.

B. If a lot is located outside a designated growth area and in an area served by a water system delivering water drawn from a public water source as defined in Title 22, section 2641 and a public sewer system, a municipal ordinance may not require a minimum lot size that exceeds 10,000 square feet and may not require more than 10,000 square feet of lot area for the first dwelling unit or 20,000 square feet of lot area for the first 2 dwelling units within a single structure.

C. If a lot is located in a designated growth area without a public sewer system, a municipal ordinance may not require a minimum lot size that exceeds 20,000 square feet or a density requirement or calculation that is more restrictive than required by Title 12, chapter 423-A.

If 4 dwelling units have been constructed on a lot, the lot is not eligible for any additional increases in density, including under section 4364, unless more units are allowed by the municipality.

Sec. 15. 30-A MRSA §4364-A, sub-§5-A, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 385, §12 and affected by §23, is amended to read:

5-A. Planning board approval not required. A For any area in which residential uses are allowed, including as a conditional use, a municipality may not require planning board approval for accessory dwelling units or solely because the project will establish 4 or fewer dwelling units within a single structure on a lot.

Sec. 16. 30-A MRSA §4364-B, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2025, c. 385, §13 and affected by §23, is further amended to read:

1. Use permitted. Except as provided in Title 12, chapter 423-A, a municipality shall allow an accessory dwelling unit to be located on the same lot as a single-family dwelling unit or ~~multi-unit~~ 2-unit or 3-unit residential structure in any area in which residential uses are permitted, including as a conditional use, in accordance with this section.

Sec. 17. 30-A MRSA §4364-B, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by PL 2025, c. 385, §14 and affected by §23, is further amended to read:

B. Attached to or sharing a wall with a single-family dwelling unit or multi-unit residential structure; or

Sec. 18. 30-A MRSA §4364-B, sub-§3, ¶A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 385, §15 and affected by §23, is further amended to read:

A. At least one accessory dwelling unit must be allowed on any lot where ~~a single-family dwelling unit~~ is the principal structure is a single-family dwelling unit or 2-unit or 3-unit residential structure; and

Sec. 19. 30-A MRSA §4364-B, sub-§8, as amended by PL 2025, c. 648, §4, is further amended to read:

8. Municipal implementation. In adopting an ordinance under this section, a municipality may:

~~A. Establish an application and permitting process for accessory dwelling units that does not require planning board approval;~~

B. Impose fines for violations of building, zoning and utility requirements for accessory dwelling units; ~~and~~

C. Establish alternative criteria that are less restrictive than the requirements of subsections 4, 5, 6 and 7 for the approval of an accessory dwelling unit only in circumstances in which the municipality would be able to provide a variance under section 4353, subsection 4, 4-A, 4-B, 4-C or 4-D; ~~and~~

D. Exempt a lot or portion of a lot that is within an area identified as a coastal barrier in Title 38, section 1904; an area of special flood hazard as defined in Title 38, section 436-A, subsection 1-C; or an area within a coastal sand dune system as defined in Title 38, section 480-B, subsection 1.

Sec. 20. 30-A MRSA §4364-D, sub-§1, ¶C is enacted to read:

C. "Small child care facility" has the same meaning as in Title 22, section 8301-A, subsection 1-A, paragraph E.

Sec. 21. 30-A MRSA §4364-D, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 288, §2, is amended to read:

2. Location of child care. A child care facility or a family child care provider ~~is~~ must be a permitted use in a municipal area that is zoned for residential purposes; ~~A family child care provider or small child care facility located in an area zoned for residential purposes must be subject to the same zoning requirements for other residential property as a single-family dwelling unit.~~

Sec. 22. 30-A MRSA §4364-E, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 364, §2 and reallocated by RR 2025, c. 1, Pt. A, §42, is amended by enacting at the end a new paragraph to read:

This section does not apply to areas allowing industrial uses.

Sec. 23. PL 2025, c. 288, §3 is enacted to read:

Sec. 3. Application; retroactivity. That section of this Act that enacts the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 4364-D applies to municipalities beginning July 1, 2027. This section applies retroactively to September 24, 2025.

Sec. 24. PL 2025, c. 374, §2 is enacted to read:

Sec. 2. Application; retroactivity. This Act applies to municipalities beginning July 1, 2027. This section applies retroactively to September 24, 2025.

Sec. 25. PL 2025, c. 385, §23 is amended to read:

Sec. 23. Application. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, except for those sections of this Act that enact the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, section 2463-B, amend Title 30-A, section 4301, subsection 1-C and enact Title 30-A, section 4364-C, subsection 4, this Act applies to ~~municipalities for which ordinances may be enacted by the municipal officers without further action or approval by the voters of the municipality beginning July 1, 2026 and applies to all other municipalities beginning July 1, 2027.~~

Sec. 26. General application date; changes to public laws retroactive. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, except for those sections of this Act that amend Public Law 2025, chapters 288, 374 and 385, this Act applies to municipalities beginning July 1, 2027. Those sections of this Act that amend Public Law 2025, chapters 288, 374 and 385 apply retroactively to September 24, 2025.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 734

S.P. 883 - L.D. 2178

An Act to Establish the Independent Office of Tax Appeals and Make Other Changes to the Laws Governing the Tax Appeals Process

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

PART A

Sec. A-1. 36 MRSA §151-C, sub-§2, ¶C, as amended by PL 2025, c. 486, Pt. A, §1, is further amended to read:

C. Propose to the assessor and the bureau's division directors any recommended changes in the admin-

istrative practices of the bureau to mitigate problems identified or arising under paragraphs A and B; ~~and~~

Sec. A-2. 36 MRSA §151-C, sub-§2, ¶D, as amended by PL 2025, c. 486, Pt. A, §1, is further amended to read:

D. Identify legislative changes that may be appropriate to mitigate problems identified or arising under paragraphs A and B and report recommendations in the annual report required under subsection 3; ~~and~~

Sec. A-3. 36 MRSA §151-C, sub-§2, ¶E is enacted to read:

E. Identify administrative or legislative changes that would further improve the tax dispute resolution and administrative tax appeals processes under sections 151, 151-E, 271 and 844.

PART B

Sec. B-1. 4 MRSA §807, sub-§3, ¶R, as amended by PL 2019, c. 449, §1, is further amended to read:

R. A person who is not an attorney but who is a public accountant, an enrolled agent, an enrolled actuary or any other person permitted to represent the taxpayer under Title 36, section 151-A, subsection 2 and is representing a party in any hearing, action or proceeding before the Maine Board Independent Office of Tax Appeals in accordance with Title 36, section ~~451-D~~ 151-E;

Sec. B-2. 5 MRSA §12004-B, sub-§10, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 694, §1, is repealed.

Sec. B-3. 36 MRSA §111, sub-§1-C, as amended by PL 2013, c. 331, Pt. C, §1 and affected by §41, is repealed.

Sec. B-4. 36 MRSA §111, sub-§1-H is enacted to read:

1-H. Office. For purposes of this chapter, "office" means the Independent Office of Tax Appeals as established in section 151-E.

Sec. B-5. 36 MRSA §112, sub-§7-A, as amended by PL 2013, c. 331, Pt. C, §2 and affected by §41, is further amended to read:

7-A. Taxpayer Bill of Rights. The assessor shall prepare a statement describing in simple and nontechnical terms the rights of a taxpayer and the obligations of the bureau during an audit. The statement must also explain the procedures by which a taxpayer may appeal any adverse decision of the assessor, including reconsideration under section 151, appeals to the ~~Maine Board of Tax Appeals~~ office and judicial appeals. This statement must be distributed by the bureau to any taxpayer contacted with respect to the determination or collection of any tax, excluding the normal mailing of

tax forms. This paragraph does not apply to criminal tax investigations conducted by the assessor or by the Attorney General.

Sec. B-6. 36 MRSA §151, as amended by PL 2023, c. 360, Pt. B, §1 and c. 412, Pt. M, §§1 and 2, is further amended to read:

§151. Review of decisions of State Tax Assessor

1. Petition for reconsideration. A person who is subject to an assessment by the State Tax Assessor or entitled by law to receive notice of a determination of the assessor and who is aggrieved ~~as a result~~ because of that action may request in writing, within 60 days after receipt of notice of the assessment or the determination, reconsideration by the assessor of the assessment or the determination. If a person receives notice of an assessment or a determination and does not file a petition for reconsideration within the specified ~~time~~ period, a review is not available in Superior Court or before the ~~board office~~ regardless of whether the taxpayer subsequently makes payment and requests a refund.

2. Reconsideration by division. If a petition for reconsideration is filed within the specified ~~time~~ period, the assessor shall reconsider the assessment or the determination as provided in this subsection.

A. Upon receipt by the assessor, all petitions for reconsideration must be forwarded for review and response to the division in the bureau from which the determination or assessment issued.

B. Within 90 days of receipt of the petition for reconsideration by the responding division, the division shall approve or deny, in whole or in part, the relief requested. Prior to rendering its decision and during the 90 days, the division may attempt to resolve issues with the petitioner through informal discussion and settlement negotiations with the objective of narrowing the issues for an appeals conference or court review, and may concede or settle individual issues based on the facts and the law, including the hazards of litigation. By mutual consent of the division and the petitioner, the 90 days may be extended for good cause, such as to allow further factual investigation or litigation of an issue by that or another taxpayer pending in court.

C. If the matter between the division and the petitioner is not resolved within the 90-day period, and any extension thereof, the petitioner may consider the petition for reconsideration denied. The petitioner may not consider the petition for reconsideration denied after either the reconsidered decision has been received by the petitioner or the expiration of 9 years following the filing of the petition for reconsideration, whichever occurs first. A petition for reconsideration considered denied pursuant to this paragraph constitutes final agency action. A petitioner elects to consider the petition for reconsideration denied pursuant to this paragraph by:

(1) For a small claim request, filing a petition for review in Superior Court. For purposes of this subparagraph, "small claim request" has the same meaning as in paragraph E; or

(2) For all other requests:

(a) Filing a statement of appeal with the ~~board office~~ when the amount of tax or refund request in controversy is \$500,000 or less; or

(b) Filing a petition for review in Superior Court.

D. A reconsideration by the division is not an adjudicatory proceeding within the meaning of that term in the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.

E. A reconsidered decision rendered on any request other than a small claim request constitutes the assessor's final determination, subject to review either by the ~~board office~~ or directly by the Superior Court, except that the ~~board office~~ may review a reconsidered decision rendered on any request other than a small claim request if the amount of tax or refund request in controversy is \$500,000 or less. A reconsidered decision rendered on a small claim request constitutes the assessor's final determination and final agency action and is subject to de novo review by the Superior Court. For purposes of this paragraph, "small claim request" means a petition for reconsideration when the amount of tax or refund request in controversy is less than ~~\$1,000~~ \$500.

F. A person who wishes to appeal a reconsidered decision under this section:

(1) To the ~~board office~~ must file a written statement of appeal with the ~~board office~~ within 60 days after receipt of the reconsidered decision; or

(2) Directly to the Superior Court must file a petition for review in the Superior Court within 60 days after receipt of the reconsidered decision.

If a person does not file a request for review with the ~~board office~~ or the Superior Court within the ~~time~~ period specified in this paragraph, the reconsidered decision becomes final and no further review is available.

G. Upon receipt of a statement of appeal or petition for review filed by a person pursuant to paragraph F, the ~~board office~~ or Superior Court shall conduct a de novo hearing and make a de novo determination of the merits of the case. The ~~board office~~ or Superior Court shall enter those orders and decrees as the case may require. The burden of proof is on the person, except as otherwise provided by law.

Sec. B-7. 36 MRSA §151-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2013, c. 331, Pt. C, §4 and affected by §41, is further amended to read:

2. Representative of taxpayer. The taxpayer may bring to any interview with the State Tax Assessor or to any proceeding pursuant to section ~~151-D~~ 151-E any attorney, certified public accountant, enrolled agent, enrolled actuary or any other person permitted to represent the taxpayer. If the taxpayer does not bring anyone to the interview or proceeding but clearly states at any time during the interview or proceeding that the taxpayer wishes to consult with an attorney, certified public accountant, enrolled agent, enrolled actuary or any other person permitted to represent the taxpayer, the State Tax Assessor shall suspend the interview or the ~~board office~~ shall suspend the proceeding. The suspension must occur even if the taxpayer has answered one or more questions before that point in the interview or proceeding. The interview must be rescheduled to be held within 10 working days.

Sec. B-8. 36 MRSA §151-D, as amended by PL 2013, c. 331, Pt. B, §§1 and 2, is repealed.

Sec. B-9. 36 MRSA §151-E is enacted to read:

§151-E. Independent Office of Tax Appeals

1. Office established; purpose. There is established within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services the Independent Office of Tax Appeals to hear and decide appeals from decisions of the State Tax Assessor as provided by this section. The office is independent of and is not subject to the supervision or control of the State Tax Assessor or any other employee of the bureau. The purpose of the office is to provide taxpayers with a fair, low-cost and easily accessible forum for resolving tax disputes with the bureau, to ensure due process and to provide an alternative to appealing a reconsidered decision of the assessor directly to the Superior Court pursuant to section 151, subsection 2, paragraph F, subparagraph (2).

2. Composition of office; appointment; office location. The office is composed of the Chief Hearing Officer, appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services; hearing officers; and an administrative staff person hired by the commissioner or the Chief Hearing Officer. The hearing officers may be referred to as either "appeals officer" or "hearing officer." The Chief Hearing Officer is an unclassified employee at salary range 33. Other staff of the office are hired as classified employees subject to the Civil Service Law.

The office shall establish and maintain office space in the City of Augusta. The office may meet and conduct appeals conferences and hearings under subsection 8 at any place within the State and remotely pursuant to rules adopted pursuant to subsection 10.

3. Qualifications. The Chief Hearing Officer and hearing officers must be residents of this State and members of the bar of this State with substantial knowledge of tax law. The Chief Hearing Officer and hearing officers may not hold any elective office or any public office involving assessment of taxes or administration of any of the tax laws of this State. Notwithstanding this subsection, the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services may assign other duties to the hearing officers consistent with subsection 4, including assisting the State Board of Property Tax Review.

4. Powers and duties. The office has all powers as are necessary to carry out its duties, including the following:

- A. To hear and determine appeals in accordance with this section;
- B. To raise or lower assessments to conform to the law;
- C. To adopt rules in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act governing procedures before the office pursuant to subsection 10;
- D. To administer oaths, take testimony, hold hearings, summon witnesses and subpoena records, files and documents the office considers necessary for carrying out its responsibilities; and
- E. To charge a fee for filing a petition with the office for an appeal.

5. Chief Hearing Officer; duties. Under the supervision and direction of the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services, the Chief Hearing Officer shall manage the work of the office, including:

- A. Ensuring that the office provides taxpayers with a low-cost and easily accessible forum for resolving tax disputes with the bureau filed with the office under section 151, including the use of mediation when appropriate, and ensuring due process;
- B. Assigning a hearing officer to preside over an appeal forwarded to the office under section 151;
- C. Developing, adopting and implementing rules, policies and procedures to carry out the provisions of this section and section 151 and to comply with all applicable laws;
- D. Ensuring proper records of all matters, hearings and transactions of the office;
- E. Ensuring that the assignment of duties to hearing officers comports with conflicts of interest standards and other ethics standards; and
- F. Providing and assigning part-time duties to a hearing officer to provide legal services to the State Board of Property Tax Review in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General.

6. Procedures for filing petitions for appeal. An appeal to the office pursuant to section 151 must be commenced by filing a petition for appeal with the office and paying the appropriate filing fee if required. Upon receipt, a copy of the petition must be provided to the State Tax Assessor and to the Office of the Attorney General.

Filing a petition for appeal with the office may be accomplished by delivery of the petition to the office by mail addressed to the office. All papers to be filed that are transmitted by the United States Postal Service are deemed filed on the day the papers are deposited in the mail as provided in section 153. The office shall place a petition for appeal that is filed without payment of a required filing fee on the docket and shall notify the petitioner that the appeal will not be processed further without payment.

7. Case scheduling conference. A hearing officer shall set a date and time for a scheduling conference to identify the issues in dispute, set a date for filing of briefs and supporting materials, set a date for the appeals conference if one is requested and facilitate the parties' efforts to narrow or resolve all or part of the appeal through settlement or stipulation. An appeal with an amount of tax or refund request in controversy of \$50,000 or less must be heard and determined by the office on a priority basis over its other docketed cases.

8. Hearing and determination of cases. Cases must be heard and determined by the office as follows.

- A. The assigned hearing officer shall preside over the case. The hearing officer has the authority to administer oaths, take testimony, summon witnesses and subpoena records, files and documents the hearing officer considers necessary for carrying out the responsibilities of the office.
- B. If requested by a petitioner in the statement of appeal or at the scheduling conference, the office shall hold an appeals conference to receive additional information and to hear arguments regarding the assessment or determination. The hearing officer shall provide the petitioner with at least 10 business days' notice of the date, time and place of the appeals conference. The appeals conference may be held with fewer than 10 business days' notice if a mutually convenient date, time and place can be arranged. If the petitioner does not request an appeals hearing in the statement of appeal or at the scheduling conference, the appeals officer shall determine the matter based on written submissions by the petitioner and the State Tax Assessor.
- C. The hearing officer need not observe the rules of evidence observed by courts but shall observe the rules of privilege recognized by law.
- D. Both a petitioner and the State Tax Assessor may submit to the hearing officer, whether or not an appeals conference has been requested pursuant

to paragraph B, written testimony in the form of an affidavit, documentary evidence and written legal argument and written factual argument.

E. The hearing officer may encourage the petitioner and the State Tax Assessor to resolve disputed issues.

F. Except when otherwise provided by law, a petitioner has the burden of proving, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the State Tax Assessor has erred in applying or interpreting the relevant law.

The appeals officer shall exercise independent judgment. The hearing officers and other office staff may not have any ex parte communications with the parties, or with any other employee of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services except those employees in the office; however, the hearing officers and other administrative staff persons may have ex parte communication limited to questions that involve ministerial or other administrative matters that do not address the substance of the issues or position taken by the petitioner or the State Tax Assessor.

G. The hearing officer shall prepare a decision on the appeal based upon the evidence and argument presented. The decision must be in written form and must state findings of fact and conclusions of law. The office shall issue and deliver copies of the decision to the parties. Unless the decision is revised by the office under rules adopted by the office pursuant to subsection 10, the decision is final and is subject to appeal under subsection 9. A revised decision is final, is not subject to further revision by the office and is subject to appeal under subsection 9.

9. Appeal to Superior Court. A determination by the office is not an adjudicatory proceeding within the meaning of that term in the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. A decision of the office constitutes the final administrative decision on the appeal and is subject to de novo review by the Superior Court. The burden of proof is on the taxpayer. A person who wishes to appeal a final decision of the office to the Superior Court must file a petition for review within 60 days after receipt of the decision. If a person does not file a request for review with the Superior Court within the period specified in this subsection, no further review is available.

10. Rules. Subject to any applicable requirements of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, the office shall adopt rules to accomplish the purposes of this section. Those rules may define terms, prescribe forms and make suitable orders of procedure to ensure the speedy, efficient, just and inexpensive disposition of all proceedings under this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

11. Annual report. By January 15, 2027 and annually thereafter, the office shall prepare and submit a report on the activities of the office to the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over taxation matters.

Sec. B-10. 36 MRSA §191, sub-§2, ¶C, as amended by PL 2023, c. 360, Pt. A, §1, is further amended to read:

C. The inspection by the Attorney General of information filed by any taxpayer who has requested review of any tax under this Title or against whom an action or proceeding for collection of tax has been instituted; or the production in court or to the ~~board office~~ or the State Board of Property Tax Review as established by Title 5, section 12004-B, subsection 6 on behalf of the State Tax Assessor, or any other party to an action or proceeding under this Title, of so much and no more of the information as is pertinent to the action or proceeding;

Sec. B-11. 36 MRSA §191, sub-§2, ¶XX, as amended by PL 2023, c. 360, Pt. A, §2, is further amended to read:

XX. The disclosure of information by the assessor to the ~~board office~~ or the State Board of Property Tax Review as established by Title 5, section 12004-B, subsection 6, except that such disclosure is limited to information that is pertinent to an appeal or other action or proceeding before the ~~board office~~ or the State Board of Property Tax Review;

Sec. B-12. 36 MRSA §191, sub-§2, ¶YY, as amended by PL 2023, c. 360, Pt. A, §3, is further amended to read:

YY. The inspection and disclosure of information by the ~~board office~~, or by the State Board of Property Tax Review as established by Title 5, section 12004-B, subsection 6, to the extent necessary to conduct appeals procedures pursuant to this Title and issue a decision on an appeal to the parties. The ~~board office~~ and the State Board of Property Tax Review may make available to the public redacted decisions that do not disclose the identity of a taxpayer or any information made confidential by state or federal statute;

Sec. B-13. Cost administration. The Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services, the State Tax Assessor and the Chief Hearing Officer of the Independent Office of Tax Appeals shall manage the implementation of this Part to ensure that this Part is implemented within existing resources.

Sec. B-14. Creation of Independent Office of Tax Appeals; elimination of Maine Board of Tax Appeals; transition provisions. The following provisions govern the elimination of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Maine Board

of Tax Appeals established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-B, subsection 10 and the creation of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Independent Office of Tax Appeals established under Title 36, section 151-E.

1. On January 1, 2027, the Maine Board of Tax Appeals is eliminated and the Independent Office of Tax Appeals is established.

2. The Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services shall appoint the Chief Hearing Officer under Title 36, section 151-E no later than January 1, 2027.

3. Three authorized positions and any incumbent personnel in the appeals office of the Maine Board of Tax Appeals are transferred to the Independent Office of Tax Appeals. These employees retain all the employee rights, privileges and benefits, including sick leave, vacation leave and seniority, provided under the Civil Service Law, collective bargaining agreements and current state personnel policies.

4. All funds, property and equipment previously belonging to or allocated for the use of the Maine Board of Tax Appeals become the property of the Independent Office of Tax Appeals.

5. All cases pending with the Maine Board of Tax Appeals as of January 1, 2027 are transferred to the Independent Office of Tax Appeals for review of jurisdiction. Cases that were within the jurisdiction of the Maine Board of Tax Appeals when filed are deemed within the jurisdiction of the Independent Office of Tax Appeals and ready for scheduling and determination.

Sec. B-15. Effective date. This Part takes effect January 1, 2027.

PART C

Sec. C-1. 5 MRSA §282, sub-§6, as amended by PL 2001, c. 333, §1, is further amended to read:

6. Supervise. To supervise and direct the administration of the State Claims Commission, State Board of Property Tax Review and Independent Office of Tax Appeals;

Sec. C-2. 36 MRSA §271, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 469, §6 and affected by §44, is further amended by amending subparagraph (7) to read:

(7) The current use valuation of certain working waterfront land law, chapter 105, subchapter 10-A; ~~and~~

Sec. C-3. 36 MRSA §271, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 469, §6 and affected by §44, is further amended by amending subparagraph (8) to read:

(8) Section 209; ~~and~~

Sec. C-4. 36 MRSA §271, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 469, §6 and affected by §44, is

further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (9) to read:

(9) As provided in section 6251, subsection 6:

PART D

Sec. D-1. 3 MRSA §959, sub-§1, ¶N, as amended by PL 2021, c. 617, §1, is further amended to read:

N. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over taxation matters shall use the following list as a guideline for scheduling reviews:

(1) State Board of Property Tax Review in ~~2027~~ 2028; ~~and~~

(2) Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services in ~~2027~~; ~~and~~

(3) Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Independent Office of Tax Appeals in 2028.

PART E

Sec. E-1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Independent Office of Tax Appeals N585

Initiative: Effective January 1, 2027, transfers all 3 existing Legislative Count and funding in the Maine Board of Tax Appeals to the newly created Independent Office of Tax Appeals.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	3.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$206,458
All Other	\$0	\$26,564

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$233,022

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$22,500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$22,500

Maine Board of Tax Appeals Z146

Initiative: Effective January 1, 2027, transfers all 3 existing Legislative Count and funding in the Maine Board of Tax Appeals to the newly created Independent Office of Tax Appeals.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	(3.000)
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	(\$206,458)

All Other	\$0	(\$26,564)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$233,022)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$22,500)
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$22,500)
ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$0
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$0

See title page for effective date, unless otherwise indicated.

CHAPTER 735

S.P. 903 - L.D. 2216

An Act to Establish the Maine Blue Economy Center

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §15303, sub-§7, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 109, §4, is amended to read:

D. A program, in collaboration with the Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board under Title 10, section 949, to support the technology transfer activities of the University of Maine System, other postsecondary educational institutions in the State and nonprofit research institutes eligible for funding under an asset technology fund established and administered by the institute, to increase the level of patenting at the University of Maine System, other postsecondary institutions in the State and nonprofit research institutes and to promote the licensing of the patents, especially to new and existing companies with operations in the State. Support under this paragraph may include expenses associated with patenting and licensing. The administrative costs of a program under this paragraph are not management and related operating costs of the institute under section 15305; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §15303, sub-§7, ¶E, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 109, §4, is amended to read:

E. A program in collaboration with the University of Maine School of Law to support the commercialization and manufacturing of innovations in the

State by providing education and assistance with the patent process of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to companies, inventors and entrepreneurs in the State. The administrative costs of a program under this paragraph are not management and related operating costs of the institute under section 15305; ~~and~~

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §15303, sub-§7, ¶F is enacted to read:

F. The Maine Blue Economy Center pursuant to section 15331, subsection 2.

Sec. 4. 5 MRSA c. 407, sub-c. 5 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 5

MAINE BLUE ECONOMY CENTER

§15341. Maine Blue Economy Center

1. Definitions. As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Blue economy" means the aggregate of persons engaged in any economic activity that depends upon the sustainable use of ocean, coastal or marine resources that optimizes innovation to retain and expand economic opportunities in the State while maintaining or improving the long-term health of marine ecosystems, including, but not limited to, business, manufacturing, research and education relating to commercial fishing, sustainable aquaculture and marine vegetation cultivation, marine biotechnology, ocean data and marine research, marine and coastal environmental science, resilient coastal infrastructure, working waterfront access and infrastructure, coastal ecosystem restoration and stewardship, marine recreation and tourism and sustainable boat building or marine propulsion or other industries grounded in the State's marine heritage, research expertise, location or traditional activities.

B. "Board" means the board of directors for the center established in subsection 3.

C. "Center" means the Maine Blue Economy Center established in subsection 2.

D. "Commercial fishing" means the harvesting or processing, or both, of wild marine organisms from natural habitats with the intent of disposing of them for profit or trade in commercial channels.

2. Establishment; purpose. The Maine Blue Economy Center is established within the Maine Technology Institute to serve as the State's central coordinating entity for blue economy sector initiatives and to work in collaboration with governmental entities, trade associations, institutions of higher education, research institutions, nonprofit organizations, businesses and

other entities to provide for the growth of the blue economy sector. The center shall support the sustainable development of ocean-based industries while recognizing the importance of the Gulf of Maine ecosystem and the marine resources upon which coastal communities and traditional marine industries depend. The center is established to serve the following purposes:

A. To expand the State's blue economy by supporting collaborative research, workforce training, entrepreneurial ventures, private sector investment and commercialization of ocean-based innovations;

B. To gather and analyze data that inform decisions, measure progress, identify new opportunities for the blue economy and monitor the health of ocean resources on which the blue economy depends, including through the development of a blue economy database and accessible public tools, such as an online portal and other public resources that improve understanding of the State's blue economy;

C. To communicate ongoing and emerging trends and performance metrics for economic activity and the health of ocean resources on which the blue economy depends through a regular public report on the state of the State's blue economy;

D. To serve as a statewide navigator and coordinating organization for the State's blue economy by connecting partners, aligning initiatives, strengthening communication and reducing unnecessary duplication across public, private and nonprofit efforts;

E. To coordinate with public and private partners, educational and research institutions, nonprofit organizations and business stakeholders to strengthen the State's blue economy and support collaboration across ocean industries;

F. To ensure that the traditional marine industries of this State, including commercial fishing and working waterfront activities, remain central to the State's blue economy and are fully considered in the center's planning, partnerships and recommendations;

G. To facilitate the creation of a highly skilled workforce and support attraction and retention of workers in the blue economy sector, including by promoting internships, apprenticeships and other work-based learning opportunities;

H. To conduct targeted workforce analyses, including assessments of workforce barriers, participation, outcomes and future workforce needs in the blue economy sector;

I. To support efforts to strengthen awareness about blue economy careers and education pathways in kindergarten to grade 12 and higher education;

J. To investigate opportunities for grants, loans and other resources to support blue economy entities and initiatives;

K. To develop strategies to attract federal, philanthropic and private investment and to position this State competitively for external funding;

L. To identify policy, programmatic and partnership opportunities that can support sustainable growth across the blue economy sector;

M. To advise the president of the Maine Technology Institute designated under section 15302 on matters related to the blue economy; and

N. To report regularly to the Legislature regarding its operations, activities, outcomes and recommendations.

3. Board of directors. The work of the center must be overseen by a board of directors composed of 17 members, of whom 4 members are ex officio, non-voting members as specified in paragraph A and 13 members are appointed as specified in paragraph B. A member appointed pursuant to paragraph B is entitled to one vote.

A. Ex officio members of the board are:

(1) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the commissioner's designee;

(2) The president of the Maine Technology Institute designated under section 15302 or the president's designee;

(3) The Chancellor of the University of Maine System or the chancellor's designee; and

(4) The Commissioner of Marine Resources or the commissioner's designee.

B. The members of the board who are not ex officio members are appointed by the Governor and are subject to confirmation by the Senate and must be individuals or representatives of organizations that are in a position to advance the purposes and goals of the center and are able to have a significant effect on improving the State's blue economy sector. When making appointments under this paragraph, the Governor shall consider the multidisciplinary nature of the State's blue economy sector and the importance of diverse representation from coastal and rural communities and from businesses and shall consult with the board of directors of the Maine Technology Institute and the board of directors of the Finance Authority of Maine to ensure the alignment of those appointments with the State's economic development strategies. Membership under this paragraph must include:

(1) A representative of a business in the State with fewer than 25 employees that is involved in the blue economy sector;

(2) A representative of a business in the State with 25 or more employees that is involved in the blue economy sector;

(3) A representative of a nonprofit marine or ocean science research institution based in the State that is involved in research and development in the blue economy sector;

(4) A representative of a university, community college or trade school in the State that is involved in the blue economy sector, including marine or coastal environmental research in the Gulf of Maine;

(5) A representative recommended by a federally recognized Indian tribe in the State;

(6) Two representatives of trade associations or nonprofit organizations that support the blue economy sector, at least one of which collaborates directly with private sector marine industries;

(7) A representative of business investors or the banking or finance sectors;

(8) A representative of a privately owned commercial fishing or working waterfront business in the State;

(9) A municipal official of a coastal community in the State;

(10) A representative from the private sector with experience in sustainable aquaculture or marine vegetation cultivation in the State;

(11) A representative with expertise in emerging ocean industries; and

(12) A representative of a privately owned marine recreational tourism business or trade association.

Members of the board who are not ex officio members serve 3-year terms and may be reappointed.

C. The Governor shall designate a chair from among the board's members who shall preside at, set the agenda for and schedule meetings of the board.

D. Board members shall disclose any direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any matter brought to the center and recuse themselves from any participation in the consideration of such matters.

E. The board shall meet as often as it considers necessary to perform its work and, to the extent practicable, the board shall conduct its work in a manner that is open and accessible to the public.

The board may conduct its work through subcommittees.

4. Operations of the center. The following provisions govern the operations of the center.

A. The center shall coordinate its activities with relevant state agencies, marine industry organizations, research institutions and regional economic development organizations in order to strengthen collaboration and avoid duplication of effort across the State's blue economy initiatives.

B. The center shall coordinate its activities with the other programs under the jurisdiction of the Maine Technology Institute, including any programs that promote life sciences and innovation in the State.

C. The center shall develop and implement a database composed of data that monitors the economic performance, workforce composition and environmental and resource trends in the Gulf of Maine that are relevant to the blue economy sector. The center shall assess economic performance by evaluating employment data of businesses within the blue economy sector, including wages paid to employees, the number of businesses operating within the blue economy sector and the revenue generated by those businesses.

D. To support its activities under this section, the center may seek outside funds, through direct solicitation or other fundraising methods, alone or with other groups, and may accept gifts, grants and bequests from individuals, corporations, foundations, governmental agencies and public and private organizations and may expend those funds for purposes consistent with this section.

5. Staff and administrative support. The Maine Technology Institute shall provide staff as may be necessary to fulfill the center's mission and may seek assistance from other state agencies and private entities to accomplish the goals and work of the center.

6. Annual report. The center shall submit annually to the Governor, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters, no later than 120 days after the close of the center's fiscal year, a complete report on the activities of the center. The report must also be made available to the public. The report must include the following for that fiscal year:

A. A description of the center's operations and an assessment of trends and performance in the State's blue economy sector, including details on the methods used to assess and measure the center's economic development impacts on the blue economy sector;

B. An accounting of the center's receipts and expenditures, assets and liabilities at the end of its fiscal year;

C. A listing of all investments, grants, loans and incentives provided by the center during its fiscal year;

D. A statement of the center's proposed and projected activities for its ensuing fiscal year;

E. An analysis of workforce trends, investment activity and emerging opportunities in the State's blue economy sector;

F. The most recent data available on the size, composition and growth trends in the State's marine economy and environment that is compiled in the center's database pursuant to subsection 4, paragraph C; and

G. Recommendations regarding further actions that may be suitable for achieving the purposes of this subchapter.

After reviewing the report under this subsection, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters may report out legislation relating to the report.

Sec. 5. Maine Blue Economy Center; interim report. The Maine Blue Economy Center, established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 15341, shall submit an interim report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters no later than 60 days after all members of the board of directors of the center have been appointed pursuant to Title 5, 15341, subsection 3. The interim report must include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. A strategic plan, including proposed measures of success, for the center covering the subsequent 5-year period;

2. An operational plan identifying anticipated staff and partnership resources, proposed tasks and expected accomplishments; and

3. A finance plan identifying general operating expenditures, anticipated task-related and project-related expenditures and funding.

After reviewing the report under this section, the joint standing committee may report out legislation relating to the report.

Sec. 6. Staggered terms. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 15341, subsection 3, paragraph B, with regard to the initial appointments of the members of the board of directors of the Maine Blue Economy Center, the Governor shall appoint 4 members to a one-year term, 5 members to a 2-year term and 4 members to a 3-year term.

Sec. 7. Transfer. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer \$160,000 from the Administration - Attorney General, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of the Attorney General from funds received from settlement agreements to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30, 2027.

Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Maine Blue Economy Center N569

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to support the operations of the Maine Blue Economy Center.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$160,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$160,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 736

S.P. 908 - L.D. 2225

An Act to Support Municipal Enforcement of Residential Construction Laws, Codes and Regulations

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §9722, sub-§6, ¶B, as amended by PL 2019, c. 391, §4, is further amended by amending subparagraph (8) to read:

(8) ASHRAE Standard 90.1 Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §9722, sub-§6, ¶B, as amended by PL 2019, c. 391, §4, is further amended by amending subparagraph (9) to read:

(9) Standard Practice for Radon Control Options for the Design and Construction of New Low-Rise Residential Buildings published by the American Society for Testing and Materials; ~~and~~

Sec. 3. 10 MRSA §9722, sub-§6, ¶B, as amended by PL 2019, c. 391, §4, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (10) to read:

(10) International Code Council and Modular Building Institute 1200 Standard for Off-site Construction: Planning, Design, Fabrication and Assembly.

Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §4451, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. D, §38, is further amended to read:

3. Training and certification of code enforcement officers. In cooperation with code enforcement officer professional associations, the Maine Community College System, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Health and Human Services, except as otherwise provided in paragraph H, the Maine Office of Community Affairs shall establish a continuing education program for individuals engaged in code enforcement. This program must provide training in the technical and legal aspects of code enforcement necessary for certification. The training program must include training to provide familiarity with the laws and ordinances related to the structure and practice of the municipal code enforcement office, municipal planning board and appeals board procedures, application review and permitting procedures, inspection procedures and code enforcement techniques, including enforcement of codes regulating industrialized housing. For the purposes of this subsection, "industrialized housing" means a structure designed to be used for residential housing that consists of or is constructed using one or more modular buildings, modular components or panelized systems that is wholly or in substantial part fabricated or assembled in a manufacturing plant for installation, or assembly and installation, on a separate building site and has been manufactured in such a manner that all parts or processes cannot be inspected at the installation site without disassembly of, damage to or destruction of the structure.

H. If funding is not available to support the training and certification program authorized under this subsection, the Maine Office of Community Affairs shall discontinue training and certification activities related to laws and ordinances referenced in subsection 2-A, paragraphs A and B and shall adopt by routine technical rules under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A a program to register code enforcement officers that meet training and education qualifications. The Maine Office of Community Affairs shall publish the list of persons registered for code enforcement who have submitted evidence of required qualifications. Persons registered under this paragraph must meet the requirements for training and certification under this subchapter. The Maine Office of Community Affairs shall consult with the Department of Health and Human Services for the purposes of carrying out training and certification activities related to laws and ordinances referenced in subsection 2-A, paragraphs C and D. Within one month of discontinuation of training and certification under this paragraph, the Maine Office of Community Affairs shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations

and financial affairs and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters a recommendation for funding the training and certification program or for further changes in program requirements.

Sec. 5. PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. D, §48, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

7. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 17851, 17851-A, 17851-B or 17851-C or any other provision of law to the contrary, a member whose position is transferred from the Department of Public Safety, Division of Building Codes and Standards program to the Maine Office of Community Affairs pursuant to this Part and who becomes subject to different service retirement benefits qualification requirements as a result of the transfer is eligible to receive service retirement benefits under the service retirement benefits qualification requirements and the associated benefit computation provisions in effect prior to the position being transferred pursuant to this Part.

Sec. 6. Regionalized code enforcement pilot project. The Maine Office of Community Affairs, through the Housing Opportunity Program established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 3241, shall conduct a 3-year pilot project to promote, incentivize and support the adoption of regionalized approaches to code enforcement by municipalities. The Maine Office of Community Affairs shall administer the pilot project and establish guidelines for the administration of the pilot project as follows.

1. The pilot project must start no later than January 1, 2027 and continue for no more than 3 years.

2. The Maine Office of Community Affairs shall conduct an ongoing evaluation of the pilot project to determine the efficacy and effect of adopting a regionalized approach to code enforcement for participating municipalities.

3. No later than January 15th of each year for the duration of the pilot project, and no later than 60 days following the end of the pilot project, the Maine Office of Community Affairs shall submit a report on the status of the pilot project to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over building code matters. The final report must include, but is not limited to, the total number of participating municipalities; the reported effects of adopting a regionalized approach to code enforcement; any barriers to the success of the pilot project; and recommendations, including any suggested legislation, for adopting a regionalized approach to code enforcement.

Upon receipt of any report required by this section, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over building code matters may report out legislation based on the report to the legislative session in which the report is received.

Sec. 7. Retroactivity. That section of this Act that enacts Public Law 2025, chapter 388, Part D, section 48, subsection 7 applies retroactively to September 24, 2025.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 737
H.P. 1503 - L.D. 2226

**An Act to Amend the Essential
Programs and Services School
Funding Formula**

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15676, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C, §31, is further amended to read:

1. Teaching staff costs. Beginning July 1, 2017, the salary and benefit costs for school level teaching staff that are necessary to carry out this Act, calculated in accordance with section 15678 and adjusted by the regional adjustment under section 15682 prior to fiscal year 2027-28 or under section 15682-A beginning in fiscal year 2027-28;

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15676, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C, §31, is further amended to read:

2. Other staff costs. Beginning July 1, 2017, the salary and benefit costs for school-level staff who are not teachers, but including substitute teachers, that are necessary to carry out this Act, calculated in accordance with section 15679 and adjusted by the regional adjustment under section 15682 prior to fiscal year 2027-28 or under section 15682-A beginning in fiscal year 2027-28; and

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §15682, as amended by PL 2011, c. 419, §2, is further amended to read:

§15682. Regional adjustment prior to fiscal year 2027-28

The commissioner shall make a regional adjustment in the total operating allocation for each school administrative unit determined pursuant to section 15683. The regional adjustment must be based on the regional differences in teacher salary costs, for labor market areas in which the school administrative unit is located, as computed by a statewide education policy research institute, and must be applied only to appropriate teacher salary and benefits costs as calculated under section 15678 and salary and benefit costs of other school-level staff who are not teachers as calculated under section 15679. Beginning in fiscal year 2012-13, and ~~for each subsequent fiscal year in each fiscal year~~ prior to fiscal year 2027-28, the commissioner shall

make a regional adjustment in the total operating allocation for each school administrative unit determined pursuant to section 15683. The regional adjustment must be based on the regional differences in teacher salary costs, for labor market areas in which the school administrative unit is located, as computed by a statewide education policy research institute, and must be applied only to appropriate teacher salary costs as calculated under section 15678 and salary costs of other school-level staff who are not teachers as calculated under section 15679.

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §15682-A is enacted to read:

§15682-A. Regional adjustment beginning in fiscal year 2027-28

Beginning in fiscal year 2027-28, and for each subsequent fiscal year, the commissioner shall make a regional adjustment in the total operating allocation for each school administrative unit determined pursuant to section 15683. The regional adjustment must be based on the regional differences in the cost of living, as computed by a statewide education policy research institute using a nationwide index or combination of nationwide indices. The regional adjustment must align with the salary matrix described in section 15677 so that the minimum index value is sufficient to pay the minimum teacher salary established under chapter 505. The regional adjustment must be applied only to appropriate teacher salary and benefit costs as calculated under section 15678 and salary costs of other school-level staff who are not teachers as calculated under section 15679.

Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §15688, sub-§3-A, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 2, Pt. D, §56 and affected by §§72 and 74 and c. 12, Pt. WW, §18, is amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read:

(2) The total of the full-value education mill rate calculated in section 15671-A, subsection 2 multiplied by the property fiscal capacity of the municipality and, beginning in fiscal year 2027-28, adjusted by 10% for relative income level using an index calculated by a statewide education policy research institute. The index must be based on the percentage of resident pupils that are identified as economically disadvantaged under section 15675, subsection 2.

Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §15688, sub-§3-A, ¶B, as amended by PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. A, §13, is further amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read:

(2) The total of the full-value education mill rate calculated in section 15671-A, subsection 2 multiplied by the property fiscal capacity of the municipality and, beginning in fiscal year 2027-28, adjusted by 10% for relative income level using an index calculated by a statewide education policy research institute. The index must be based on the percentage of resident

pupils that are identified as economically disadvantaged under section 15675, subsection 2.

Sec. 7. 20-A MRSA §15699 is enacted to read:

§15699. State subsidy transition period

Beginning in fiscal year 2027-28 and until fiscal year 2030-31, the State may not reduce from the previous fiscal year the amount of a school administrative unit's state subsidy attributable to the combination of the regional adjustment calculated pursuant to section 15682-A and the local contribution calculated pursuant to section 15688, subsection 3-A. Beginning in fiscal year 2030-31, the following provisions apply.

1. Fiscal year 2030-31. In fiscal year 2030-31, the amount of a school administrative unit's state subsidy attributable to the combination of the regional adjustment calculated pursuant to section 15682-A and the local contribution calculated pursuant to section 15688, subsection 3-A may not be reduced by the State by more than 25% from the previous fiscal year.

2. Fiscal year 2031-32. In fiscal year 2031-32, the amount of a school administrative unit's state subsidy attributable to the combination of the regional adjustment calculated pursuant to section 15682-A and the local contribution calculated pursuant to section 15688, subsection 3-A may not be reduced by the State by more than 50% from the previous fiscal year.

3. Fiscal year 2032-33 and subsequent fiscal years. In fiscal year 2032-33 and in each subsequent fiscal year, the state subsidy for all school administrative units is adjusted by the regional adjustment calculated pursuant to section 15682-A and the local contribution calculated pursuant to section 15688, subsection 3-A.

Sec. 8. Maine Education Policy Research Institute; further study. The Maine Education Policy Research Institute shall study the components of the essential programs and services school funding formula established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 606-B. The institute shall submit a report no later than January 15, 2027 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters. The report must include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. An analysis of the impact of inflation on the essential programs and services school funding formula since fiscal year 2019-20 and recommendations on how to mitigate its effects or account for its impact on the formula;

2. Recommendations related to a poverty indicator that reflects overall community income rather than only the income of families with school-aged children;

3. Modeling one or more scenarios using a 5-year average for pupil counts and property valuation; and

4. Recommendations on which components of the funding formula are considered essential and whether the funding formula accounts for the true costs of those components and provides adequate funding to school administrative units.

The joint standing committee is authorized to report out a bill related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 738

H.P. 1509 - L.D. 2233

An Act to Combine the Board of Licensure in Medicine and Board of Osteopathic Licensure into a Single Licensing Board for All Physicians and Physician Associates

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

PART A

Sec. A-1. 3 MRSA §959, sub-§1, ¶R, as amended by PL 2021, c. 617, §1, is further amended to read:

R. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over professional licensing of health care professions matters shall use the following list as a guideline for scheduling reviews:

- (1) Board of Dental Practice in 2027;
- (2) ~~Board of Osteopathic Licensure in 2027;~~
- (3) ~~Board of Licensure in~~ Maine Board of Medicine in 2027 2029;
- (4) State Board of Nursing in 2027; and
- (5) State Board of Optometry in 2027.

Sec. A-2. 5 MRSA §12004-A, sub-§24, as amended by PL 1999, c. 687, Pt. B, §1, is repealed.

Sec. A-3. 5 MRSA §12004-A, sub-§24-A is enacted to read:

24-A.

Maine Board of Medicine	\$1,250/Year-Member	32 MRSA
	\$1,500/Year-Chair	§20111
	\$1,500/Year-Vice-Chair	
	\$7,500/Year-Secretary	

Sec. A-4. 5 MRSA §12004-A, sub-§29, as amended by PL 1999, c. 687, Pt. B, §1, is repealed.

Sec. A-5. 32 MRSA c. 36, as amended, is repealed.

Sec. A-6. 32 MRSA c. 48, as amended, is repealed.

Sec. A-7. 32 MRSA c. 153 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 153
MAINE BOARD OF MEDICINE MEDICAL
PRACTICE ACT
SUBCHAPTER 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS

§20101. Short title

This chapter may be known and cited as "the Maine Board of Medicine Medical Practice Act."

§20102. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Allopathic physician. "Allopathic physician" means a physician who graduated from medical school with an M.D. degree.

2. Board. "Board" means the Maine Board of Medicine established in Title 5, section 12004-A, subsection 24-A.

3. Collaborative agreement. "Collaborative agreement" means a document agreed to by a physician associate and a physician that describes the scope of practice for the physician associate as determined by practice setting and describes the decision-making process for a health care team, including communication and consultation among health care team members.

4. Consultation. "Consultation" means engagement in a process in which members of a health care team use their complementary training, skill, knowledge and experience to provide the best care for a patient.

5. General business. "General business" means all board actions conducting public business, with the exception of disciplinary investigations, complaints and adjudicatory hearings resolving disciplinary matters involving licensees or applicants.

6. Health care team. "Health care team" means 2 or more health care professionals working in a coordinated, complementary and agreed-upon manner to provide quality, cost-effective, evidence-based care to a patient and may include a physician, physician associate, advanced practice nurse, nurse, physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist, social worker, nutritionist, psychotherapist, counselor or other licensed professional.

7. License. "License" means a license, certificate, certification, registration, permit, approval or other similar document issued by the board to qualified individuals granting authority to engage in the practice of medicine.

8. Osteopathic physician. "Osteopathic physician" means a physician who graduated from medical school with a D.O. degree.

9. Physician. "Physician" means an allopathic or osteopathic physician or surgeon licensed by the board.

10. Physician associate. "Physician associate" means a physician associate licensed or privileged under chapter 145-A by the board.

11. Practice of medicine. "Practice of medicine" means diagnosing, relieving in any degree or curing, or professing or attempting to diagnose, relieve or cure a human disease, ailment, defect or complaint, whether physical or mental, or of physical or mental origin, by attendance, surgery or advice or by prescribing or furnishing a drug, medicine, appliance, manipulation, method or therapeutic agent, including, but not limited to:

A. Advertising, holding out to the public or representing in any manner that an individual is authorized to practice medicine in this State;

B. Offering or undertaking to prescribe, order, give or administer any drug or medicine for use by any other person;

C. Offering or undertaking to prevent or to diagnose, correct or treat in any manner or by any means, methods or devices any disease, illness, pain, wound, fracture, infirmity, defect or abnormal physical or mental condition of any person;

D. Offering or undertaking to perform any surgical operation upon any person;

E. Rendering a written or otherwise documented medical opinion concerning the diagnosis or treatment of a patient or the actual rendering of treatment to a patient within a state by a physician located outside the state as a result of transmission of individual patient data by electronic or other means from within a state to the physician or the physician's agent;

F. Rendering a determination of medical necessity or a decision affecting the diagnosis or treatment of a patient;

G. Using the designation doctor, doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathic medicine, doctor of osteopathy, physician, surgeon, physician and surgeon, Dr., M.D., D.O. or any combination of those designations in the conduct of any occupation or profession pertaining to the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of human disease or condition unless

such a designation additionally contains the description of another branch of the healing arts for which an individual holds a valid license in the jurisdiction where the patient is located; and

H. Maintaining adequate medical records pursuant to the standard of care.

12. Prescription or legend drug. "Prescription or legend drug" has the same meaning as "prescription drug" in section 13702-A, subsection 30 and includes schedule II to schedule V drugs or other substances regulated under the federal Controlled Substances Act, 21 United States Code, Section 812.

13. Render medical services. "Render medical services" means to render health care services for the diagnosis, prevention, treatment, cure or relief of a health condition, injury or disease, including, but not limited to:

A. Advertising, holding out to the public or representing in any manner that an individual is authorized to render medical services in this State;

B. Offering or undertaking to prescribe, order, give or administer any drug or medicine for use by any other person;

C. Offering or undertaking to prevent or to diagnose, correct or treat in any manner or by any means, methods or devices any disease, illness, pain, wound, fracture, infirmity, defect or abnormal physical or mental condition of any person;

D. Offering or undertaking to perform any surgical operation upon any person;

E. Rendering a written or otherwise documented medical opinion concerning the diagnosis or treatment of a patient or the actual rendering of treatment to a patient within a state by a physician associate located outside the state as a result of transmission of individual patient data by electronic or other means from within a state to the physician associate or the physician associate's agent;

F. Rendering a determination of medical necessity or a decision affecting the diagnosis or treatment of a patient;

G. Using the designation physician associate, physician assistant or P.A. or any combination of those designations in the conduct of any occupation or profession pertaining to the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of human disease or condition in the jurisdiction where the patient is located; and

H. Maintaining adequate medical records pursuant to the standard of care.

§20103. Individual license

Only an individual may be licensed or privileged by the board and only an individual licensed or privileged by the board may practice medicine or render

medical services to patients in this State, unless exempted in statutory provision or appropriately licensed by and practicing within the individual's legal scope of practice under the authority of another state licensing board. This section may not be construed to affect or prevent the practice of the religious tenets of a church in the ministrations to the sick or suffering by mental or spiritual means.

§20104. License required

1. Unlicensed practice. The following provisions apply.

A. A person may not engage in the practice of medicine without a license or during any period when that person's license has expired or has been suspended, surrendered or revoked.

B. A person may not render medical services as a physician associate without a license or privilege from the board and may not render medical services during any period when that person's license or privilege has expired or has been suspended, surrendered or revoked.

2. Penalties. A person who violates this section may be subject to action pursuant to Title 10, section 8003-C.

SUBCHAPTER 2

MAINE BOARD OF MEDICINE

§20111. Creation; declaration of policy

The Maine Board of Medicine, as established in Title 5, section 12004-A, subsection 24-A, is created within this subchapter. The board recognizes the unique philosophical and educational differences between allopathic physicians, osteopathic physicians and physician associates. This subchapter is not intended to combine these into one profession. The purpose of this subchapter is to protect the people of this State by efficiently setting licensing standards for the 3 separate professions with one licensing board.

§20112. Membership

1. Membership; terms; removal. The board consists of 22 members who are legal residents of this State and are appointed by the Governor as follows:

A. Six allopathic physicians, all of whom must hold a valid license under this chapter and have been in the clinical practice of medicine in this State for a continuous period of 5 years immediately preceding the appointment;

B. Six osteopathic physicians, all of whom must hold a valid license under this chapter and have been in the clinical practice of medicine in this State for a continuous period of 5 years immediately preceding the appointment;

C. Four physician associates, all of whom must hold a valid license under this chapter and have been in the clinical practice of rendering medical services in this State for a continuous period of 5 years immediately preceding the appointment; and

D. Six members of the public, all of whom must have no financial interest in the medical profession and have never been licensed, certified or given a permit in this State or any other state to practice medicine or render medical services.

The Governor may accept nominations from consumer or patient advocacy groups, professional associations and other organizations and individuals. An individual who has been disciplined by a medical regulatory body in any jurisdiction or who has been convicted of a crime that is related to the practice of medicine or the rendering of medical services or that is punishable by more than one year's imprisonment is not eligible for appointment to the board. Appointment of members must comply with Title 10, section 8009.

2. Terms. Terms of the members of the board are for 5 years. An individual who has served 10 years or more on the board is not eligible for reappointment to the board. A board member may be removed by the Governor for cause.

3. Quorum. The following provisions apply.

A. A majority of the members of the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of official general business, rulemaking, policy making, guidelines and legislation.

B. Five members of the board constitute a quorum for the conduct of adjudicatory hearings pursuant to this chapter.

C. Five members of an investigative committee under section 20141 constitute a quorum for all investigative committee meetings.

4. Meetings. The board shall hold a minimum of 2 regular meetings a year and any additional special meetings at a time and place the chair may designate.

5. Board officers. Beginning on the 2nd Tuesday of July in 2027 and every 2nd Tuesday in July in odd-numbered years, the members of the board shall meet at the time and place the board may determine and shall elect a chair, a vice-chair and a secretary, who hold their respective offices for a term of 2 years. The secretary shall perform such duties as delegated by the board through rule. The board through its executive director shall receive all fees, charges and assessments payable to the board and account for and pay over the same according to law. The board shall hold regular meetings at times and places as it may determine. The board shall cause a seal to be engraved and shall keep a record of all its proceedings.

6. Compensation. Members of the board are compensated according to the provisions of Title 5, chapter 379, subchapter 1. If the fees to be collected under any of the provisions of this chapter are insufficient to pay the salaries and expenses provided by this section, the members of the board are entitled only to a pro rata payment for salary in any years in which such fees are insufficient.

7. Oath. Each member of the board shall, before entering upon the duties of the member's office, take the constitutional oath of office.

§20113. Powers and duties

The board has the following powers and duties in addition to all other powers and duties imposed by this chapter.

1. Powers. The board may:

A. Establish standards of eligibility for examinations for candidates desiring admission to medical practice as physicians or physician associates in this State;

B. Design or adopt an examination and other suitable criteria for establishing a candidate's knowledge in medicine and its related skills;

C. License and establish standards of practice for physicians and physician associates practicing medicine or rendering medical services in this State;

D. Conduct adjudicatory hearings, administer oaths, compel the testimony of witnesses and compel the production of books, records and documents relevant to inquiry pursuant to a subpoena and take evidence in all matters relating to the exercise and performance of the powers and duties vested in the board;

E. Issue subpoenas in accordance with Title 10, section 8003-A and Title 5, section 9060 for the production of documents, records and the testimony of witnesses in the course of an investigation or an adjudicatory hearing. This authority applies to any stage of an investigation and is not limited to an adjudicatory proceeding. During investigation, this power is delegated to investigative committees pursuant to section 20141 or, outside of regular meetings of the investigative committees, to the executive director or, in the executive director's absence, to the assistant executive director;

F. Engage legal counsel, to be approved by the Attorney General, and investigative assistants of the board's own choosing to advise the board generally and specifically and to represent the board in hearings before the board and in appeals taken from a decision of the board;

G. Except as provided in paragraph M and subsection 2, paragraph E, employ and prescribe the duties of other personnel as the board determines necessary. Except as prescribed in paragraph M, the appointment and compensation of that staff is subject to the Civil Service Law;

H. Mandate, conduct and operate, or contract with other agencies, individuals, firms or associations for the conduct and operation of, programs of medical education, including statewide programs of health education for the general public and for the disbursement of funds accumulated through the receipt of licensure fees for this purpose, as long as the funds are not disbursed for this purpose for out-of-state travel, meals or lodging for a physician being educated under this program;

I. Conduct and operate, or contract with other agencies or nonprofit organizations for the conduct and operation of, a program of financial assistance to medical students indicating an intent to engage in family practice in rural areas of this State, under which the students may be provided with interest-free grants or interest-bearing loans in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 per student per year on terms and conditions as the board may determine;

J. Conduct examinations relevant to licensure;

K. Provide services and carry out functions necessary to fulfill the board's statutory responsibilities;

L. Set reasonable fees for services such as providing license certifications and verifications, providing copies of board law and rules and providing copies of documents. The board may also set reasonable fees to defray its costs in administering examinations for special purposes that it may from time to time require and for admitting courtesy candidates from other states to its examinations;

M. Appoint an executive director who serves at the pleasure of the board and who shall assist the board in carrying out its administrative duties and responsibilities under this chapter. The salary range for the executive director must be set by the board within the range established by Title 2, section 6-C;

N. Direct staff to review and approve applications for licensure or renewal in accordance with criteria established in law or in rules adopted by the board. Licensing decisions made by staff may be appealed to the board or one of its investigative committees pursuant to section 20141;

O. Establish protocols for the operation of a professional review committee as defined in Title 24, section 2502, subsection 4-A. The protocols must include the committee reporting information the board considers appropriate regarding reports received, contracts or investigations made and the disposition of each report, as long as the committee

is not required to disclose any personally identifiable information. The protocols may not prohibit an impaired licensee under this chapter from seeking alternative forms of treatment;

P. At the direction of the board or one of its investigative committees pursuant to section 20141, order a licensee or applicant for licensure or relicensure to undergo a mental or physical examination. An individual examined pursuant to the direction of the board or one of its investigative committees may not prevent the testimony of the examining individual or prevent the acceptance into evidence of the report of an examining individual in any proceeding before the committee or board;

Q. When there is a finding of a violation, assess the licensee for all or part of the actual expenses incurred by the board or its agents for investigations and enforcement duties performed. For the purposes of this paragraph, "actual expenses" includes, but is not limited to, travel expenses and the proportionate part of the salaries and other expenses of investigators or inspectors, hourly costs of hearing officers, costs associated with record retrieval and the costs of transcribing or reproducing the administrative record;

R. Issue a license limited to the practice of administrative medicine, or any other special license, as defined by rules adopted by the board; and

S. Adopt rules as the board determines necessary and proper to carry out this chapter. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

2. Duties. The board shall:

A. Investigate complaints in a timely fashion on the board's own motion and those filed with the board regarding the potential violation of this chapter or the violation of rules adopted by the board pursuant to its authority;

B. Open investigations following receipt of reports required by law to be filed with the board or other information and reports made to the board regarding a licensee or applicant for licensure;

C. Keep a record of the names and residences of all individuals licensed under this chapter and a record of all money received and disbursed by the board. Records or duplicates must always be open to inspection in the office of the secretary during regular office hours. The board shall annually make a report to the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation and to the Legislature containing a full and complete account of all its official acts during the preceding year and a state-

ment of its receipts and disbursements and comments or suggestions as the board determines essential;

D. Submit to the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation the board's budgetary requirements in the same manner as is provided in Title 5, section 1665. The Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation shall in turn transmit these requirements to the Bureau of the Budget without revision, alteration or change, unless alterations are mutually agreed upon by the department and the board or the board's designee; and

E. Ensure that the budget submitted by the board to the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation is sufficient, if approved, to provide for adequate legal and investigative personnel on the board's staff and that of the Attorney General to ensure that professional liability complaints described in Title 24, section 2607 and complaints regarding this chapter may be resolved in a timely fashion. The board's staff must include one position staffed by an individual who is primarily a consumer assistant. Within the limit set by this chapter, the board shall charge sufficient licensure fees to finance this budget provision. The board shall submit legislation to request an increase in these fees should they prove inadequate to the provisions of this paragraph. Within the limit of funds provided to it by the board, the Department of the Attorney General shall make available to the board sufficient legal and investigative staff to enable all complaints mentioned in this paragraph to be resolved in a timely fashion.

3. Annual report. Beginning March 1, 2028 and annually thereafter, the board shall submit to the Legislature a report consisting of statistics on the following for the preceding year and in comparison to prior years:

A. The number and type of complaints against licensees received from the public or filed on the board's own motion, in the aggregate and for each type of licensee;

B. The number and type of complaints dismissed for lack of merit or insufficient evidence of grounds for discipline, in the aggregate and for each type of licensee;

C. The number and type of cases in process of investigation or hearing carried over at year-end, in the aggregate and for each type of licensee; and

D. The number and type of disciplinary actions finalized during the report year, in the aggregate and for each type of licensee.

§20114. Role of commissioner

The Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation shall act as a liaison between the board and the Governor. The Commissioner of Professional and

Financial Regulation does not have the authority to exercise or interfere with the exercise of discretionary, regulatory or licensing authority granted by statute to the board. The Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation may require the board to be accessible to the public for complaints and questions during regular business hours and to provide any information the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation requires in order to ensure that the board is operating administratively within the requirements of this chapter.

§20115. Inspection or copying of record; procedure

1. Request for record; redaction. When the board receives a request to inspect or copy all or part of the record of an applicant or licensee, the board shall redact information that is not public before making the record available for inspection or copying.

2. Notice. When the board acknowledges a request to inspect or copy an applicant's or a licensee's record as required by Title 1, section 408-A, subsection 3, the board shall send a notice to the applicant or licensee at the applicant's or licensee's last address on file with the board explaining that the request has been made.

3. Application. This section does not apply to requests for records from other governmental licensing or disciplinary authorities or from any health care providers located within or outside this State that are concerned with granting, limiting or denying an applicant's or licensee's employment or privileges.

SUBCHAPTER 3

LICENSURE

§20121. Individual license

Only an individual may be licensed under this chapter and only a licensed individual may provide services for which a license is required under this chapter.

§20122. Licensure or privilege required

1. Unlicensed practice. The following provisions apply.

A. Unless licensed or privileged by the board, an individual may not practice medicine or render medical services to any patient located in this State. A person may not engage in the practice of medicine or render medical services without a license or during any period when that person's license is in inactive status, has expired or has been suspended, surrendered or revoked.

B. An individual who practices medicine, renders medical services or holds that individual out as doing so when the individual does not hold a valid, active license or privilege to do so may be subject to disciplinary action by the board or legal action by the Department of the Attorney General under Title 10, section 8003-C.

2. Penalties. An individual who violates this section commits a Class E crime. Violation of this section is a strict liability crime as defined in Title 17-A, section 34, subsection 4-A.

§20123. Exemption for licensed individual accompanying visiting athletic team

1. Licensed individual accompanying visiting athletic team. This chapter does not apply to an individual who holds a current unrestricted license to practice medicine and surgery in another state when the individual, pursuant to a written agreement with an athletic team located in the state in which the individual holds the license, provides medical services to any of the following while the athletic team is traveling to or from or participating in a sporting event in this State:

- A. A member of the athletic team;
- B. A member of the athletic team's coaching, communications, equipment or sports medicine staff;
- C. A member of a band or cheerleading squad accompanying the athletic team; and
- D. The athletic team's mascot.

2. Restrictions. An individual authorized to provide medical services in this State pursuant to subsection 1 may not provide medical services at a health care facility, including a hospital, ambulatory surgical facility or any other facility where medical care, diagnosis or treatment is provided on an inpatient or outpatient basis.

§20124. Application; fees; general requirements

1. Application. An applicant seeking a license from the board must submit an administratively complete application, licensure or application fee established by rule adopted by the board and any other materials required by the board.

2. Fees. All fees set forth in this chapter are non-refundable application fees or administrative processing fees payable to the board at the time of application or at the time board action is requested. The board shall establish by rule the fees for each license issued by the board. The maximum fees for each license issued by the board are provided in this subchapter.

3. Confidentiality of personal contact and health information. A personal residence address, personal telephone number or personal e-mail address submitted to the board as part of an application, complaint or investigation under this chapter is confidential and may not be disclosed except as permitted under this section or as otherwise required by law unless the applicant who submitted the information has indicated that the applicant is willing to have the applicant's personal residence address, personal telephone number or personal e-mail address treated as a public record. Personal health information submitted to the board as part of an application under this chapter is confidential and may

not be disclosed except as otherwise permitted under this section or otherwise required by law. The board and its staff may disclose personal health information about and the personal residence address, personal telephone number or personal e-mail address of a licensee or an applicant for a license under this chapter to a government licensing or disciplinary authority or to a health care provider located within or outside this State that is concerned with granting, limiting or denying a license or employment or privileges to the applicant or licensee.

4. Public contact information required. An applicant or licensee shall provide the board with a current professional address and telephone number, which will be the applicant's or licensee's public contact address. An applicant or licensee who does not have a public contact address and telephone number must use the applicant's or licensee's personal address and telephone number as the public contact information.

5. Consent to physical or mental examination; objections to admissibility of examiner's testimony waived. For the purposes of this section, a physician or physician associate licensed or privileged by the board who accepts the privilege of practicing medicine or rendering medical services in this State by the filing of an application and of biennial license renewal:

- A. Is deemed to have consented to a mental or physical examination by an individual or entity selected or approved by the board when directed in writing by the board or an investigative committee pursuant to section 20141; and
- B. Is deemed to have waived all objections to the admissibility of testimony based on the examination under paragraph A or reports from that examination on the ground that these constitute a privileged communication.

Pursuant to Title 4, section 184, subsection 6, the District Court shall immediately suspend the license of a physician or physician associate who can be shown, through the results of the medical or physical examination conducted under this section or through other competent evidence, to be unable to practice medicine or render medical services with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of mental illness, alcohol intoxication or excessive use of drugs or narcotics or as a result of a mental or physical condition interfering with the competent provision of medical services.

6. License must be displayed. A physician or physician associate licensed under this chapter is entitled to receive a license under the seal of the board and signed by the chair and the secretary. The license must be publicly displayed at the individual's principal place of practice as long as the individual continues the practice of medicine.

§20125. Licensure of physician associates

1. Qualification for licensure. The board may issue to an individual a license to practice as a physician associate under the following conditions.

A. A license may be issued to an individual who:

- (1) Graduated from a physician assistant or physician associate program approved by the board;
- (2) Passed a physician assistant or physician associate national certifying examination administered by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants or its successor organization;
- (3) Demonstrates current clinical competency either by having engaged in the clinical rendering of medical services during the preceding 24 months, or by providing a plan to practically demonstrate to the board's satisfaction the individual's clinical competency, the requirements of which may be set by rulemaking;
- (4) Does not have a license, certificate of registration or privilege that is the subject of disciplinary action such as probation, restriction, suspension, revocation or surrender;
- (5) Completes an application approved by the board;
- (6) Pays an application fee of up to \$400; and
- (7) Passes an examination approved by the board.

B. An applicant may not be licensed unless the board finds that the applicant is qualified and no cause exists, as set forth in section 20144, that may be considered grounds for disciplinary action against a licensed physician associate.

2. Rules. The board may adopt rules regarding the licensure and practice of physician associates. These rules may pertain to, but are not limited to, the following matters:

- A. Information to be contained in the application for a license;
- B. Education requirements for the physician associate;
- C. Requirements for collaborative agreements, including uniform standards and forms;
- D. Requirements for a physician associate to notify the board regarding certain circumstances, including, but not limited to, any change in address of the physician associate, the permanent departure of the physician associate from this State, any criminal convictions of the physician associate and any discipline by other jurisdictions of the physician associate;

E. Issuance of temporary physician associate licenses;

F. Continuing education requirements as a precondition to continued licensure or licensure renewal;

G. Fees for the application for an initial physician associate license, which may not exceed \$400; and

H. Fees for the biennial renewal of a physician associate license in an amount not to exceed \$350.

3. Privileging of physician associates. The board shall issue a privilege to a physician associate as permitted under chapter 145-A. The application fee to obtain a privilege through the Physician Assistants Licensure Compact may not be higher than the application fee for a physician associate license, and any fee for renewal of a Physician Assistants Licensure Compact privilege may not exceed \$350.

4. Renewal of Physician Assistants Licensure Compact privilege. A physician associate exercising the physician associate's compact privilege in this State must renew that compact privilege timely and consistent with all requirements of chapter 145-A and of the participating state that issued the physician associate's qualifying license and shall pay all fees required by the board.

§20126. Physician associate criminal history record information; fees

1. Background check. The board shall request a background check for an individual who submits an application for initial licensure or licensure by endorsement as a physician associate under this chapter. The board shall request a background check for each licensed physician associate who applies for an initial compact privilege and designates this State as the applicant's participating state in accordance with chapter 145-A. The background check must include criminal history record information obtained from the Maine Criminal Justice Information System established in Title 16, section 631 and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

A. The criminal history record information obtained from the Maine Criminal Justice Information System must include public criminal history record information as defined in Title 16, section 703, subsection 8.

B. The criminal history record information obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation must include other state and national criminal history record information.

C. An applicant or licensee shall submit to having fingerprints taken. The Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police, upon payment by the applicant or licensee of a fee established by the board, shall take or cause to be taken the applicant's

or licensee's fingerprints and shall forward the fingerprints to the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police, State Bureau of Identification so that the State Bureau of Identification can conduct state and national criminal history record checks. Except for the portion of the payment, if any, that constitutes the processing fee charged by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, all money received by the Bureau of State Police for purposes of this paragraph must be paid to the Treasurer of State. The money must be applied to the expenses of administration incurred by the Department of Public Safety. An individual who fails to transmit criminal fingerprint records to the State Bureau of Identification pursuant to this paragraph is subject to the provisions of Title 25, section 1550.

D. The subject of a Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history record check may obtain a copy of the criminal history record check by following the procedures outlined in 28 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 16.32 and 16.33. The subject of a state criminal history record check may inspect and review the criminal history record information pursuant to Title 16, section 709.

E. State and federal criminal history record information of an applicant for a physician associate license may be used by the board for the purpose of screening the applicant. State and federal criminal history record information of a licensed physician associate seeking an initial compact privilege may be used by the board for the purpose of taking disciplinary action against the licensee. A board action against an applicant for licensure or a licensee under this subsection is subject to the provisions of Title 5, chapter 341.

F. Information obtained pursuant to this subsection is confidential. The results of background checks received by the board are for official use only and may not be disseminated to the Physician Assistants Licensure Compact Commission established under section 18537 or to any other person.

G. An individual whose license has expired and who has not applied for renewal may request in writing that the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police, State Bureau of Identification remove the individual's fingerprints from the bureau's fingerprint file. In response to a written request, the bureau shall remove the individual's fingerprints from the fingerprint file and provide written confirmation of that removal.

2. Rules. The board, following consultation with the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police, State Bureau of Identification, may adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

§20127. Licensure of allopathic physicians

Except as otherwise specified by this chapter, all applicants for licensure as an allopathic physician or surgeon in this State must satisfy the following requirements.

1. Medical education. Each applicant must:

A. Graduate from a medical school designated as accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education or the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools;

B. Graduate from an unaccredited medical school, be evaluated by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates and hold a current certificate from the Educational Commission for Foreign Graduates; or

C. Graduate from an unaccredited medical school and achieve a passing score on a comprehensive examination determined by the board to be substantially equivalent to the United States Medical Licensing Examination or other examinations designated by the board as the qualifying examination or examinations for licensure.

2. Postgraduate training. Each applicant who has graduated from an accredited medical school on or after January 1, 1970 but before July 1, 2004 must have satisfactorily completed at least 24 months in a medical graduate educational program accredited by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education, the Canadian Medical Association or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Notwithstanding other requirements of postgraduate training, an applicant is eligible for licensure when the candidate has satisfactorily graduated from a combined postgraduate training program in which each of the contributing programs is accredited by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education and the applicant is eligible for accreditation by the American Board of Medical Specialties in both specialties. Each applicant who has graduated from an accredited medical school prior to January 1, 1970 must have satisfactorily completed at least 12 months in a medical graduate educational program accredited by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education, the Canadian Medical Association or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Each applicant who has graduated from an accredited medical school on or after July 1, 2004 or an unaccredited medical school must have satisfactorily completed at least 36 months in a medical graduate educational program accredited by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education or be licensed or registered to practice medicine according to the laws and rules of Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or Ireland. An applicant who has completed 24 months of postgraduate training and has received an unrestricted endorsement from the director of an accredited graduate education program in

this State is considered to have satisfied the postgraduate training requirements of this subsection if the applicant continues in that program and completes 36 months of postgraduate training. Notwithstanding this subsection, an applicant who is board certified by the American Board of Medical Specialties is deemed to meet the postgraduate training requirements of this subsection. Notwithstanding this subsection, in the case of subspecialty or clinical fellowship programs, the board may accept in fulfillment of the requirements of this subsection postgraduate training at a hospital in which the subspecialty clinical program, such as a training program accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation or its successor organization, is not accredited but the parent specialty program is accredited by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education, including training that occurs following graduation from a dental school accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation or its successor organization but before graduation from a medical school accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education or its successor organization.

3. Current clinical competency. An applicant must have engaged in active clinical practice in the previous 24 months or provided a plan to practically demonstrate to the board's satisfaction the applicant's clinical competency, the requirements of which may be set by rulemaking.

4. National board certification not required. The board may not require an applicant for initial licensure or license renewal as an allopathic physician under this section to obtain certification from a specialty medical board or to obtain a maintenance of certification as a condition of licensure. For the purposes of this subsection, "maintenance of certification" means a program that requires an allopathic physician to engage in periodic examination, self-assessment, peer evaluation or other activities to maintain certification from a specialty medical board.

5. Examination. Each applicant must achieve a passing score on each component of the uniform examination of the Federation of State Medical Boards or other examinations designated by the board as the qualifying examination or examinations for licensure. Each applicant must additionally achieve a passing score on a State of Maine jurisprudence examination administered by the board.

6. Fees. Each applicant shall pay a fee of up to \$700 plus the cost of the qualifying examination or examinations.

7. Board action. An applicant may not be licensed unless the board finds that the applicant is qualified and no cause exists, as set forth in section 20144, that may be considered grounds for disciplinary action against a licensed physician or surgeon.

8. Waiver for exceptional circumstances. The board may waive the requirements of subsection 2 for a physician who does not meet the postgraduate training requirements but who meets the requirements of this subsection.

A. To be considered for a waiver under this subsection, the physician must:

- (1) Be a graduate of a foreign medical school, not including a medical school in Canada or Great Britain;
- (2) Be licensed in another state; and
- (3) Have at least 3 years of clinical experience in the area of expertise.

B. If the physician meets the requirements of paragraph A, the board shall use the following qualifications of the physician to determine whether to grant a waiver:

- (1) Completion of a 3-year clinical fellowship in the United States in the area of expertise. The burden of proof as to the quality and content of the fellowship is placed on the applicant;
- (2) Appointment to a clinical academic position at a licensed medical school in the United States;
- (3) Publication in peer-reviewed clinical medical journals recognized by the board;
- (4) The number of years in clinical practice; and
- (5) Other criteria demonstrating expertise, such as awards or other recognition.

C. The costs associated with the board's determination of licensing eligibility in regard to paragraph B may be assessed for payment by the applicant upon completion of the determination under paragraph A. The application cost must reflect and not exceed the actual cost of the final determination.

\$20128. Licensure of osteopathic physicians

Except as otherwise specified by this chapter, all applicants for licensure as an osteopathic physician or surgeon in this State must satisfy the following requirements.

1. Osteopathic education. An applicant must graduate from an osteopathic medical school designated as accredited by the American Osteopathic Association's Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation.

2. Postgraduate training. An applicant who has graduated from an accredited osteopathic medical school prior to January 1, 2026 must have satisfactorily completed at least 12 months in a medical graduate educational program accredited by the Accreditation

Council on Graduate Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association. An applicant who has graduated from an accredited osteopathic medical school on or after January 1, 2026 must have satisfactorily completed at least 36 months in a graduate educational program accredited by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association. The board may not require an applicant for initial licensure or license renewal as an osteopathic physician under this chapter to obtain certification from a specialty medical board or to complete maintenance of certification as a condition of licensure. For the purposes of this subsection, "maintenance of certification" means a program that requires a physician to engage in periodic examination, self-assessment, peer evaluation or other activities to maintain certification from a specialty medical board.

3. Current clinical competency. An applicant must have engaged in active clinical practice in the previous 24 months or provided a plan to practically demonstrate to the board's satisfaction the applicant's clinical competency, the requirements of which may be set by rulemaking.

4. Examination. An applicant must achieve a passing score on each component of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners' Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination of the United States, known as the COMLEX-USA examination, or other examinations designated by the board as the qualifying examination or examinations for licensure.

5. Fees. An applicant shall pay a fee of up to \$700 plus the cost of the qualifying examination or examinations.

6. No cause for disciplinary action. An applicant may not be licensed unless the board finds that the applicant is qualified and no cause exists, as set forth in section 20144, that may be considered grounds for disciplinary action against a licensed physician.

§20129. Background check for expedited physician licensure through Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

1. Background check. The board shall request a background check for an individual licensed under this chapter who applies for an expedited license under section 18506. The background check must include criminal history record information obtained from the Maine Criminal Justice Information System and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

A. The criminal history record information obtained from the Maine Criminal Justice Information System must include a record of public criminal history record information as defined in Title 16, section 703, subsection 8.

B. The criminal history record information obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation

must include other state and national criminal history record information.

C. An applicant shall submit to having fingerprints taken. The State Police, upon payment by the applicant, shall take or cause to be taken the applicant's fingerprints and shall forward the fingerprints to the State Bureau of Identification so that the bureau can conduct state and national criminal history record checks. Except for the portion of the payment, if any, that constitutes the processing fee charged by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, all money received by the State Police for purposes of this paragraph must be paid over to the Treasurer of State. The money must be applied to the expenses of administration incurred by the Department of Public Safety.

D. The subject of a Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history record check may obtain a copy of the criminal history record check by following the procedures outlined in 28 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 16.32 and 16.33. The subject of a state criminal history record check may inspect and review the criminal history record information pursuant to Title 16, section 709.

E. State and federal criminal history record information of an applicant may be used by the board for the purpose of screening that applicant.

F. Information obtained pursuant to this subsection is confidential. The results of background checks received by the board are for official use only and may not be disseminated to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission, established in section 18512, or to any other person or entity.

G. An individual whose expedited licensure through the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact under chapter 145 has expired and who has not applied for renewal may request in writing that the State Bureau of Identification remove the individual's fingerprints from the bureau's fingerprint file. In response to a written request, the bureau shall remove the individual's fingerprints from the fingerprint file and provide written confirmation of that removal.

2. Rules. The board, following consultation with the State Bureau of Identification, shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

§20130. Other physician license types

1. Temporary licensure. A physician who is qualified under section 20127 or 20128 may, without examination, be granted a temporary license for a period not to exceed one year when the board determines that this action is necessary in order to provide relief for local or national emergencies or for situations in which

the number of physicians is insufficient to supply adequate medical services or for the purpose of permitting the physician to serve as locum tenens for another physician who is licensed to practice medicine in this State. The fee for this temporary license may not be more than \$400.

2. Youth camp physicians. A physician who is qualified under section 20127 or 20128 may, at the discretion of the board, be temporarily licensed as a youth camp physician so that the physician may care for the campers in that particular youth camp licensed under Title 22, section 2495 for which the physician was hired and retained as a youth camp physician. That physician is entitled to practice only on patients in the youth camp. The temporary license must be obtained each year. Application for this temporary license must be made in the same form and manner as for regular licensure. An examination may not be exacted from applicants for these temporary licenses. The fee for temporary licensure may not be more than \$400 annually.

3. Emergency 100-day license. A physician who presents a current active unconditioned license from another United States licensing jurisdiction and who can provide reasonable proof of meeting qualifications for licensure in this State must be issued a license to serve temporarily for declared emergencies in this State or for other appropriate reasons as determined by the board. The license is effective for not more than 100 days. The fee for this license may not be more than \$400.

4. Temporary educational certificate. The board may issue a temporary educational certificate in accordance with the following.

A. An applicant who is qualified under this subchapter may receive a temporary educational certificate from the board to act as a hospital resident. A certificate to a hospital resident may be renewed every 3 years at the discretion of the board for not more than 8 years.

B. An applicant who is enrolled in a program of medical and graduate medical training conducted jointly by a medical school accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education and a graduate medical education program approved by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education may receive a temporary educational certificate from the board to act as a hospital resident as part of that graduate medical education program if the applicant is concurrently enrolled in the final year of medical training and the initial year of graduate medical education. The board may not issue a certificate pursuant to this paragraph for a period longer than that required to obtain the M.D. or D.O. degree. The period during which the certificate is in force may not be considered in determining satisfaction of the requirement for postgraduate medical education under this subchapter.

C. An applicant for a temporary educational certificate may not be certified unless the board finds that the applicant is qualified and that there exists no cause, as set forth in section 20144, that would be considered grounds for disciplinary action against a licensed physician or surgeon. The board, in its discretion, may require an examination for applicants for temporary educational certificates. Recipients of these certificates are entitled to all the rights granted to physicians who are licensed to practice medicine and surgery, except that their practice is limited to the training programs in which they are enrolled. A temporary educational certificate may be suspended or revoked, or the board may refuse to renew the certificate, for the reasons stated in section 20144 or if the hospital resident has violated the limitations placed upon the temporary educational certificate. The fee for this license may not be more than \$300.

5. Visiting instructors. A physician who has an unrestricted license to practice medicine or surgery in another state may practice medicine or surgery in this State when the physician is performing medical procedures as part of a course of instruction in graduate medical education in a hospital located in this State. The right of a visiting medical instructor to practice medicine in this State may be suspended or revoked for the reasons stated in section 20144 or if the visiting medical instructor has performed medical procedures that are not a part of a course of instruction. A visiting medical instructor shall apply for authorization from the board to practice under this subsection. The fee for this authorization may not be more than \$300.

\$20131. Biennial renewal of physician and physician associate licenses; qualification; fees; reinstatement after lapse

1. Renewal of licenses. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, a physician or physician associate with a license issued by the board, including Interstate Medical Licensure Compact licenses, shall apply to the board for relicensure using application forms and submitting supporting documents required by the board. Except as provided in paragraph A for initial proration of expiration dates, the board shall provide to every licensee whose renewal application is approved and accepted proof of license renewal that is valid for no longer than 2 years.

A. Regardless of the date of initial licensure or last license renewal, the license of every physician and physician associate born in an odd-numbered year expires at midnight on the last day of the month of the individual's birth in every odd-numbered year. The license of every physician and physician associate born in an even-numbered year expires at midnight on the last day of the month of the individual's birth in every even-numbered year. Prior to expiration, a physician or physician associate

must renew the license issued pursuant to this section by means of application to the board, on forms prescribed and supplied by the board.

B. At least 60 days prior to expiration of a current license, the board shall notify each licensee of the requirement to renew the license. If an administratively complete license renewal application, as determined pursuant to this section, has not been submitted prior to the expiration date of the existing license, the license immediately and automatically expires. A license may be reinstated within 90 days after the date of expiration upon submission of an administratively complete application and payment of the renewal fee and late fee. If an administratively complete renewal application is not submitted within 90 days of the date of the expiration of the license, the license immediately and automatically lapses. The board may reinstate a license that has lapsed pursuant to subsection 4.

2. Criteria for license renewal. Prior to renewing a license:

A. The board may pose any question to the licensee or other sources that the board determines appropriate related to qualification for relicensure. These matters may include, but are not limited to, confirmation of health status, professional standing and conduct, professional liability claims history and license status in other jurisdictions. The board shall, after affording the licensee due process, deny license renewal if the board finds cause that may be considered grounds for refusal to renew the license pursuant to section 20144, including, but not limited to, a determination that an outstanding financial obligation to the board exists; and

B. A licensee seeking renewal of a license with the intent of conducting active clinical medical practice or rendering medical services in this State shall submit evidence, satisfactory to the board, of successful completion of a course of continuing medical education within the preceding 24 months, as prescribed by rule. A licensee may not engage in the clinical practice of medicine or render medical services in this State in any degree, unless the board has found the licensee qualified by continuing medical education and has marked the current license with the designation "active."

3. Fees. The following fees apply to licensure.

A. The board may charge a license renewal application fee of not more than \$600 to all applicants for full license renewal.

B. In addition to the application processing fee, the board may require payment of a late application fee of not more than \$100 from all licensees, regardless of age, from whom the board has not received an administratively complete license renewal applica-

tion prior to the license expiration date. An application is not administratively complete if it is not signed and dated by the licensee or does not provide full information and responses of sufficient detail to permit board review, evaluation and decision on renewal qualification. An application received without the required license renewal application fee is considered incomplete and the applicant is subject to a late fee.

C. The board may prorate the fee for biennial relicensure for individuals who have been issued a full license within the past 12 months. The manner of proration, if done, must be explained in the board's published schedule of fees. The board may waive all or a portion of the established license renewal application fee upon receipt of a request for waiver based on hardship or other special circumstance. Any waiver request granted and the basis for the waiver must be recorded in the minutes of the board's proceedings.

D. Unless received and deposited to the board's account in error and in violation of this section or the board's rules, a license renewal application fee or late fee paid to the board is not refundable if the board or the board's staff has commenced processing the application, regardless of the board's action on the application.

4. Reinstatement after lapse. A license may be reinstated after the lapse of a license under the following conditions.

A. A license that has lapsed pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph A or B may be reinstated upon application by the individual on forms provided by the board. An individual whose license has lapsed for more than 5 years shall apply for a new license.

B. When applying for reinstatement, the licensee must state the reason why the license lapsed and pay all fees in arrears at the time of lapse plus the current license renewal application fee and a non-refundable reinstatement application processing fee of \$100.

C. The board may not reinstate a lapsed full license if the board finds any cause that may be considered a ground for discipline pursuant to section 20144 if the license had been in force. Prior to concluding that no cause exists, the board shall conduct the inquiries required by subsection 2, paragraph A for applications for renewal. In addition, the board may not reinstate the license of any individual who has not provided evidence satisfactory to the board of having actively engaged in the clinical practice of medicine or rendering of medical services during the past 24 months under the license of another jurisdiction of the United States or Canada unless the applicant has first satisfied the board of the applicant's current clinical competency by providing

a plan to practically demonstrate to the board's satisfaction the applicant's clinical competency, the requirements of which may be set through rule-making.

§20132. Withdrawal of license

A licensee who notifies the board in writing of the withdrawal of the individual's license is not required to pay licensure fees or penalties beyond those due at the time of the holder's withdrawal, but after a holder gives this notice, the holder's license to practice is not valid until reinstated by the board.

§20133. Inactive license status

A licensee who wants to retain licensure while not practicing or rendering medical services may apply for an inactive status license. During inactive status, the licensee must renew the license and pay the renewal fee set by rule. Inactive status licensees may not engage in the clinical practice of medicine and may not engage in the clinical rendering of medical services. Continuing medical education hours and the jurisprudence examination are not required for an inactive status licensee unless the inactive status licensee seeks reinstatement or conversion to active status.

SUBCHAPTER 4

COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS

§20141. Investigative committees

Separate investigative committees are established within the board with the power and authority to conduct and act upon investigations in accordance with this subchapter.

1. Composition. The chair of the board shall divide the membership of the board into 2 investigative committees of 11 members. Each investigative committee must include 3 allopathic physicians, 3 osteopathic physicians, 2 physician associates and 3 public members. The chair or vice-chair of the board shall chair each investigative committee, and each investigative committee may choose an alternate to chair individual meetings in the absence of the chair and vice-chair. Each investigative committee has the power to act as an investigative committee or a hearing panel.

2. Powers and duties of investigative committee. An investigative committee of the board has the following powers and duties:

A. The duty to investigate complaints, mandated reports, other reports and licensing matters in a timely fashion regarding potential violation of this chapter or the violation of rules adopted by the board pursuant to its authority;

B. The power to issue subpoenas for the production of documents and records;

C. The power to direct that a licensee or applicant for licensure or relicensure undergo a mental or

physical examination. An individual examined pursuant to the direction of the committee may not prevent testimony or prevent the acceptance into evidence of a report based on that examination in any proceeding before the committee or board;

D. The power to dismiss complaints;

E. The power to dismiss complaints and issue letters of guidance or concern. A letter of guidance or concern may be used to educate, reinforce knowledge regarding legal or professional obligations and express concern over action or inaction by the licensee or applicant that does not rise to the level of misconduct sufficient to merit disciplinary action. The issuance of a letter of guidance or concern is not a formal proceeding and does not constitute an adverse disciplinary action of any form. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a letter of guidance or concern is not confidential. The board may place a letter of guidance or concern, together with any underlying complaint, report and investigation materials, in a licensee's or applicant's file for a specified amount of time, not to exceed 10 years. Any letters, complaints and materials placed on file may be accessed and considered by the board in any subsequent action commenced against the licensee or applicant within the specified time frame. Complaints, reports and investigation materials placed on file are confidential only to the extent that confidentiality is required pursuant to Title 24, chapter 21;

F. The power to hold an informal conference with a licensee or applicant for licensure or relicensure. The committee shall provide the licensee with adequate notice of the informal conference and the issues to be discussed. The complainant may attend and may be accompanied by up to 2 individuals, including legal counsel. The informal conference must be conducted in executive session of the committee, pursuant to Title 1, section 405, unless otherwise requested by the licensee. Before the committee decides what action to take at the informal conference or as a result of the informal conference, the committee shall give the complainant a reasonable opportunity to speak. Statements made at the informal conference may not be introduced at a subsequent formal hearing unless all parties consent. The complainant, the licensee and the complainant's and the licensee's representatives, if any, shall maintain the confidentiality of the informal conference;

G. The power, with the consent of the licensee, to enter into a consent agreement that resolves an investigation and that fixes the period and terms of probation best adapted to protect the public health and safety and rehabilitate or educate the licensee. Consent agreements may be entered into only with

the consent of the applicant or licensee, the investigative committee and the Department of the Attorney General. Any remedy, penalty or fine or cost recovery that is otherwise available by law, even if only in the jurisdiction of the District Court, may be achieved by consent agreement, including long-term suspension or permanent revocation of a professional license. A consent agreement is not subject to review or appeal and may be modified only by a writing executed by all parties to the original consent agreement. A consent agreement is enforceable by the board and by an action in Superior Court;

H. The power to accept a voluntary surrender of a license or privilege, in consideration of which the committee may negotiate stipulations, including terms and conditions for reinstatement, that ensure protection of the public health and safety and serve to rehabilitate or educate the licensee. These stipulations may be set forth only in a consent agreement signed by the board, the licensee and the Office of the Attorney General;

I. If the committee concludes that modification or nonrenewal of the license is in order, the power to hold an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 4;

J. The power to refer the investigation to an adjudicatory hearing before the board or to the Office of the Attorney General to file a complaint in the District Court in accordance with Title 4, chapter 5; and

K. The power to conduct adjudicatory hearings referred by the other investigative committee under this section.

3. Adjudicatory hearings. The following provisions apply to adjudicatory hearings.

A. Adjudicatory hearings must be conducted by an adjudicatory hearing panel composed solely of a subset of board members taken from among one of the 2 investigative committees, with a minimum quorum of 5 members serving as an adjudicatory hearing panel, as long as at least one member serving on an adjudicatory hearing panel holds the same license as a licensee or applicant for licensure whose case is being adjudicated and is present for purposes of a quorum when a decision is made by an adjudicatory hearing panel. A board member may not serve on an adjudicatory hearing panel if the board member participated in the review and investigation of the licensee or applicant for licensure whose case is being adjudicated.

B. Adjudicatory hearings held by adjudicatory hearing panels must be conducted consistent with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 4.

C. A presiding officer shall conduct each board hearing, as determined by the adjudicatory hearing panel or by board rule.

D. The board may adopt rules governing its adjudicatory hearings in accordance with section 20113, subsection 1, paragraph S.

§20142. Complaints; reports; investigations

The board, acting through an investigative committee of the board pursuant to section 20141, shall investigate a complaint, on its own motion or upon receipt of a written complaint filed with the board, regarding alleged noncompliance with or violation of this chapter or any rules adopted by the board. The board shall notify the licensee of the content of a complaint filed against the licensee as soon as possible, but not later than 60 days after receipt of this information. The licensee shall respond within 30 days. The board shall share the licensee's response with the complainant, unless the board determines that it would be detrimental to the health of the complainant, the licensee or a patient related to the complaint to obtain the response or that the complainant is not legally entitled to the confidential medical information contained in the response. Board staff shall ensure that the complaint is referred to one of the investigative committees described in section 20141 for review. When a complaint has been filed against a licensee and the licensee moves or has moved to another state, the board may report to the appropriate licensing board in that state the complaint that has been filed, other complaints in the physician's record on which action was taken and disciplinary actions of the board with respect to that physician. When an individual applies for a license under this chapter and any issue arises during the application review that may constitute grounds for discipline, the board, acting through the investigative committee, may investigate the professional or criminal record of that individual, including professional records that the individual may have as a licensee in other states. The board may deny a license or authorize a restricted license based on the record of the applicant in other states or for any reason enumerated in this chapter that constitutes grounds for discipline. When the board receives a report pursuant to Title 24, section 2505 or 2506 regarding a licensee, board staff shall ensure that the report is referred to one of the investigative committees for review. Following review, the investigative committee may close the matter without action, further investigate or open a complaint.

§20143. Emergency action

Upon its own motion or upon complaint, the board, or an investigative committee of the board pursuant to section 20141, in the interests of public health, safety and welfare, shall treat as an emergency a complaint or allegation that an individual licensed under this chapter is or may be unable to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of mental illness, alcohol intemperance or excessive use of drugs or

narcotics or as a result of a mental or physical condition interfering with the competent practice of medicine. In enforcing this section, the board, or an investigative committee of the board pursuant to section 20141, may compel a licensee to submit to a mental or physical examination directed by the board. Failure of a licensee to submit to this examination when directed constitutes an admission of the allegations against the physician, unless the failure was due to circumstances beyond the physician's control, upon which a final order of disciplinary action may be entered without the taking of testimony or presentation of evidence. A licensee affected under this section must, at reasonable intervals, be afforded an opportunity to demonstrate that the licensee can resume the competent practice of medicine with reasonable skill and safety to patients. For the purposes of this chapter, by practicing or by making and filing a biennial license to practice medicine in this State, a licensee licensed under this chapter who accepts the privilege to practice medicine in this State is deemed to have given consent to a mental or physical examination when directed in writing by the board and to have waived all objections to the admissibility of the examiner's testimony or examination reports on the grounds that the testimony or reports constitute a privileged communication. Injunctions must issue immediately to enjoin the practice of medicine by an individual licensed to practice under this chapter when that individual's continued practice may cause irreparable damage to the public health or safety prior to the time proceedings under this chapter could be instituted and completed. In a petition for injunction pursuant to this section, there must be set forth with particularity the facts that make it appear that irreparable damage to the public health or safety may occur prior to the time proceedings under this chapter could be instituted and completed. The petition must be filed in the name of the board on behalf of this State.

§20144. Disciplinary action; judicial review

1. Disciplinary action. The board may suspend or revoke a license or privilege issued by the board pursuant to Title 5, section 10004. In addition to the powers under Title 10, section 8003, subsection 5, the board may suspend, revoke or refuse to issue or renew a license or privilege or impose license or privilege restrictions, conditions and periods of probation based on the following grounds for discipline:

- A. The practice of fraud, deceit or misrepresentation in obtaining a license or authority from the board or in connection with services within the scope of the license or authority;
- B. Misuse of alcohol, drugs or other substances that has resulted or may result in the licensee performing services in a manner that endangers the health or safety of patients;

C. A professional diagnosis of a mental or physical condition that has resulted or may result in the licensee performing services in a manner that endangers the health or safety of patients;

D. Aiding or abetting the practice of medicine or rendering of medical services by an individual who is not licensed under this chapter and who has not been properly delegated the task and who claims to be legally licensed;

E. Incompetence in the practice for which the licensee is licensed or authorized by the board. A licensee is considered incompetent in the practice if the licensee has engaged in conduct that evidences a lack of ability or fitness to perform the duties owed by the licensee to a client or patient or the general public; or engaged in conduct that evidences a lack of knowledge or inability to apply principles or skills to carry out the practice for which the licensee is licensed;

F. Unprofessional conduct. A licensee is considered to have engaged in unprofessional conduct if the licensee violates a standard of professional behavior, including engaging in disruptive behavior, that has been established in the practice for which the licensee is licensed. For purposes of this paragraph, "disruptive behavior" means aberrant behavior that interferes with or is likely to interfere with the delivery of care;

G. Subject to the limitations of Title 5, chapter 341, conviction of a crime that involves dishonesty or false statement or that relates directly to the practice for which the licensee is licensed or authorized by the board, or conviction of a crime for which incarceration for one year or more may be imposed;

H. A violation of this chapter or a rule adopted by the board;

I. Engaging in false, misleading or deceptive advertising;

J. Prescribing drugs listed as controlled substances by the United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration for other than accepted therapeutic purposes;

K. Failure to report to the board a physician or physician associate licensed under this chapter or a physician associate privileged under chapter 145-A, in accordance with Title 24, section 2505;

L. Failure to comply with the requirements of Title 24, section 2905-A;

M. Revocation, suspension or restriction of a license to practice medicine or other disciplinary action; denial of an application for a license; or surrender of a license to practice medicine following the institution of disciplinary action by another state or a territory of the United States or a foreign

country if the conduct resulting in the disciplinary or other action involving the license would, if committed in this State, constitute grounds for discipline under the laws or rules of this State;

N. Engaging in any activity requiring a license under the governing law of the board that is beyond the scope of acts authorized by the license held;

O. Continuing to act in a capacity requiring a license or authority under this chapter or a rule adopted by the board after expiration, suspension or revocation of that license or authority;

P. Noncompliance with an order of the board or a consent agreement executed by the board;

Q. Failure to produce any requested documents in the licensee's possession or under the licensee's control relevant to a pending complaint, proceeding or matter under investigation by the board;

R. Failure to timely respond to a complaint notification sent by the board;

S. Failure to comply with the requirements of Title 22, section 7253; or

T. Advertising, offering or administering conversion therapy to a minor.

2. Judicial review. Notwithstanding any provision of Title 10, section 8003, subsection 5 to the contrary, any nonconsensual revocation pursuant to Title 10, section 8003, subsection 5 of a license or authority issued by the board may be imposed only after a hearing conforming to the requirements of Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 4 and is subject to judicial review exclusively in the Superior Court in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 7.

3. Letters of guidance. In addition to the authority conferred under Title 10, section 8003, subsection 5, the board may issue a letter of guidance or concern to a licensee or applicant. A letter of guidance or concern may be used to educate, reinforce knowledge regarding legal or professional obligations and express concern over action or inaction by the licensee or applicant that does not rise to the level of misconduct sufficient to merit disciplinary action. The issuance of a letter of guidance or concern is not a formal proceeding and does not constitute an adverse disciplinary action of any form. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a letter of guidance or concern is not confidential. The board may place a letter of guidance or concern, together with any underlying complaint, report and investigation materials, in a licensee's or applicant's file for a specified amount of time, not to exceed 10 years. Any letters, complaints and materials placed on file may be accessed and considered by the board in any subsequent action commenced against the licensee or applicant within the specified time frame. Complaints, re-

ports and investigation materials placed on file are confidential only to the extent that confidentiality is required pursuant to Title 24, chapter 21.

SUBCHAPTER 5

DELEGATION; SCOPE OF PRACTICE; REQUIREMENTS; STANDARDS

§20151. Delegation by physicians and physician associates

A physician or physician associate may delegate to the physician's or physician associate's employees or support staff or members of a health care team, including medical assistants, certain activities relating to medical care and treatment carried out by custom and usage when the activities are under the control of the physician or physician associate; the activities being delegated do not, unless otherwise provided by law, require a license, privilege, registration or certification to perform; the physician or physician associate ensures that the employees or support staff or members of a health care team have the appropriate training, education and experience to perform these delegated activities; and the physician or physician associate ensures that the employees or support staff perform these delegated activities competently and safely. The physician or physician associate who delegates an activity permitted under this section to employees or support staff, to program graduates or to participants in an approved training program is legally liable for the activity performed by these individuals, and any individual in this relationship is considered the physician's or physician associate's agent. This section may not be construed to apply to registered nurses acting pursuant to chapter 31 or physician associates acting pursuant to this chapter.

If the delegated activities are part of the practice of optometry as defined in chapter 151, the individual to whom these activities are delegated must possess a valid license to practice optometry in this State, or otherwise may perform only as a technician within the established office of a physician, and otherwise acting solely on the order of and under the responsibility of a physician skilled in the treatment of eyes as designated by the proper professional board, and without assuming evaluation or interpretation of examination findings by prescribing corrective procedures to preserve, restore or improve vision.

§20152. Physician associates; scope of practice and agreement requirements

1. Scope of practice. A physician associate may render any medical service for which the physician associate has been prepared by education, training and experience and is competent to perform. The scope of practice of a physician associate is determined by practice setting, including, but not limited to, a physician employer setting, physician group practice setting or independent private practice setting, or, in a health care

facility setting, by a system of credentialing and granting of privileges.

2. Dispensing drugs. Except for distributing a professional sample of a prescription or legend drug, a physician associate who dispenses a prescription or legend drug:

A. Shall comply with all relevant federal and state laws and federal regulations and state rules; and

B. May dispense the prescription or legend drug only when:

(1) A pharmacy service is not reasonably available;

(2) Dispensing the drug is in the best interests of the patient; or

(3) An emergency exists.

3. Consultation. A physician associate may, as indicated by a patient's condition, the education, competencies and experience of the physician associate and the standards of care, consult with, collaborate with or refer the patient to an appropriate physician or other health care professional. The level of consultation under this subsection is determined by the practice setting, including a physician employer, physician group practice or private practice, or by the system of credentialing and granting of privileges of a health care facility. Consultation may occur electronically or through telecommunication and includes communication, task sharing and education among all members of a health care team.

4. Collaborative agreement requirements. A physician associate with less than 4,000 hours of clinical practice documented to the board shall work in accordance with a collaborative agreement with an active physician that describes the physician associate's scope of practice, except that a physician associate working in a physician group practice setting or a health care facility setting under a system of credentialing and granting of privileges and scope of practice agreement may use that system of credentialing and granting of privileges and scope of practice agreement in lieu of a collaborative agreement. A physician associate is legally responsible and assumes legal liability for any medical service provided by the physician associate in accordance with the physician associate's scope of practice under subsection 1 and a collaborative agreement under this subsection. Under a collaborative agreement, collaboration may occur through electronic means and does not require the physical presence of the physician at the time or place that the medical services are provided. A physician associate shall submit the collaborative agreement, or, if appropriate, the scope of practice agreement, to the board for approval and the agreement must be kept on file at the main location of the place of practice and be made available to the board or the board's representative upon request. Upon submission to the

board of documentation of 4,000 hours of clinical practice, a physician associate is no longer subject to the requirements of this subsection.

5. Construction. To address the need for affordable, high-quality health care services throughout this State and to expand, in a safe and responsible manner, access to health care providers such as physician associates, this section must be liberally construed to authorize physician associates to provide health care services to the full extent of their education, training and experience in accordance with their scopes of practice as determined by their practice settings.

§20153. Review committee member immunity

A physician or physician associate licensed under this chapter who is a member of a utilization review committee, medical review committee, surgical review committee, peer review committee or disciplinary committee that is a requirement of accreditation by the Joint Commission on accreditation of hospitals or is established and operated under the auspices of the physician's or physician associate's respective state or county professional society or the board is immune from civil liability for undertaking or failing to undertake an act within the scope of the function of the committee.

§20154. Records of proceedings of medical staff review committees confidential

All proceedings and records of proceedings concerning medical staff reviews, hospital reviews and other reviews of medical care conducted by committees of physicians and other health care personnel on behalf of hospitals located within this State or on behalf of individual physicians, when the reviews are required by state or federal law or rule or as a condition of accreditation by the Joint Commission on accreditation of hospitals or the American Osteopathic Association Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program or are conducted under the auspices of the state or county professional society to which the physician belongs, are confidential and are exempt from discovery. Provision of information protected by this section to the board pursuant to Title 24, section 2506 does not waive or otherwise affect the confidentiality of the records or the exemption from discovery provided by this section for any other purpose.

§20155. Lyme disease treatment

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Long-term antibiotic therapy" means the administration of oral, intramuscular or intravenous antibiotics, singly or in combination, for a period of time in excess of 4 weeks.

B. "Lyme disease" means:

(1) The presence of signs or symptoms compatible with acute infection with *Borrelia burgdorferi*;

(2) Late stage, persistent or chronic infection with *Borrelia burgdorferi*;

(3) Complications related to an infection under subparagraph (1) or (2); or

(4) The presence of signs or symptoms compatible with acute infection or late stage, persistent or chronic infection with other strains of *Borrelia* that are identified or recognized by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a cause of disease.

"Lyme disease" includes an infection that meets the surveillance criteria for Lyme disease established by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or a clinical diagnosis of Lyme disease that does not meet the surveillance criteria for Lyme disease set by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention but presents other acute and chronic signs or symptoms of Lyme disease as determined by a patient's treating physician.

2. Lyme disease treatment. A physician licensed under this chapter may prescribe, administer or dispense long-term antibiotic therapy for a therapeutic purpose to eliminate infection or to control a patient's symptoms upon making a clinical diagnosis that the patient has Lyme disease or displays symptoms consistent with a clinical diagnosis of Lyme disease. The physician shall document the clinical diagnosis and treatment in the patient's medical record. The clinical diagnosis must be based on knowledge obtained through medical history and physical examination only or in conjunction with testing that provides supportive data for the clinical diagnosis.

§20156. Treatment of minors

An individual licensed under this chapter who renders medical care to a minor for the prevention or treatment of a sexually transmitted infection or treatment of substance use disorder or for the collection of sexual assault evidence through a sexual assault forensic examination is under no obligation to obtain the consent of the minor's parent or guardian or to inform the parent or guardian of the prevention or treatment or collection. This section may not be construed to prohibit the licensed individual rendering the prevention services or treatment or collection from informing the parent or guardian. For purposes of this section, "substance use disorder" means the use of drugs or alcohol solely for their stimulant, depressant or hallucinogenic effect upon the higher functions of the central nervous system and not as a therapeutic agent recommended by a practitioner in the course of medical treatment.

§20157. Posting of policy regarding acceptance of Medicare assignment

An individual licensed to practice medicine or render medical services under this chapter, or privileged under chapter 145-A, a chiropractor licensed pursuant to chapter 9 or a podiatrist licensed pursuant to chapter 51 who treats Medicare-eligible individuals shall post in a conspicuous place that professional's policy regarding the acceptance of Medicare assignment. This posting must state the policy on accepting assignment and name the individual with whom the patient should communicate regarding the policy. The Maine Board of Medicine, the Board of Licensure of Podiatric Medicine and the Board of Chiropractic Licensure shall enforce the provisions of this section and inform each licensee of the licensee's obligation under this section. Each board may discipline a licensee under its jurisdiction for failing to comply with this section and impose a monetary penalty of not less than \$100 and not more than \$1,000 for each violation.

§20158. Release of contact lens prescription

After contact lenses have been adequately fitted and the patient released from immediate follow-up care by the physician, the patient may request a copy of the contact lens specifications from the physician. The physician shall provide a copy of the prescription at no cost, which must contain the information necessary to properly duplicate the current prescription. The contact lens prescription must contain an expiration date not to exceed 24 months from the date of issue. The prescription may contain fitting guidelines and may also contain specific instructions for use by the patient. The prescribing physician is not liable for an injury to or a condition of a patient that results from negligence in packaging, manufacturing or dispensing lenses by anyone other than the prescribing physician. The dispensing party may dispense contact lenses only upon receipt of a written prescription, except that a physician may fill a prescription of an optometrist or another physician without a copy of the prescription. Mail order contact lens suppliers must be licensed by and register with the Maine Board of Pharmacy pursuant to section 13751, subsection 3-A and are subject to discipline by that board for violations of that board's rules and the laws governing the board. An individual who fills a contact lens prescription shall maintain a file of that prescription for a period of 5 years. An individual, a corporation or any other entity, other than a mail order contact lens supplier, that improperly fills a contact lens prescription or fills an expired prescription commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$250 nor more than \$1,000 may be adjudged. An individual may file a complaint with the board seeking disciplinary action concerning violations of this section.

§20159. Expedited partner therapy

An individual licensed under this chapter may not be disciplined for providing expedited partner therapy

in accordance with Title 22, chapter 251, subchapter 3, article 5.

§20160. Issuance of prescription for ophthalmic lenses

A physician licensed by the board may not issue a prescription for ophthalmic lenses, as defined in section 19101, subsection 19, solely in reliance on a measurement of the eye by a kiosk, as defined in section 19101, subsection 14, without conducting an eye examination, as defined in section 19101, subsection 11.

§20161. Requirements regarding prescription of opioid medication

1. Limits on opioid medication prescribing. Except as provided in subsection 2, an individual licensed under this chapter or privileged under chapter 145-A and whose scope of practice includes prescribing opioid medication may not prescribe:

A. To a patient any combination of opioid medication in an aggregate amount in excess of 100 morphine milligram equivalents of opioid medication per day;

B. To a patient who, on the effective date of this section, has an active prescription for opioid medication in excess of 100 morphine milligram equivalents of an opioid medication per day, an opioid medication in an amount that would cause that patient's total amount of opioid medication to exceed 300 morphine milligram equivalents of opioid medication per day; except that, on or after July 1, 2017, the aggregate amount of opioid medication prescribed may not be in excess of 100 morphine milligram equivalents of opioid medication per day;

C. Within a 30-day period, more than a 30-day supply of an opioid medication to a patient under treatment for chronic pain. For the purposes of this paragraph, "chronic pain" has the same meaning as in Title 22, section 7246, subsection 1-C; or

D. Within a 7-day period, more than a 7-day supply of an opioid medication to a patient under treatment for acute pain unless the opioid product is labeled by the federal Food and Drug Administration to be dispensed only in a stock bottle that exceeds a 7-day supply as prescribed, in which case the amount dispensed may not exceed a 14-day supply. For the purposes of this paragraph, "acute pain" has the same meaning as in Title 22, section 7246, subsection 1-A.

2. Exceptions. An individual licensed under this chapter or privileged under chapter 145-A whose scope of practice includes prescribing opioid medication is exempt from the limits on opioid medication prescribing established in subsection 1 only:

A. When prescribing opioid medication to a patient for:

(1) Pain associated with active and aftercare cancer treatment;

(2) Palliative care, as defined in Title 22, section 1726, subsection 1, paragraph A, in conjunction with a serious illness, as defined in Title 22, section 1726, subsection 1, paragraph B;

(3) End-of-life and hospice care; or

(4) Medication-assisted treatment for substance use disorder; and

B. When directly ordering or administering a benzodiazepine or opioid medication to an individual in an emergency room setting, an inpatient hospital setting, a long-term care facility or a residential care facility or in connection with a surgical procedure. As used in this paragraph, "administer" has the same meaning as in Title 22, section 7246, subsection 1-B.

3. Electronic prescribing. An individual licensed under this chapter or privileged under chapter 145-A and whose scope of practice includes prescribing opioid medication with the capability to electronically prescribe shall prescribe all opioid medication electronically by July 1, 2017. An individual who does not have the capability to electronically prescribe must request a waiver from this requirement from the Commissioner of Health and Human Services stating the reasons for the lack of capability, the availability of broadband infrastructure and a plan for developing the ability to electronically prescribe opioid medication. The commissioner may grant a waiver including circumstances in which exceptions are appropriate, including prescribing outside of the individual's usual place of business and technological failures.

4. Continuing education. By December 31, 2017, an individual licensed under this chapter or privileged under chapter 145-A must successfully complete 3 hours of continuing education every 2 years on the prescription of opioid medication. The board shall adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

5. Penalties. An individual who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of \$250 per violation, not to exceed \$5,000 per calendar year, may be adjudged. The Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for the enforcement of this section.

6. Opioid medication policy. No later than January 1, 2018, a health care entity that includes an individual licensed under this chapter or privileged under chapter 145-A whose scope of practice includes prescribing opioid medication must have in place an opioid

medication prescribing policy that applies to all prescribers of opioid medications employed by the health care entity. The policy must include, but is not limited to, procedures and practices related to risk assessment, informed consent and counseling on the risk of opioid use. For the purposes of this subsection, "health care entity" has the same meaning as in Title 22, section 1718-B, subsection 1, paragraph B.

§20162. Prohibition on providing conversion therapy to minors

An individual licensed, registered or certified under this chapter may not advertise, offer or administer conversion therapy to a minor.

§20163. Duty to warn and protect

1. Duty. A licensee has a duty to warn of or to take reasonable precautions to provide protection from a patient's violent behavior if the licensee has a reasonable belief based on communications with the patient that the patient is likely to engage in physical violence that poses a serious risk of harm to self or others. The duty imposed under this subsection may not be interpreted to require the licensee to take any action that in the reasonable professional judgment of the licensee would endanger the licensee or increase the threat of danger to a potential victim.

2. Discharge of duty. A licensee subject to a duty to warn or provide protection under subsection 1 may discharge that duty if the licensee makes reasonable efforts to communicate the threat to a potential victim, notifies a law enforcement agency or seeks involuntary hospitalization of the patient under Title 34-B, chapter 3, subchapter 4, article 3.

3. Immunity. No monetary liability and no cause of action may arise concerning patient privacy or confidentiality against a licensee for information disclosed to 3rd parties in an effort to discharge a duty under subsection 2.

SUBCHAPTER 6

TELEHEALTH SERVICES

§20181. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Asynchronous encounter. "Asynchronous encounter" means an interaction between a patient and a person licensed under this chapter through a system that has the ability to store digital information, including, but not limited to, still images, video files, audio files, text files and other relevant data, and to transmit such information without requiring the simultaneous presence of the patient and the person licensed under this chapter.

2. Store and forward transfer. "Store and forward transfer" means the transmission of a patient's records through a secure electronic system to a person licensed under this chapter.

3. Synchronous encounter. "Synchronous encounter" means a real-time interaction conducted with an interactive audio or video connection between a patient and a person licensed under this chapter or between a person licensed under this chapter and another health care provider.

4. Telehealth services. "Telehealth services" means health care services delivered through the use of information technology and includes synchronous encounters, asynchronous encounters, store and forward transfers and telemonitoring.

5. Telemonitoring. "Telemonitoring" means the use of information technology to remotely monitor a patient's health status via electronic means, allowing the person licensed under this chapter to track the patient's health data over time. Telemonitoring may be synchronous or asynchronous.

§20182. Telehealth services permitted

A person licensed under this chapter may provide telehealth services as long as the licensee acts within the scope of practice of the licensee's license, in accordance with any requirements and restrictions imposed by this subchapter and in accordance with standards of practice.

§20183. Confidentiality

When providing telehealth services, a person licensed under this chapter shall comply with all state and federal confidentiality and privacy laws.

§20184. Professional responsibility

All laws and rules governing professional responsibility, unprofessional conduct and generally accepted standards of practice that apply to a person licensed under this chapter also apply to that licensee while that licensee is providing telehealth services.

§20185. Rulemaking

The board shall adopt rules governing telehealth services by persons licensed under this chapter. These rules must establish standards of practice and appropriate restrictions for the various types and forms of telehealth services. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. A-8. Transition. The following provisions apply to the reassignment of the duties and responsibilities related to the licensing and regulation of allopathic physicians, osteopathic physicians and physician associates in this State.

1. The Maine Board of Medicine is created and established by law. All other statutory references to, responsibilities of and authority conferred upon the Board of Licensure in Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Licensure are deemed to refer to and vest in the Maine Board of Medicine created by this Part. The Maine Board of Medicine is the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions related to the licensure and regulation of physicians and physician associates in this State.

2. All licenses issued by the Board of Licensure in Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Licensure that are in effect on the effective date of this Part remain in effect until those licenses expire. The authority over those licenses is transferred to the Maine Board of Medicine on the effective date of this Part.

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, all accrued expenditures, assets, liabilities, balances of appropriations, allocations, transfers, revenues or other available funds in an account or subdivision of an account of the Board of Licensure in Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Licensure must be transferred to the proper accounts of the Maine Board of Medicine by the State Controller or by financial order upon the request of the State Budget Officer and with the approval of the Governor.

4. All rules of the Board of Licensure in Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Licensure that are in effect on the effective date of this Part remain in effect until rescinded, revised or amended.

5. All contracts, agreements and compacts of the Board of Licensure in Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Licensure as they pertain to the duties set forth in this Part that are in effect on the effective date of this Part remain in effect until they expire or are altered by the parties involved in the contracts or agreements. The Maine Board of Medicine is the successor agency for all contracts, agreements and compacts of the Board of Licensure in Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Licensure.

6. All records of the Board of Licensure in Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Licensure as they pertain to the duties set forth in this Part must be transferred to the Maine Board of Medicine as necessary to implement this Part.

7. All property and equipment of the Board of Licensure in Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Licensure pertaining to the duties set forth in this Part are transferred to the Maine Board of Medicine as necessary to implement this Part.

8. Employees of the Board of Licensure in Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Licensure who were employees of those respective boards immediately prior to the effective date of this Part retain all their employee rights, privileges and benefits, including sick leave, vacation and seniority, provided under the Civil Service

Law or collective bargaining agreements. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Human Resources shall provide assistance to the affected employees and the Maine Board of Medicine and shall assist with the orderly implementation of this subsection.

9. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of the Budget shall work with employees of the Maine Board of Medicine with regard to the duties transferred to it as set forth in this Part to develop the budget for the Maine Board of Medicine.

10. All complaints and investigations in progress at the time this Part takes effect must be assigned to one of the Maine Board of Medicine's investigative committees, and a licensee with a pending matter at the time of the merger is not entitled to challenge any member of that committee who previously heard the matter when sitting as a member of the Board of Licensure in Medicine or the Board of Osteopathic Licensure.

11. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, section 20112, subsection 1, the appointments of current board members of both the Board of Licensure in Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Licensure carry over, and all sitting members appointed by the Governor as of the effective date of the merger serve on the Maine Board of Medicine until their existing appointment terms expire.

12. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, section 20112, subsection 5, the members of the Maine Board of Medicine shall meet on the 2nd Tuesday in January 2027 at the time and place the board may determine and shall elect a chair, vice-chair and a secretary, who hold their respective offices until the 2nd Tuesday in July 2027.

13. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, section 20112, subsection 2, of the initial members appointed to the Maine Board of Medicine pursuant to Title 32, section 20112, subsection 1, 2 members appointed pursuant to paragraphs A, B and D must be appointed to a term of 3 years; 2 members appointed pursuant to paragraphs A, B and D must be appointed to a term of 4 years; 2 members appointed pursuant to paragraphs A, B and D must be appointed to a term of 5 years; one member appointed pursuant to paragraph C must be appointed to a term of 3 years; one member appointed pursuant to paragraph C must be appointed to a term of 4 years; and 2 members appointed pursuant to paragraph C must be appointed to a term of 5 years.

Sec. A-9. Effective date. This Part takes effect January 1, 2027.

PART B

Sec. B-1. Report on planning for merger and additional recommendations for statutory changes. No later than January 31, 2027, the Board of

Licensure in Medicine, jointly with the Board of Osteopathic Licensure, shall submit a report on the planning completed by the board prior to the establishment of the Maine Board of Medicine as set forth in Part A, including recommendations for any suggested legislation necessary to further implement the merger, to the Governor and to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over professional licensing board matters. The joint standing committee having jurisdiction over professional licensing board matters may report out a bill to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

PART C

Sec. C-1. 22 MRSA §20, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 523, §1, is amended to read:

A. Be licensed, or eligible for licensure, as a physician under Title 32, chapter ~~36 or 48~~ 153 or as an advanced practice registered nurse under Title 32, chapter 31; or

Sec. C-2. 22 MRSA §264, sub-§3, ¶H, as amended by PL 2025, c. 127, §2, is further amended to read:

H. An advanced practice registered nurse who is licensed under Title 32, chapter 31 or a health care provider who is licensed under Title 32, chapter ~~36 or 48~~ 153 and who has experience in delivering services to individuals with intellectual disabilities or autism;

Sec. C-3. 22 MRSA §264, sub-§3, ¶H-1, as corrected by RR 2025, c. 1, Pt. A, §28, is amended to read:

H-1. An advanced practice registered nurse who is licensed under Title 32, chapter 31 or a health care provider who is licensed under Title 32, chapters ~~36 or 48~~ chapter 153 and who has experience as a primary care provider;

Sec. C-4. 22 MRSA §1241, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2019, c. 627, Pt. B, §5 and PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is further amended to read:

3. Health care professional. "Health care professional" means an allopathic physician licensed pursuant to Title 32, chapter ~~48~~ 153, an osteopathic physician licensed pursuant to Title 32, chapter ~~36~~ 153, a physician associate licensed pursuant to Title 32, chapter ~~36 or 48~~ 153, an advanced practice registered nurse who has a written collaborative agreement with a collaborating physician that authorizes the provision of sexually transmitted disease therapy or expedited partner therapy or an advanced practice registered nurse who possesses appropriate clinical privileges in accordance with Title 32, chapter 31.

Sec. C-5. 22 MRSA §1502, first ¶, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §70, is further amended to read:

In addition to the ability to consent to treatment for health services as provided in sections 1823 and 1908 and Title 32, sections ~~2595, 3292, 3817, 6221 and~~ 7004 and 20156, a minor may consent to treatment for substance use disorder or for emotional or psychological problems.

Sec. C-6. 22 MRSA §1508, sub-§1, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 413, §1, is amended to read:

C. "Health care professional" means a person qualified by training and experience to provide and monitor the provision of gender-affirming hormone therapy who is authorized by law to prescribe medication and who is:

(1) Licensed by the Maine Board of Licensure ~~in~~ Medicine under Title 32, chapter ~~48~~ 153; or

(~~2~~) ~~Licensed by the Board of Osteopathic Licensure under Title 32, chapter 36; or~~

(3) Licensed by the State Board of Nursing as an advanced practice registered nurse under Title 32, chapter 31.

Sec. C-7. 22 MRSA §1531, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2019, c. 613, §1, is further amended to read:

1. Prophylactic ophthalmic ointment and reporting requirement. Every physician, midwife or nurse in charge shall instill or cause to be instilled into the eyes of an infant within 24 hours after its birth prophylactic ophthalmic ointment. If one or both eyes of an infant become reddened or inflamed at any time within 4 weeks after birth, the midwife, nurse or person having charge of the infant shall report the condition of the eyes at once to the infant's primary care provider licensed under Title 32, chapter ~~36 or 48~~ 153.

Sec. C-8. 22 MRSA §1596, sub-§1, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 262, §1 and amended by PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is further amended to read:

C. "Health care professional" means a physician or physician associate licensed under Title 32, chapter ~~36 or 48~~ 153 or a person licensed under Title 32, chapter 31 to practice as an advanced practice registered nurse.

Sec. C-9. 22 MRSA §1597-A, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2019, c. 627, Pt. B, §6 and PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is further amended by amending subparagraph (5) to read:

(5) A physician associate licensed by the Maine Board of Licensure ~~in~~ Medicine, Title 32, chapter ~~48~~ 153;

Sec. C-10. 22 MRSA §1597-A, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2019, c. 627, Pt. B, §6 and PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is further amended by amending subparagraph (6) to read:

(6) A nurse practitioner registered by the Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine, Title 32, chapter ~~48~~ 153;

Sec. C-11. 22 MRSA §1598, sub-§1-B, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 416, §3 and reallocated by RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. A, §8, is amended to read:

1-B. Abortion after viability. After viability, an abortion may be performed only when it is necessary in the professional judgment of a physician licensed pursuant to Title 32, chapter ~~36 or 48~~ 153. The physician shall apply the applicable standard of care in making a professional judgment under this subsection.

Sec. C-12. 22 MRSA §1598, sub-§3, ¶A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 416, §4 and PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is further amended to read:

A. Only a person licensed under Title 32, chapter ~~36 or 48~~ 153 to practice in the State as an osteopathic or medical physician or physician associate or a person licensed under Title 32, chapter 31 to practice in the State as an advanced practice registered nurse may perform an abortion on another person. ~~Nothing in this~~ This paragraph limits does not limit the applicability of Title 32, section ~~3270~~ 20104 or any other civil or criminal law that may apply.

Sec. C-13. 22 MRSA §1711-C, sub-§1, ¶E, as amended by PL 1999, c. 512, Pt. A, §5 and affected by §7 and c. 790, Pt. A, §§58 and 60, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

"Health care information" does not include information that is created or received by a member of the clergy or other person using spiritual means alone for healing as provided in Title 32, sections 2103 and ~~3270~~ 20103.

Sec. C-14. 22 MRSA §1711-C, sub-§6, ¶A, as amended by PL 2013, c. 326, §1, is further amended by amending subparagraph (2), division (e) to read:

(e) A physician specializing in psychiatry licensed under the provisions of Title 32, chapter ~~36 or 48~~ 153.

Sec. C-15. 22 MRSA §1823, first ¶, as amended by PL 2019, c. 236, §1, is further amended to read:

Any hospital licensed under this chapter or alcohol or drug treatment facility licensed pursuant to section 7801 that provides facilities to a minor in connection with the prevention of a sexually transmitted infection or the treatment of that minor for a sexually transmitted infection or treatment of that minor for substance use or for the collection of sexual assault evidence through a sexual assault forensic examination is not under ~~no~~ an obligation to obtain the consent of that minor's parent or guardian or to inform that parent or guardian of the provision of such facilities ~~so, as~~ as long as such facilities

have been provided at the direction of the person or persons referred to in Title 32, ~~sections 2595, 3292, section 3817, 6221 or 7004 or 20156~~. The hospital shall notify and obtain the consent of that minor's parent or guardian if that hospitalization continues for more than 16 hours.

Sec. C-16. 22 MRSA §2383-B, sub-§3, ¶B-1, as enacted by IB 1999, c. 1, §8, is amended to read:

B-1. "Physician" means ~~a person licensed as an osteopathic physician by the Board of Osteopathic Licensure pursuant to Title 32, chapter 36 or a person licensed as a physician or surgeon by the Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine pursuant to Title 32, chapter 48~~ 153.

Sec. C-17. 22 MRSA §2421-A, sub-§37, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 679, Pt. A, §3, is amended to read:

37. Physician. "Physician" means ~~an individual licensed as an osteopathic physician by the Board of Osteopathic Licensure pursuant to Title 32, chapter 36 or an individual licensed as a physician or surgeon by the Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine pursuant to Title 32, chapter 48~~ 153 who is in good standing and who holds a valid federal Drug Enforcement Administration license to prescribe drugs.

Sec. C-18. 22 MRSA §2421-A, sub-§38, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 679, Pt. A, §3 and amended by PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is further amended to read:

38. Physician associate. "Physician associate" means an individual licensed as a physician associate by the ~~Board of Osteopathic Licensure pursuant to Title 32, chapter 36 or an individual licensed as a physician associate by the~~ Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine pursuant to Title 32, chapter 48 153 who is in good standing and who holds a valid federal Drug Enforcement Administration license to prescribe drugs.

Sec. C-19. 22 MRSA §3174-III, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 708, §1 and amended by PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is further amended to read:

1. Reimbursement. The department shall provide reimbursement under the MaineCare program for pasteurized donor breast milk provided to an infant receiving benefits under this chapter if a physician or physician associate licensed under Title 32, chapter ~~36 or 48~~ 153 or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under Title 32, chapter 31 signs an order stating that:

A. The infant is medically or physically unable to receive maternal breast milk or participate in breastfeeding or the infant's mother is medically or physically unable to produce maternal breast milk in quantities sufficient for the infant; and

B. The infant:

(1) Was born at a birth weight of less than 1,500 grams;

- (2) Has a gastrointestinal anomaly or metabolic or digestive disorder or is recovering from intestinal surgery and the infant's digestive needs require additional support;
- (3) Is not appropriately gaining weight or growing;
- (4) Has formula intolerance and is experiencing weight loss or difficulty feeding;
- (5) Has low blood sugar;
- (6) Has congenital heart disease;
- (7) Has received or will receive an organ transplant; or
- (8) Has another serious medical condition for which donor breast milk is medically necessary.

Sec. C-20. 24 MRSA §2505, 2nd ¶, as amended by PL 2015, c. 429, §8 and PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is further amended to read:

Except for specific protocols developed by a board pursuant to Title 32, section ~~2506-A, 3298 or~~ 18323 or Title 32, section 20113, subsection 1, paragraph O, a physician or physician associate, dentist or committee is not responsible for reporting misuse of alcohol, drugs or other substances or professional incompetence or malpractice as a result of physical or mental infirmity or by the misuse of alcohol, drugs or other substances discovered by the physician, physician associate, dentist or committee as a result of participation or membership in a professional review committee or with respect to any information acquired concerning misuse of alcohol, drugs or other substances or professional incompetence or malpractice as a result of physical or mental infirmity or by the misuse of alcohol, drugs or other substances, as long as that information is reported to the professional review committee. This section does not prohibit an impaired physician, physician associate or dentist from seeking alternative forms of treatment.

Sec. C-21. 24 MRSA §2510, sub-§6, as amended by PL 2011, c. 190, §6, is further amended to read:

6. Disciplinary action. Disciplinary action by the ~~Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine~~ is in accordance with Title 32, chapter ~~48; disciplinary action by the Board of Osteopathic Licensure is in accordance with Title 32, chapter 36; 153~~ and disciplinary action by the State Board of Veterinary Medicine is in accordance with Title 32, chapter 71-A.

Sec. C-22. 24 MRSA §2510-A, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 697, §7, is amended to read:

Except as otherwise provided by this chapter, all professional competence review records are privileged and confidential and are not subject to discovery, sub-

poena or other means of legal compulsion for their release to any person or entity and are not admissible as evidence in any civil, judicial or administrative proceeding. Information contained in professional competence review records is not admissible at trial or deposition in the form of testimony by an individual who participated in the written professional competence review process. ~~Nothing in this~~ This section may not be read to abrogate the obligations to report and provide information under section 2506, ~~nor or the application of Title 32, sections 2599 and 3296~~ section 20154.

Sec. C-23. 24 MRSA §2607, first ¶, as corrected by RR 2017, c. 2, §8, is amended to read:

When 3 notices of professional liability claims are made within a 10-year period regarding any person licensed by the ~~Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine or the Board of Osteopathic Licensure~~ and one or more of the claims, following an initial review, potentially may rise to a level of misconduct sufficient to merit board action, the board shall treat that situation as a complaint against the licensee or practitioner and shall initiate a review consistent with Title 32, ~~sections 3282-A to 3289~~ chapter 153, subchapter 4. Any claims that lack merit or fail to rise to a level of board action may be dismissed by the board for the purpose of this section.

Sec. C-24. 24-A MRSA §4303-G, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 40, §1 and affected by §2, is amended to read:

B. "Maintenance of certification program" means satisfactory participation in a program beyond the continuing medical education requirements currently in place by the ~~Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine or Board of Osteopathic Licensure~~, or initial board certification by a national or regional medical specialty board.

Sec. C-25. 24-A MRSA §4303-G, sub-§1, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 40, §1 and affected by §2, is amended to read:

D. "Physician" means an individual licensed under Title 32, chapter ~~36 or 48~~ 153.

Sec. C-26. 24-A MRSA §4306, first ¶, as amended by PL 2019, c. 627, Pt. A, §1 and affected by §3 and amended by PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is further amended to read:

A carrier offering or renewing a managed care plan shall allow enrollees to choose their own primary care providers, as allowed under the managed care plan's rules, from among the panel of participating providers made available to enrollees under the managed care plan's rules. A carrier shall allow physicians, including, but not limited to, pediatricians and physicians who specialize in obstetrics and gynecology, and physician associates licensed pursuant to Title 32, section ~~2594-E or section 3270-E~~ 20125 and certified nurse practitioners who have been approved by the State Board of Nursing

to practice advanced practice registered nursing without the supervision of a physician pursuant to Title 32, section 2102, subsection 2-A to serve as primary care providers for managed care plans. A carrier is not required to contract with certified nurse practitioners, physician associates or physicians as primary care providers in any manner that exceeds the access and provider network standards required in this chapter or chapter 56, or any rules adopted pursuant to those chapters. A carrier shall allow enrollees in a managed care plan to change primary care providers without good cause at least once annually and to change with good cause as necessary. When an enrollee fails to choose a primary care provider, the carrier may assign the enrollee a primary care provider located in the same geographic area in which the enrollee resides.

Sec. C-27. 24-A MRSA §4314, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 580, §3, is further amended to read:

A. "Eye care provider" means a participating provider who is an optometrist licensed to practice optometry pursuant to Title 32, chapter 151, or an ophthalmologist licensed to practice medicine pursuant to Title 32, chapter ~~36, 48 or 145~~ or 153.

Sec. C-28. 24-A MRSA §4320-O, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 627, Pt. A, §2 and affected by §3 and amended by PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is further amended to read:

1. Services provided by a physician associate. A carrier offering a health plan in this State shall provide coverage for health care services performed by a physician associate licensed under Title 32, section ~~2594-E or 3270-E~~ 20125 when those services are covered services under the health plan when performed by any other health care provider and when those services are within the lawful scope of practice of the physician associate.

Sec. C-29. 24-A MRSA §4320-V, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 229, §1 and affected by §2 and amended by PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is further amended to read:

1. Required coverage. A carrier offering a health plan in this State shall provide coverage for pasteurized donor breast milk provided to an infant eligible for coverage under the health plan if a physician or physician associate licensed under Title 32, chapter ~~36 or 48~~ 153 or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under Title 32, chapter 31 signs an order stating that:

A. The infant is medically or physically unable to receive maternal breast milk or participate in breastfeeding or the infant's parent is medically or physically unable to produce maternal breast milk in quantities sufficient for the infant; and

B. The infant:

- (1) Was born at a birth weight of less than 1,500 grams;
- (2) Has a gastrointestinal anomaly or metabolic or digestive disorder or is recovering from intestinal surgery and the infant's digestive needs require additional support;
- (3) Is not appropriately gaining weight or growing;
- (4) Has formula intolerance and is experiencing weight loss or difficulty feeding;
- (5) Has low blood sugar;
- (6) Has congenital heart disease;
- (7) Has received or will receive an organ transplant; or
- (8) Has another serious medical condition for which donor breast milk is medically necessary.

Sec. C-30. 25 MRSA §1542-A, sub-§1, ¶N, as amended by PL 2017, c. 457, §12, is further amended to read:

N. Who is licensed under Title 32, chapter ~~48~~ 153 and has applied for an expedited license under Title 32, section 18506;

Sec. C-31. 25 MRSA §1542-A, sub-§1, ¶P, as repealed and replaced by PL 2019, c. 399, §2 and c. 402, §2, is repealed.

Sec. C-32. 25 MRSA §1542-A, sub-§1, ¶DD, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 366, §2 and amended by c. 316, §3, is further amended to read:

DD. Who is an applicant for licensure as a physician associate with the Maine Board of Osteopathic Licensure Medicine, or who is a licensed physician associate seeking a compact privilege, as required under Title 32, section ~~2594-G~~ 20126.

Sec. C-33. 25 MRSA §1542-A, sub-§1, ¶EE, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 366, §3 and amended by c. 316, §3, is repealed.

Sec. C-34. 25 MRSA §1542-A, sub-§3, ¶M, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 253, §3, is amended to read:

M. The State Police shall take or cause to be taken the fingerprints of the person named in subsection 1, paragraph N at the request of that person and upon payment of the expenses by that person as required by Title 32, section ~~3275-A~~ 20129.

Sec. C-35. 25 MRSA §1542-A, sub-§3, ¶O, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §36, is repealed.

Sec. C-36. 25 MRSA §1542-A, sub-§3, ¶CC, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 366, §9, is repealed.

Sec. C-37. 25 MRSA §1542-A, sub-§3, ¶DD, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 366, §10, is amended to read:

DD. The State Police shall take or cause to be taken the fingerprints of the person named in subsection 1, paragraph ~~EE~~ DD at the request of that person or the Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine and upon payment of the fee by that person as required by Title 32, section ~~3270-H~~ 20129.

Sec. C-38. 25 MRSA §1542-A, sub-§4, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 293, Pt. A, §42, is amended to read:

4. Duty to submit to State Bureau of Identification. It is the duty of the law enforcement agency taking the fingerprints as required by subsection 3, paragraphs A, B and G to transmit immediately to the State Bureau of Identification the criminal fingerprint record. Fingerprints taken pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph C, D, E or F or pursuant to subsection 5 may not be submitted to the State Bureau of Identification unless an express request is made by the commanding officer of the State Bureau of Identification. Fingerprints taken pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph G must be transmitted immediately to the State Bureau of Identification to enable the bureau to conduct state and national criminal history record checks for the Department of Education. The bureau may not use the fingerprints for any purpose other than that provided for under Title 20-A, section 6103. The bureau shall retain the fingerprints, except as provided under Title 20-A, section 6103, subsection 9. Fingerprints taken pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph I and subsection 3, paragraph I must be transmitted immediately to the State Bureau of Identification to enable the bureau to conduct state and national criminal history record checks for the court and the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board, respectively. Fingerprints taken pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph J or S must be transmitted immediately to the State Bureau of Identification to enable the bureau to conduct state and national criminal history record checks for the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. ~~Fingerprints taken pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph P must be transmitted immediately to the State Bureau of Identification to enable the bureau to conduct state and national criminal history record checks for the Board of Osteopathic Licensure, established in Title 32, chapter 36. Fingerprints taken pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph N must be transmitted immediately to the State Bureau of Identification to enable the bureau to conduct state and national criminal history record checks for the Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine, established in Title 32, chapter 48 153. Fingerprints taken pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph Q must be transmitted immediately to the State Bureau of Identification to enable the bureau to conduct state and national criminal history record checks for the State Board of Nursing, established in Title 32, chapter 31. Fingerprints taken pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph O must~~

be transmitted immediately to the State Bureau of Identification to enable the bureau to conduct state and national criminal history record checks under Title 28-B, section 204. Fingerprints taken pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph R, T or W must be transmitted immediately to the State Bureau of Identification to enable the bureau to conduct state and national criminal history record checks for the Department of Health and Human Services. Fingerprints taken pursuant to subsection 1, paragraph V must be transmitted immediately to the State Bureau of Identification to enable the bureau to conduct state and national criminal history record checks for the Office of the State Auditor.

Sec. C-39. 26 MRSA §599-A, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 513, §1, is amended to read:

5. Effective date of a noncompete agreement. Except for a noncompete agreement between an employer and an allopathic physician or an osteopathic physician licensed under Title 32, chapter ~~48 or chapter 36, respectively~~ 153, the terms of a noncompete agreement do not take effect until after one year of the employee's employment with the employer or a period of 6 months from the date the agreement was signed, whichever is later.

Sec. C-40. 30-A MRSA §1559, sub-§6, as amended by PL 2001, c. 667, Pt. A, §48, is further amended to read:

6. Administration of medication not a violation. The administration of medication to prisoners, as provided in this section, is not a violation of Title 32, section 2102, subsection 2, paragraph F; or Title 32, section ~~3270; 20104~~ or any other law.

Sec. C-41. 32 MRSA §85, sub-§7, as repealed and replaced by PL 2025, c. 70, §1, is amended to read:

7. Delegation. A person acting under delegated authority pursuant to chapter ~~36 or 48~~ 153 may not use or be governed by a license issued pursuant to this chapter while acting under that delegated authority, and a person acting under a license issued pursuant to this chapter may not be governed by delegated authority or engage in any activities delegated pursuant to chapter ~~36 or 48~~ 153 while acting under a license issued pursuant to this chapter.

Sec. C-42. 32 MRSA §3811, sub-§3, as amended by PL 1977, c. 564, §124, is further amended to read:

3. Limitation. ~~Nothing in this~~ This chapter ~~shall~~ may not be construed as permitting the practice of medicine as defined in section ~~3270~~ 20102, subsection 11 by psychological examiners or psychologists.

Sec. C-43. 32 MRSA §3837-A, sub-§1, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. Q, §14, is amended to read:

D. Practice of medicine without a license to do so in violation of ~~section 3270~~ chapter 153;

Sec. C-44. 32 MRSA §4329, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 206, §1, is amended to read:

This chapter does not restrict the activities of a physician or surgeon licensed under chapter ~~48~~ 153.

Sec. C-45. 32 MRSA §9855, sub-§4, as repealed and replaced by PL 2005, c. 511, §6 and amended by PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is further amended to read:

4. Limited radiographer license. For those applicants wishing to be licensed only for the limited purpose of using ionizing radiation for imaging purposes in the office of a licensed practitioner or for physician associates practicing under section ~~3270-A~~ 20151 or nurses practicing under section 2102, subsection 2, paragraph C in a clinic not required to be licensed under Title 22, chapter 405, the board shall grant a limited license and shall, in approving a course of study, training and examination for these applicants, consider the limited scope of practice of the various disciplines. Those aspects of study, training and examination relating to patient safety must be identical to the requirements for a full license.

Sec. C-46. 32 MRSA §13786-C, first ¶, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 488, §31, is amended to read:

A pharmacist who dispenses opioid medication in good faith is immune from any civil liability that might otherwise result from dispensing medication in excess of the limit established in section 2210, subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; ~~section 2600-C, subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; section 3300-F, subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; section 3657, subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; or section 18308, subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; or section 20161, subsection 1, paragraphs A and B~~, if the medication was dispensed in accordance with a prescription issued by a practitioner. In a proceeding regarding immunity from liability, there is a rebuttable presumption of good faith.

Sec. C-47. 32 MRSA §13810, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 109, §1, is amended to read:

2. Administration. Administer, in the course of employment, such drugs as are approved under subsection 1 according to written protocols approved annually by the employer's professional advisory committee, which must include a physician licensed under chapter ~~36 or chapter 48~~ 153.

Sec. C-48. 32 MRSA §19101, sub-§25, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 580, §8, is amended to read:

25. Provider. "Provider" means an individual licensed as an optometrist under this chapter or an individual licensed as an osteopathic physician or medical doctor under chapter ~~36, 48 or 145~~ or 153 who has also completed a residency in ophthalmology.

Sec. C-49. 34-B MRSA §7003, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 459, §7, is amended to read:

6. Physician. "Physician" means any person licensed to practice medicine under Title 32, chapter ~~48, subchapter II, or under Title 32, chapter 36, subchapters II and IV~~ 153.

Sec. C-50. 34-B MRSA §7003, sub-§7, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 459, §7, is amended to read:

7. Psychiatrist. "Psychiatrist" means a physician licensed to practice medicine under Title 32, chapter ~~48, subchapter II~~ 153, who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders.

Sec. C-51. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§2, ¶SS, as amended by PL 2021, c. 635, Pt. H, §17 and affected by §18, is further amended to read:

SS. For taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2020, to the extent included in federal adjusted gross income, student loan payments made by the taxpayer's employer directly to a lender on behalf of a qualified health care employee. As used in this paragraph, "qualified health care employee" means an individual who is employed by a hospital located in this State and who is licensed under Title 32, chapter 31, subchapter 3 or 4; ~~chapter 36, subchapter 4; or Title 32, chapter 48~~ 153, subchapter 2 3.

Sec. C-52. 36 MRSA §5219-LL, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 2015, c. 108, §1 and affected by §2, is further amended to read:

A. "Eligible primary care professional" means a person licensed under Title 32, chapter 31, subchapter 3 or subchapter 4; ~~Title 32, chapter 36, subchapter 4; or Title 32, chapter 48~~ 153, subchapter 2 3 and who, on or after January 1, 2013:

- (1) Practices primary care medicine in the State as part of an existing health care practice in an underserved area or establishes a new health care practice or purchases an existing health care practice in an underserved area;
- (2) Agrees to practice full time for at least 5 years following certification under subsection 3 in an underserved area;
- (3) Is certified under subsection 3 to be eligible by the Department of Health and Human Services; and
- (4) Has an unpaid student loan owed to an institution for course work directly related to that person's training in primary care medicine.

Sec. C-53. 37-B MRSA §185, sub-§1-A, as amended by PL 2019, c. 627, Pt. B, §21 and PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is further amended to read:

1-A. Immunity from civil and criminal liability for collaborating or consulting physician. Subsection

1 applies to a collaborating or consulting physician of a physician associate under Title 32, section ~~2594-F or 3270-G~~ 20152:

- A. With regard to any act of the physician associate in providing services to individuals not on active state service;
- B. When the physician associate is on active state service in the performance of the physician associate's duty; and
- C. When the collaborating or consulting physician is not on active state service.

Sec. C-54. Effective date. This Part takes effect January 1, 2027.

PART D

Sec. D-1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE

Administration - Attorney General 0310

Initiative: Provides funding for 2 Assistant Attorney General positions and related costs to handle increased hearing boards, hearing panels and disciplinary cases and hearing panels convened simultaneously.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$410,984
All Other	\$0	\$147,403
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$558,387

ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$558,387
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$558,387

PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Licensure in Medicine - Board of 0376

Initiative: Provides one-time allocation for transition and implementation costs.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$200,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$200,000

Maine Board of Medicine N581

Initiative: Establishes one Assistant Executive Director position, one Consumer Assistance Supervisor position, one Consumer Assistance Specialist position, one Physician III position, one Comprehensive Health Planner II position, 0.5 Office Assistant I position, 5 Office Specialist II positions, one Office Specialist II position, one Secretary position, one Secretary Associate position and one Public Service Executive III position and provides funding for related All Other costs.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	14.500
Personal Services	\$0	\$865,921
All Other	\$0	\$549,552
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$1,415,473

Maine Board of Medicine N581

Initiative: Establishes FTE count and Personal Services for 22 commission board members.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - FTE COUNT	0.000	1.692
Personal Services	\$0	\$17,125
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$17,125

Maine Board of Medicine N581

Initiative: Provides funding to reimburse the Office of the Attorney General for legal costs.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$558,387
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$558,387

PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$2,190,985
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$2,190,985

SECTION TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$2,749,372

SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$2,749,372

See title page for effective date, unless otherwise indicated.

CHAPTER 739

S.P. 922 - L.D. 2244

An Act to Implement Certain Preliminary Recommendations of the Real Estate Property Tax Relief Task Force and to Make Other Changes to Tax Law

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

Sec. 1. Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services to administer survey to assessors on Maine Tree Growth Tax Law. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services shall administer a survey to assessors related to the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law. In the design of the survey, the bureau shall collaborate with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Maine Forest Service, the University of Maine School of Forest Resources, landowners, foresters, municipal officials and assessors. The survey must, at a minimum, collect information from assessors regarding their experiences administering the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law.

The Bureau of Revenue Services shall submit its findings and recommendations based on the survey results, including suggested legislation, no later than January 15, 2027 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over taxation matters. The joint standing committee may report out legislation based on the findings and recommendations to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Sec. 2. Resolve 2025, c. 108, §5 is amended to read:

Sec. 5. Meetings; subcommittees. Resolved: That the task force shall meet at least 4 times but no more than 8 times in 2025 and no more than 8 times in 2026, not including any subcommittee meetings.

1. The task force shall meet at least once jointly with the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation at a time to be determined by the chairs of the task force and the committee.

2. The chairs of the task force may appoint subcommittees as necessary for the efficient operation of the task force.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 740

H.P. 1523 - L.D. 2245

An Act to Reauthorize Funding of Collective Bargaining Agreements with Executive Branch Employees

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

Sec. 1. PL 2025, c. 492, §1 is amended to read:

Sec. 1. Adjustment of salary schedules for fiscal years 2025-26 and 2026-27. The salary schedules for the executive branch employees in bargaining units represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the Maine State Troopers Association, the Maine State Law Enforcement Association, ~~the Maine Service Employees Association~~, the Fraternal Order of Police and, except for the Maine Service Employees Association, any other certified bargaining representative for an executive branch bargaining unit must be adjusted consistent with the terms of any collective bargaining agreements ratified by December 31, 2025.

Sec. 2. PL 2025, c. 492, §7 is amended to read:

Sec. 7. Costs to General Fund and Highway Fund. Costs to the General Fund and Highway Fund must be provided wholly or in part through a transfer of Personal Services appropriations within and between departments and agencies from the Salary Plan program, General Fund account in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services in an amount up to the full amount the Salary Plan program, General Fund account has accrued as of the date an agreement is reached with the respective bargaining agents to implement the economic terms of the most recent collective bargaining agreements, as specified in sections 1, 2 and 3 of this Act, entered into by the State and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the Maine State Troopers Association, the Maine State Law Enforcement Association, ~~the Maine Service Employees Association~~, the Fraternal Order of Police and, except for the Maine Service Employees Association, any other certified bargaining representative for an executive branch bargaining unit to provide equitable treatment of employees excluded from collective bargaining pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 979-A, subsection 6, paragraph F and, notwithstanding Title 26, section 979-D, subsection 1, paragraph E, subparagraph (3), to implement equitable adjustments for confidential employees.

Sec. 3. Adjustment of salary schedules for fiscal year 2026-27; Maine Service Employees Association. The salary schedules for the executive branch employees in bargaining units represented by

the Maine Service Employees Association must be adjusted consistent with the terms of any collective bargaining agreements ratified by December 1, 2026.

Sec. 4. New, temporary and seasonal employees; similar and equitable treatment. The Governor is authorized to grant similar and equitable treatment consistent with this Act for employees in classifications included in bargaining units subject to collective bargaining agreements described in section 6 of this Act who are excluded from collective bargaining pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 979-A, subsection 6, paragraph F.

Sec. 5. Confidential employees; similar and equitable treatment. The Governor is authorized to grant similar and equitable treatment consistent with this Act for confidential employees. For the purposes of this section, "confidential employees" means those employees within the executive branch, including probationary employees, who are in positions excluded from collective bargaining units pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 979-A, subsection 6, paragraphs B, C, D, I and J.

Sec. 6. Employee salaries subject to Governor's adjustment or approval. The Governor is authorized to grant similar and equitable treatment consistent with this Act for those unclassified employees whose salaries are subject to the Governor's adjustment or approval.

Sec. 7. Costs to General Fund and Highway Fund. Costs to the General Fund and Highway Fund related to the collective bargaining agreements reached with the Maine Service Employees Association must be provided wholly or in part through a transfer of Personal Services appropriations within and between departments and agencies from the balance in the Salary Plan program, General Fund account in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services after consideration of the economic terms of the most recent collective bargaining agreements as specified in section 3 of this Act and Public Law 2025, chapter 492, sections 1 and 2, entered into by the State and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the Maine State Troopers Association, the Maine State Law Enforcement Association, the Fraternal Order of Police and any other certified bargaining representative for an executive branch bargaining unit to provide equitable treatment of employees excluded from collective bargaining pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 979-A, subsection 6, paragraph F and, notwithstanding Title 26, section 979-D, subsection 1, paragraph E, subparagraph (3), to implement equitable adjustments for confidential employees as well as consideration of any other legislatively authorized uses of the Salary Plan program, General Fund account in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services during this same timeframe.

Sec. 8. Transfer of Personal Services appropriations between programs and departments; General Fund. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1585 or any other provision of law to the contrary, available balances in the General Fund for Personal Services in fiscal year 2025-26 and fiscal year 2026-27 may be transferred by financial order between programs and departments within the General Fund upon recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor to be used for costs associated with collective bargaining agreements for state employees, as specified in section 3 of this Act.

Sec. 9. Transfer from Salary Plan program and special account funding. The Salary Plan program, General Fund account in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services may be made available as needed in allotment by financial order upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor to be used for the implementation of the collective bargaining agreements for state employees, as specified in section 3 of this Act, and for other economic items contained in this Act in fiscal year 2026-27. Positions supported from sources of funding other than the General Fund and the Highway Fund must be funded from those other sources.

Sec. 10. Transfer of Personal Services allocations between programs and departments; Highway Fund. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1585 or any other provision of law to the contrary, available balances in the Highway Fund for Personal Services in fiscal year 2026-27 may be transferred by financial order between programs and departments within the Highway Fund upon recommendation of the State Budget Officer and approval of the Governor to be used for costs associated with collective bargaining agreements for state employees, as specified in section 3 of this Act.

Sec. 11. Authorization for reimbursement of costs associated with contract resolution. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services may be reimbursed from the Salary Plan program, General Fund account in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services for the costs of contract resolution, administration and implementation and other costs required by the process of collective bargaining and negotiation procedures.

Sec. 12. Retroactivity. Those sections of this Act that amend Public Law 2025, chapter 492 apply retroactively to September 24, 2025.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 741**S.P. 81 - L.D. 145****An Act to Provide Funding to
the Office of Aging and
Disability Services to Support
the Long-term Care
Ombudsman**

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

Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
DEPARTMENT OF****Office of Aging and Disability Services Central
Office 0140**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding in the Office of Aging and Disability Services Central Office program to support the delivery of long-term care ombudsman services in Aroostook County.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$107,425
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$107,425

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 742**S.P. 241 - L.D. 562****An Act to Update
Reimbursement Rates for
Transportation of Deceased
Persons by Funeral Homes
When the Transport is at the
Request of the Chief Medical
Examiner**

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3024, 4th ¶, as amended by PL 2011, c. 445, §1 and affected by §3, is further amended to read:

The Chief Medical Examiner may authorize any other expenses necessary to carry out the Chief Medical Examiner's duties. The Chief Medical Examiner shall reimburse a funeral establishment that transports a body to Augusta at the request of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner at the following rates: for up to and including the first 25 miles, ~~\$120~~ \$135; for the next 25 miles, ~~\$2~~ \$2.20 per mile traveled while actually transporting a body; and for miles in excess of 50, ~~\$1.75~~ \$2 per mile traveled while actually transporting a body. If an employee of a funeral establishment is required to wait at

the Office of Chief Medical Examiner due to processes or other official activities of the Chief Medical Examiner, the Chief Medical Examiner shall reimburse the funeral establishment at a rate equal to the wage rate in Title 26, section 664, subsection 1 for the period of time the employee waits.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF
THE****Chief Medical Examiner - Office of 0412**

Initiative: Provides funding to increase the transportation reimbursement rate and to establish a reimbursement rate for employees of funeral establishments requested to transport a body for the Office of Chief Medical Examiner who are required to wait.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$12,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$12,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 743**S.P. 341 - L.D. 783****An Act to Continue Support
for the Maine Multicultural
Center**

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

Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF**Adult Education 0364**

Initiative: Provides one-time funds to the Maine Multicultural Center in Bangor for one or more positions to establish a comprehensive program for foreign-trained workers through the Maine Multicultural Center. The position or positions will develop and coordinate the comprehensive program, which must be designed to serve foreign-trained workers with an emphasis on serving foreign-trained professionals and seek private funds to support the center's programs and operations.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$47,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$47,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 744
S.P. 141 - L.D. 355

An Act to Advance the Maine Retirement Savings Program

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

Sec. 1. Transfer of settlement funds. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer \$625,000 from the Administration - Attorney General, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of the Attorney General from funds received from settlement agreements to the Maine Retirement Savings Program Enterprise fund no later than June 30, 2027.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

MAINE RETIREMENT SAVINGS BOARD

Maine Retirement Savings Program Z326

Initiative: Allocates funds to the Maine Retirement Savings Program Enterprise Fund to be used in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 7-A.

MAINE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PROGRAM ENTERPRISE FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$625,000
MAINE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PROGRAM ENTERPRISE FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$625,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 745
S.P. 206 - L.D. 468

An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food

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

Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives Z329

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to the Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives to be used to match contributions from private and public sources.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$500,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 746
H.P. 322 - L.D. 493

An Act to Expand Testing for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances to Private Drinking Water Wells

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §2601, sub-§5-A is enacted to read:

5-A. Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. "Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 1732, subsection 5-A.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §2660-T, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 230, §3, is amended to read:

§2660-T. Uniform testing recommendation; specified contaminants and properties

The department shall develop a uniform recommendation for the testing for specific contaminants or properties for which residential private drinking water wells should periodically be tested. The uniform recommendation must specify contaminants or properties that should be included in the periodic testing, including but not limited to arsenic, bacteria, nitrates, nitrites, chloride, hardness, copper, iron, pH, sodium, lead, uranium, manganese, fluoride, perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances and radon, unless the department determines that testing for a contaminant or property listed in this section is not necessary based on previous test results or credible scientific evidence. The department or an entity that provides testing of or provides education or advertisements related to testing of a residential private drinking water well shall include the uniform recommendation developed by the department pursuant to this section in its written materials related to testing of a residential private drinking water well.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §2660-Y, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 483, Pt. BB, §7, is amended to read:

§2660-Y. Landlord ~~arsenic~~ well water testing

Beginning January 1, 2022 and every 5 years thereafter, a landlord of a residential building shall test the water for arsenic and other contaminants or properties specified pursuant to section 2660-T in each private drinking water well used to provide water to a tenant of the landlord. The landlord shall conduct testing under

this section through a laboratory certified or accredited pursuant to section 567 and shall, within 10 days of notification of the results, provide to each of the landlord's tenants the results of any test conducted under this section of the private drinking water well used to provide water to the tenant. The landlord shall, within 10 days of notification of the results, notify any new tenant of the most recent results of a test conducted under this section on a private drinking water well that will be used to provide water to the tenant.

Sec. 4. 33 MRSA §173, sub-§1, ¶E, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 476, §1, is amended to read:

E. Whether the seller has experienced a problem such as an unsatisfactory water test ~~or~~ a water test with notations or a water test that detects perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances as defined in Title 32, section 1732, subsection 5-A;

Sec. 5. Residential testing for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. No later than January 1, 2027, a landlord of a residential building with a water supply provided by a private drinking water well shall test the well water for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. The landlord shall conduct testing under this section through a laboratory certified or accredited pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 567 using the most recent analytical methods approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency that quantifies the maximum amount of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances detected by the test. For purposes of this section, "perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 1732, subsection 5-A.

Sec. 6. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention 0143

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the creation of brochures adding perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances to the uniform recommendation for testing private drinking water wells.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$16,000

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$16,000

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention 0143

Initiative: Establishes one Environmental Specialist III position to implement rulemaking, outreach and education related to well water testing requirements for landlords and provides funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27

POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$99,621
All Other	\$0	\$7,256

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$106,877

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27

GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$122,877

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$122,877

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 747

S.P. 260 - L.D. 579

An Act to Include Certain Nurses Under the 1998 Special Plan for Retirement

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶T, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 650, Pt. FFFF, §3, is amended to read:

T. Employees of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner within the Department of the Attorney General on August 1, 2026 or hired thereafter; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶U, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 650, Pt. FFFF, §4, is amended to read:

U. Persons in the employment of the Department of Health and Human Services on August 1, 2026 or hired thereafter who provide crisis outreach and crisis services to adults with developmental disabilities or intellectual disabilities in a community-based or residential setting and who have the job classification of Community Response Worker; and

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶V is enacted to read:

V. Persons in the employment of the Department of Health and Human Services on October 1, 2026 or hired thereafter who have the job classification of Nurse I, Nurse III, Hospital Nurse II, Hospital Nurse III, Hospital Nurse IV or Licensed Practical Nurse.

Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2025, c. 650, Pt. FFFF, §5, is further amended to read:

2. Qualification for benefits. A member employed in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; any employee identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph S; any employee identified in subsection 1, paragraph T; after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph U; after September 30, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V; and any employee identified in subsection 1, paragraph L, qualifies for a service retirement benefit if that member either:

A. Is at least 55 years of age and has completed at least 10 years of creditable service under the 1998 Special Plan in any one or a combination of the capacities; or

B. Has completed at least 25 years of creditable service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1, whether or not the creditable service included in determining that the 25-year requirement has been met was earned under the 1998 Special Plan or prior to its establishment.

Sec. 5. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§3, ¶A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 650, Pt. FFFF, §6, is further amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) Service credit purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated contributions following termination of service is included only to the extent that time to which the refund relates was served after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; and after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1. Service credit may be purchased for service by an employee identified in subsection 1, paragraphs L, M, R, S, T ~~and~~ U and V regardless of when performed; and

Sec. 6. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§4, ¶A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 650, Pt. FFFF, §7, is further amended to read:

A. If all of the member's creditable service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 was earned after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and after September 30, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V; if service credit was purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated contributions for service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and after September 30, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V; or if service credit was purchased by other than the repayment of an earlier refund and eligibility to make the purchase of the service credit, including, but not limited to, service credit for military service, was achieved after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after Sep-

tember 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and after September 30, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V, the benefit must be computed as provided in section 17852, subsection 1, paragraph A.

(1) If the member had 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the benefit under subsection 2, paragraph B must be reduced as provided in section 17852, subsection 3, paragraphs A and B.

(2) If the member had fewer than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the benefit under subsection 2, paragraph B must be reduced by 6% for each year that the member's age precedes 55 years of age.

Sec. 7. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§4, ¶B, as amended by PL 2025, c. 650, Pt. FFFF, §8, is further amended to read:

B. Except as provided in paragraphs D, E, F, G, H, I ~~and~~ J ~~and~~ K, if some part of the member's creditable service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 was earned before July 1, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H; before January 1, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; before January 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; before July 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; before July 1, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; before October 1, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; before October 1, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ before August 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and before October 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V and some part of the member's creditable service in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 was earned after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ after July 31, 2026

for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and after September 30, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V, then the member's service retirement benefit must be computed in segments and the amount of the member's service retirement benefit is the sum of the segments. The segments must be computed as follows:

(1) The segment or, if the member served in more than one of the capacities specified in subsection 1 and the benefits related to the capacities are not interchangeable under section 17856, segments that reflect creditable service earned before July 1, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H; before January 1, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; before January 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; before July 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; before July 1, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; before October 1, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; before October 1, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ before August 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and before October 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V or purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated contributions for service before July 1, 1998, for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H; before January 1, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; before January 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; before July 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; before July 1, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; before October 1, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; before October 1, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ before August 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and before October 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V in a capacity or capacities specified in subsection 1 or purchased by other than the repayment of a refund and eligibility to make the purchase of the service credit, including, but not limited to, service credit for military service, was achieved before July 1, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A to H; before January 1, 2000 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; before January 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; before July 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection

1, paragraph M; before July 1, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; before October 1, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; before October 1, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ before August 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and before October 1, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V, must be computed under section 17852, subsection 1, paragraph A. If the member is qualified under subsection 2, paragraph B and:

(a) Had 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the amount of the segment or segments must be reduced as provided in section 17852, subsection 3, paragraphs A and B; or

(b) Had fewer than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the amount of the segment or segments must be reduced as provided in section 17852, subsection 3-A; and

(2) The segment that reflects creditable service earned after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and after September 30, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V or purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated contributions for service after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after

September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and after September 30, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1, or purchased by other than the repayment of a refund and eligibility to make the purchase of the service credit, including, but not limited to, service credit for military service, was achieved after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and after September 30, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V must be computed under section 17852, subsection 1, paragraph A. If the member is qualified under subsection 2, paragraph B and:

(a) Had 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the segment amount must be reduced in the manner provided in section 17852, subsection 3, paragraphs A and B for each year that the member's age precedes 55 years of age; or

(b) Had fewer than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the segment amount must be reduced by 6% for each year that the member's age precedes 55 years of age.

Sec. 8. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§4, ¶K is enacted to read:

K. The service retirement benefit of a member to whom subsection 1, paragraph V applies and who qualifies for service retirement benefits under subsection 2 must be computed under section 17852, subsection 1, paragraph A on the basis of all of the member's creditable service in the capacity specified in subsection 1, paragraph V, regardless of when that creditable service was earned, except that for a member qualifying under subsection 2, paragraph B:

(1) If the member had 10 years of service on July 1, 1993, the benefit must be reduced as provided in section 17852, subsection 3, paragraphs A and B for each year the member's age precedes 55 years of age; or

(2) If the member had fewer than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993, the benefit must be reduced by 6% for each year that the member's age precedes 55 years of age.

Sec. 9. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2025, c. 650, Pt. FFFF, §11, is further amended to read:

5. Contributions. Notwithstanding any provision of subchapter 3 to the contrary, after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs I to K; after December 31, 2001 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph L; after June 30, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph M; after June 30, 2020 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs N to P; after September 30, 2021 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph Q; after September 30, 2025 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph R; ~~and~~ after July 31, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs S to U; and after September 30, 2026 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraph V, a member in the capacities specified in subsection 1 must contribute to the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program or have pick-up contributions made at the rate of 8.65% of earnable compensation until the member has completed 25 years of creditable service as provided in this section and at the rate of 7.65% thereafter.

Sec. 10. Transfer from Maine Budget Stabilization Fund; General Fund. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$4,311,605 from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

Sec. 11. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center Z222

Initiative: Allocates ongoing funds for the prospective costs of certain employees within the Department of Health and Human Services being allowed to participate in the 1998 Special Plan effective October 1, 2026.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27

Personal Services	\$0	\$129,202
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$129,202

Mental Health Services - Children Z206

Initiative: Provides ongoing funds for the prospective costs of certain employees within the Department of Health and Human Services being allowed to participate in the 1998 Special Plan effective October 1, 2026.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$1,568
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,568

Riverview Psychiatric Center Z219

Initiative: Allocates ongoing funds for the prospective costs of certain employees within the Department of Health and Human Services being allowed to participate in the 1998 Special Plan effective October 1, 2026.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	\$87,156
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$87,156

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$1,568
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$216,358
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$217,926

RETIREMENT SYSTEM, MAINE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Retirement System - Retirement Allowance Fund 0085

Initiative: Provides one-time funds for the increase in the unfunded actuarial liability as a result of allowing the service retirement benefits for certain employees within the Department of Health and Human Services earned under the regular state employee and teacher plan to be calculated under the 1998 Special Plan effective October 1, 2026.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$4,310,037
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$4,310,037

RETIREMENT SYSTEM, MAINE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27

GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$4,310,037
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$4,310,037
SECTION TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$4,311,605
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$216,358
SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$4,527,963

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 748

H.P. 434 - L.D. 666

An Act to Prevent Domestic Violence by Providing Adequate Funding Support for Court-ordered Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs

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

Sec. 1. Transfer of settlement funds. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer \$500,000 from the Administration - Attorney General, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of the Attorney General from funds received from settlement agreements to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30, 2027.

Sec. 2. Reallocation of existing funds. Any existing funds allocated to the Department of Corrections, Office of Victim Services for the purpose of funding partial reimbursement of certified domestic violence intervention program indigent participant fees must be reallocated to similarly provide ongoing funding for certified domestic violence intervention programs.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

CORRECTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF Office of Victim Services 0046

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for certified domestic violence intervention programs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$500,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 749

H.P. 437 - L.D. 669

An Act to Provide a Death Benefit for Department of Transportation Workers

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §1532, sub-§6, as amended by PL 2019, c. 658, §1, is further amended to read:

6. Death benefits. The Governor shall allocate funds from the stabilization fund as needed to pay benefits due pursuant to Title 25, chapter 195-A. Allocations may be made upon written request of the Chief of the State Police, the State Fire Marshal, the Director of Maine Emergency Medical Services or the Commissioner of Corrections or the Commissioner of Transportation and after consultation with the State Budget Officer.

Sec. 2. 25 MRSA c. 195-A, headnote is amended to read:

CHAPTER 195-A

DEATH BENEFITS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, FIREFIGHTERS, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONS, DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND CORRECTIONS OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEES WHO DIE WHILE IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Sec. 3. 25 MRSA §1611, sub-§1-D is enacted to read:

1-D. Department of Transportation employee. "Department of Transportation employee" means a person who is employed by the Department of Transportation and who performs official duties:

A. On state or state aid highways;

B. On bridges, culverts and related structures;

C. On rail, port, aviation or transportation facilities under the authority or supervision of the Department of Transportation;

D. In transportation construction or maintenance zones; or

E. On any other transportation project or property owned, maintained or administered by the Department of Transportation.

A Department of Transportation employee is considered to be performing official duties when acting within the scope of employment or authorization by the Department of Transportation.

Sec. 4. 25 MRSA §1612, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2023, c. 433, §4, is further amended to read:

1. Amount; recipients. In a case in which the chief determines under rules adopted pursuant to this section that a law enforcement officer has died while in the line of duty, in a case in which the State Fire Marshal determines under rules adopted pursuant to this section that a firefighter has died while in the line of duty, in a case in which the director determines under rules adopted pursuant to this section that an emergency medical services person has died while in the line of duty ~~or~~, in a case in which the Commissioner of Corrections determines under rules adopted pursuant to this section that a Department of Corrections law enforcement officer or corrections officer has died while in the line of duty prior to July 1, 2021 or in a case in which the Commissioner of Transportation determines under rules adopted pursuant to this section that a Department of Transportation employee has died while performing official duties, the State shall pay a benefit of \$100,000. When determining whether an individual has died while in the line of duty, the chief, the State Fire Marshal, the director or the Commissioner of Corrections, as applicable, shall evaluate whether an individual who died by suicide died as a result of events or actions experienced by the individual while in the line of duty.

Beginning July 1, 2021 and annually thereafter, the benefit amount must be indexed to the Consumer Price Index whenever there is a percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index from July 1st to June 30th of the previous year. A firefighter, law enforcement officer, emergency medical services person, Department of Corrections law enforcement officer or corrections officer who dies while in the line of duty, or a Department of Transportation employee who dies while performing official duties, must be paid the benefit amount as indexed immediately prior to that firefighter's, law enforcement officer's, emergency medical services person's, Department of Corrections law enforcement officer's or corrections officer's or Department of Transportation employee's death. ~~The Department of Administrative and Financial Services shall adopt rules to calculate the annual percentage increase in the death benefit.~~

The State shall pay the benefit as follows:

A. If there is no surviving child of the firefighter, law enforcement officer, emergency medical services person, Department of Corrections law enforcement officer or corrections officer or Department of Transportation employee, to the surviving spouse of the person;

B. If there is a surviving child or children and a surviving spouse of the firefighter, law enforcement officer, emergency medical services person, Department of Corrections law enforcement officer or corrections officer or Department of Transportation

employee, 1/2 to the surviving child or children in equal shares and 1/2 to the surviving spouse;

C. If there is no surviving spouse of the firefighter, law enforcement officer, emergency medical services person, Department of Corrections law enforcement officer or corrections officer or Department of Transportation employee, to the child or children in equal shares; or

D. If there is no surviving child or spouse, to the parent or parents of the firefighter, law enforcement officer, emergency medical services person, Department of Corrections law enforcement officer or corrections officer or Department of Transportation employee in equal shares.

Sec. 5. 25 MRSA §1612, sub-§2, ¶E is enacted to read:

E. When the Commissioner of Transportation determines upon showing of need and prior to final action that the death of a Department of Transportation employee is a death for which a benefit will probably be paid, the commissioner may make an interim benefit payment not exceeding \$3,000 to the individual or individuals entitled to receive a benefit under subsection 1 in the manner set out in subsection 1.

Sec. 6. 25 MRSA §1612, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2023, c. 433, §7, is further amended to read:

4. Repayment of interim payment; waiver. If a final benefit is not paid, the recipient or recipients of any interim payment under subsection 2 are liable for repayment of the amount received. The State Fire Marshal in the case of a firefighter, the chief in the case of a law enforcement officer, the director in the case of an emergency medical services person ~~or~~, the Commissioner of Corrections in the case of a Department of Corrections law enforcement officer or a corrections officer or the Commissioner of Transportation in the case of a Department of Transportation employee may waive all or part of the repayment if that official determines that undue hardship would result from that repayment.

Sec. 7. 25 MRSA §1612, sub-§8, as amended by PL 2019, c. 658, §6, is further amended to read:

8. Rulemaking. The State Fire Marshal, the chief, the Emergency Medical Services' Board ~~and~~, the Department of Corrections and the Department of Transportation shall adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this section, ~~except that the Department of Administrative and Financial Services shall adopt rules as required by subsection 1.~~ Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 8. State shall pay death benefits to families of James Brown and Dwayne Campbell. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,

the State shall pay a death benefit in the amount of \$100,000 to the family of James Brown and in the amount of \$100,000 to the family of Dwayne Campbell from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund, as established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1532, indexed to the Consumer Price Index, as defined in Title 25, section 1611, subsection 1-A and as described in Title 25, section 1612, subsection 1.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 750

S.P. 294 - L.D. 679

An Act to Increase the Funding to the Live Fire Service Training Facilities Fund

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

Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MAINE

Live Fire Service Training Facilities Fund Z269

Initiative: Provides one-time funds for the Maine Fire Service Institute to provide funds for the construction and repair or replacement of regional live fire service training facilities in the State awarded by the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission for fiscal year 2026-27 only.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$500,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 751

H.P. 442 - L.D. 703

An Act to Establish a Health Care Gap Year Program for Recent College Graduates

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

Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF

Employment Services Activity 0852

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for a health care gap year program that incentivizes recent college graduates to work in critical health care positions, particularly in underserved and rural communities.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$200,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$200,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 752

H.P. 444 - L.D. 705

An Act to Correct Technical Errors in Public Law 2025, Chapter 650

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

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §5124-C, sub-§1-B, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. ZZZ, §5, is amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) For single individuals and married persons filing separate returns, ~~\$12,000~~ \$15,000;

Sec. 2. PL 2025, c. 650, Part N, section 8 is amended to read:

Sec. N-8. Application. This ~~Act~~ Part applies to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

Sec. 3. PL 2025, c. 650, Part FF, section 4 is amended to read:

Sec. FF-4. Cost-of-living adjustment for essential support workers; MaineCare rates. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a request to seek approval from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to implement a cost-of-living adjustment of 3.07% for reimbursement rates subject to rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Sections 13, 65 and 92 and rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Sections 2, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 26, 28, 29, 40, 67, 96 and 97 Appendix C effective January 1, 2027 and for reimbursement rates subject to rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 97 Appendix B and Section 97 Appendix D effective July 1, 2026. The department shall submit the request required to seek approval under this section to implement the cost-of-living adjustment as soon as practicable.

Sec. 4. Transfer from MaineCare Stabilization Fund; General Fund. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$1,653,131 from the MaineCare Stabilization Fund Other Special

Revenue Funds account within the Department of Health and Human Services to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

Sec. 5. Funds to address unmet needs of older adults; distribution to area agencies on aging. Funds appropriated in the amount of \$3,000,000 to the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Aging and Disability Services Central Office program in Public Law 2025, chapter 650, Part A, section 17 to address unmet needs of older adults through community-based services and programs delivered by the area agency in each of the State's coordinated community program areas must be distributed to the area agencies, based on priorities identified by local advisory councils to meet regional needs, through the intrastate funding formula to develop programs and deliver services necessary for the general well-being of older adults, including, but not limited to, in-home services, case management services, meals programs, wellness services, respite for caregivers, public education and outreach, volunteer services and information and referral services.

Sec. 6. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Early Childhood Nutrition Grant Program N583

Initiative: Provides ongoing, nonlapsing funding for a grant program to allow school administrative units to enter into agreements with providers of off-site public preschool programs to provide students in those programs with breakfast, lunch and a snack.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$375,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$375,000

Early Childhood Nutrition Grant Program N583

Initiative: Deappropriates one-time, nonlapsing funding for a grant program to allow school administrative units to enter into agreements with providers of off-site public preschool programs to provide students in those programs with breakfast, lunch and a snack.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$375,000)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$375,000)

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
	\$0	\$0
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$0

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides funding to implement a cost-of-living adjustment for direct care services subject to rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 28.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$841,377
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$841,377

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,235,634
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,235,634

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$122,894
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$122,894

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides funding to implement a cost-of-living adjustment for direct care services subject to rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 97 Appendix B and Section 97 Appendix D.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,598,732
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,598,732

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$36,304
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$36,304

Mental Health Services - Child Medicaid Z207

Initiative: Provides funding to implement a cost-of-living adjustment for direct care services subject to rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 97 Appendix B and Section 97 Appendix D.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$811,754
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$811,754

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$1,653,131
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$2,834,366

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	\$0	\$159,198
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$4,646,695

HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE**Low-income Home Energy Assistance - MSHA 0708**

Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for low-income electric ratepayer assistance.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$7,500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$7,500,000

Low-income Home Energy Assistance - MSHA 0708

Initiative: Deappropriates one-time funding for low-income electric ratepayer assistance.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$7,500,000)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$7,500,000)

**HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE
DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$0
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$0

SECTION TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$1,653,131
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$2,834,366
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	\$0	\$159,198
SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$4,646,695

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 753**S.P. 373 - L.D. 840**

An Act to Modernize the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income by Removing Marriage Disincentives

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3271, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. A, §65, is further amended to read:

2. The department, to the extent allowed by Title XVI of the United States Social Security Act, as amended, and regulations promulgated thereunder, shall establish standard levels of state supplemental income benefits for blind, disabled and elderly people. The benefits must be provided under a modified flat benefit system, and may vary by ~~marital status, and by living arrangements~~ to the extent allowed by Title XVI of the United States Social Security Act, as amended, and regulations promulgated thereunder. The benefits may not be based on individual budgeted need and may not vary by category or geographical area. Benefits for a couple, ~~except as provided under section 3273, sub-section 1, paragraph B,~~ must be equal to the sum of the amount of benefit for ~~an each individual and 50% of the benefit for an individual in the couple.~~ an each individual in the couple.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3272, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 790, §3, is amended to read:

1. **Standard.** The standard utilized to determine need ~~shall must~~ be the current annual budget at the lower level of living for ~~a retired couple~~ an individual as most recently determined by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for Portland, Maine, or budgets ~~which that~~ are consistent with such a budget at the lower level of living, taking into account budget variances by ~~marital status and living arrangements permitted~~ permitted pursuant to Title XVI of the United States Social Security Act, as amended, and regulations promulgated thereunder.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §3273, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 790, §3, is amended to read:

A. Increase the minimum monthly federal payment standard, in addition to that established pursuant to federal law, by an amount of at least \$8 per month for an individual ~~and \$12 per month for a couple;~~

Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §3273, sub-§1, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 790, §3, is amended to read:

C. For a beneficiary who resides in a living arrangement ~~which that~~ meets a living arrangement classification established by the department, but who does not reside in an adult foster home or boarding home, in addition to the minimum federal payment level as adjusted pursuant to paragraph A, provide, based on such living arrangement classification, an amount not to exceed \$42 per month for an individual ~~and \$63 per month for a couple.~~

Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §3273, sub-§6, ¶B-1, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 528, Pt. E, §25 and affected by Pt. RRR and enacted by c. 591, Pt. E, §25, is amended to read:

B-1. On July 1st of every year, the sum of the monthly amount of any state supplemental income

benefit authorized by subsection 1, paragraphs A and C, plus the amount of the minimum monthly federal supplemental security income in effect at that time must be increased by a percentage amount equal to the percentage rise in the United States Consumer Price Index for April 1st of that year over the level of the Index for April 1st of the previous year plus any additional percentage amount as is recommended annually by the department. Such an increase may be made only insofar as appropriations are available. In determining the additional percentage amount, consideration must be given to the goal of reaching, within a reasonable time, a benefit level equal to or consistent with the current budget at the lower level of living for ~~a retired couple~~ an individual established by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for Portland, Maine.

If, on April 1st of any year, the sum of the monthly amount of any state supplemental payment authorized by subsection 1, paragraphs A and C, plus the amount of the minimum monthly federal supplemental security income in effect at that time, is equal to or exceeds the amount resulting from 12 divided into the current annual budget at the lower level of living for ~~a retired couple~~ an individual as most recently established by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for Portland, Maine, or taking into account variances by ~~marital status and~~ living arrangements as established by the department, a budget that is not inconsistent with that annual budget divided by 12, the increase provided on July 1st next following is limited to the percentage rise in the Consumer Price Index.

~~This paragraph takes effect July 1, 1993.~~

Sec. 6. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

State Supplement to Federal Supplemental Security Income 0131

Initiative: Provides funding to make the state supplemental income benefit payment for a couple, both of whom qualify for the benefit, equal to the sum of the amount of the benefit for each individual in the couple.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$36,828
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$36,828

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 754

H.P. 562 - L.D. 876

An Act to Support the Maine Service Fellows Program

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

Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

MAINE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Maine Service Fellows Program Z417

Initiative: Provides one-time funds for 3 program fellows to participate in the Maine Service Fellows Program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$90,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$90,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 755

S.P. 408 - L.D. 981

An Act to Facilitate the Establishment of an Automated Crime Victim Notification System

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

Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §2107-A is enacted to read:

§2107-A. Automated crime victim notification system; minimum requirements

A facility that is required by section 2106 to provide notification to a victim of a defendant's release or escape or that is required by section 2107 to provide notification to a victim of a defendant's release on preconviction bail and that provides such notification using an automated crime victim notification system shall ensure that:

1. Optional use of automated system. A victim is not required to receive the notifications under section 2106 or 2107 using the automated crime victim notification system and may elect to receive the notification through other methods specified in section 2106 or 2107;

2. Disclosure of protected information. The automated crime victim notification system is designed to protect from disclosure the name, contact information and any other personally identifying information about

a victim who registers to use the system except disclosure:

A. To a sexual assault counselor, as defined in Title 16, section 53-A, subsection 1, paragraph B;

B. To a domestic violence advocate, as defined in Title 16, section 53-B, subsection 1, paragraph A-4;

C. To a victim witness advocate, as defined in Title 16, section 53-C, subsection 1, paragraph C; or

D. Pursuant to law, court rule, court decision or court order specifically providing for the disclosure of such information.

The facility shall ensure that any vendor or entity it contracts with to develop, implement or administer the system has implemented necessary policies or protocols to ensure that the vendor or entity protects from disclosure the victim information described in this subsection, except as specified in paragraphs A to C;

3. Policies and protocols required. The facility establishes and makes publicly available written policies or protocols regarding the implementation and use of the automated crime victim notification system within the facility, which must include, but are not limited to, a plan for responding to any planned or unplanned system outages or inaccurate notifications and the process by which the facility will address complaints received from victims regarding the system; and

4. Staffing. Appropriate staffing is available to respond to communications from victims regarding notifications received using the automated crime victim notification system.

Sec. 2. Establishment of automated crime victim notification system. County sheriffs, collectively through a statewide association of sheriffs, shall establish an automated crime victim notification system for use in jails, county correctional facilities and regional correctional facilities. The system under this section must be designed to provide victims and other registrants the option of receiving automated notices of information available to victims pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17-A, sections 2106 and 2107. In developing, maintaining and administering the system under this section, the sheriffs, collectively through a statewide association of sheriffs, may contract with an entity that develops or offers commercial, real-time automated crime victim notification systems.

Sec. 3. Automated crime victim notification system advisory committee; report. County sheriffs, collectively through a statewide association of sheriffs, shall convene an automated crime victim notification system advisory committee to support, coordinate and monitor the implementation of the automated crime victim notification system required by section 2. The advisory committee under this section must include representatives from a statewide association of sheriffs,

a statewide coalition of domestic violence prevention projects, a statewide coalition of sexual assault support centers and the Office of Victim Services within the Department of Corrections; may invite the participation of other members as appropriate; may consult with other individuals, agencies or organizations as necessary to support its work; shall meet at least monthly; and shall, at a minimum, review and develop findings and recommendations regarding the following matters:

1. The resources included or proposed for inclusion in the directory of community-based support services;

2. The gaps or challenges experienced by crime victims who may elect to register or are registered to use the automated crime victim notification system required by section 2 as that system is implemented and refined; and

3. Any other recommendations regarding the implementation and maintenance of that system.

On or before November 4, 2026, the sheriffs, collectively through a statewide association of sheriffs, shall submit a report outlining the findings and recommendations of the advisory committee to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters. The report must, at a minimum, include an overview of the implementation of the automated crime victim notification system required by section 2, the recommendations regarding implementation of that system made by the advisory committee, the status of the implementation of any such recommendations and any other recommendations for further implementation and sustainability of the system, including recommendations for addressing ongoing costs associated with the system. After reviewing the report, the committee may report out legislation relating to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Sec. 4. Transfer of settlement funds. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer \$140,000 from the Administration - Attorney General, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of the Attorney General from funds received from settlement agreements to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30, 2027.

Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

CORRECTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF

Administration - Corrections 0141

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to support activities by county sheriffs, collectively through a statewide association of sheriffs, to develop, support and maintain an automated crime victim notification system to be used in jails, county correctional facilities and regional correctional facilities.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$140,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$140,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 756

H.P. 650 - L.D. 1003

An Act Establishing the Retirement Improvement Fund

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA c. 421, sub-c. 4, art. 10 is enacted to read:

ARTICLE 10

RETIREMENT IMPROVEMENT FUND

§17446. Retirement Improvement Fund

1. Establishment of fund. The Retirement Improvement Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within and administered by the retirement system as an interest-bearing, nonlapsing fund for the payment of retirement benefit improvements.

2. Content of fund. The fund consists of all money transferred to the fund under this section and other money made available to the fund, which may include but is not limited to legislative appropriations from the General Fund or any other fund, the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund or any other source or fund identified or established through law.

3. Use of fund. Money in the fund must be used to pay for retirement benefit improvements. Whenever the fund has sufficient capital to pay for an increase in the amount of at least \$1,000 on the benefit base on which the annual cost-of-living adjustment is applied pursuant to section 17806, subsection 1, paragraph A, for all beneficiaries in the retirement system, that increase must be applied but only until the benefit base reaches \$40,000.

4. Reporting. By March 1, 2029 and annually thereafter, the retirement system shall submit a report regarding implementation of this section to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over retirement matters that includes the following information for that fiscal year and the prior 3 fiscal years:

A. The amount of money transferred to the fund pursuant to subsection 2;

B. The total increases made to the benefit base on which the annual cost-of-living adjustment must be applied in accordance with subsection 3;

C. The amount of any payment made or required to be made toward any remaining obligation for the unfunded actuarial liability; and

D. The balance in the fund.

Sec. 2. Legislative intent. It is the intention of the Legislature through this Act to provide for a sufficient retirement by increasing the cost-of-living adjustment for retired state employees, teachers and their beneficiaries, to the greatest extent possible within existing state resources, including the future use of current state appropriations dedicated to the payment of the unfunded actuarial liability when those funds are no longer needed for payment of the existing liability.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Retirement Improvement Fund N521

Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize the expenditure of funds to pay for retirement benefit improvements for retired state employees and teachers and their beneficiaries.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$500

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 757

H.P. 651 - L.D. 1004

An Act to Adjust Certain Implementation and Reporting Dates in Legislation Held by the Governor That Became Law

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

PART A

Sec. A-1. 10 MRSA §31, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 500, §2, is amended to read:

4. Report. The council shall submit a report to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters by February 1, ~~2026~~ 2027 and annually thereafter regarding the activities of the council during the preceding calendar year. The report must include recommendations as determined appropriate by the council to effectuate its purpose under this section. After reviewing the report under this subsection, the joint standing

committee may report out legislation relating to the report.

PART B

Sec. B-1. PL 2025, c. 508, §2, last ¶ is amended to read:

No later than January 1, ~~2026~~ 2027, the University of Maine System shall submit a report to the ~~Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs and to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary~~ joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters and judiciary matters outlining its plan for implementation of the rural practice track at the University of Maine School of Law, including any recommendations for legislative or other action. After reviewing the report, either committee may report out legislation related to the report to the ~~Second Regular Session of the 132nd~~ 133rd Legislature in 2027.

PART C

Sec. C-1. 25 MRSA §2808-B, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 510, §3, is amended to read:

1. Publishing of policies and procedures. Except as provided by subsection 4, by January 1, ~~2026~~ 2027, a law enforcement agency shall publish and make publicly available in clear and understandable language the agency's policies and procedures required under section 2803-B, including:

- A. A summary of each key policy of the agency;
- B. A comprehensive list of agency rules and guidelines governing law enforcement officer conduct, including any updates or revisions; and
- C. Contact information for a member of the public to request access to information under paragraph A or B.

PART D

Sec. D-1. PL 2025, c. 512, §3 is amended to read:

Sec. 3. Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Cannabis Policy; medical cannabis research grant program rule-making. On or before January ~~9, 2026~~ 8, 2027, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Cannabis Policy shall provisionally adopt and submit for legislative review rules necessary to implement the medical cannabis research grant program in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 2430, subsection 5. Rules adopted by the office pursuant to this section are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

PART E

Sec. E-1. 32 MRSA §99, sub-§10, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 520, §3, is amended to read:

B. Submit a report containing the results of the commission's studies, findings and recommendations to the Governor and to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public safety matters by January 1, ~~2026~~ 2027 and annually thereafter. As resources permit, the report must include, but is not limited to:

- (1) An assessment of existing and needed resources and expected resource needs within the State's emergency medical services system and recommendations for funding those needs;
- (2) An evaluation of existing emergency medical services programs, initiatives and resources, including recommendations for improvements, new programs and initiatives and funding options for oversight and administration of the State's emergency medical services system;
- (3) Recommendations regarding effective management of resources within the State's emergency medical services system, enhancing the collection and distribution of emergency medical services data, methods to evaluate the State's emergency medical services system and recruitment and retention of emergency medical services persons, both paid and volunteer; and
- (4) The status of municipal emergency medical services plans adopted and submitted pursuant to Title 30-A, section 3172 and an analysis of those plans.

After reviewing the report submitted under this paragraph, the committee may report out legislation relating to the report;

Sec. E-2. PL 2025, c. 520, §5, last ¶ is amended to read:

On or before December ~~3, 2025~~ 15, 2026, Maine Emergency Medical Services shall submit a report describing the findings of its analysis and including recommendations and any proposed legislation to the ~~Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety~~ joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public safety matters. After reviewing the report, the committee may report out legislation relating to the report to the ~~Second Regular Session of the 132nd~~ 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Sec. E-3. PL 2025, c. 520, §6 is amended to read:

Sec. 6. Maine Emergency Medical Services structural reorganization proposal. By December ~~3, 2025~~ 15, 2026, the Department of Public Safety, Maine Emergency Medical Services shall submit to the ~~Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety~~ joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public safety matters a report,

including proposed draft legislation, for the reorganization of the Emergency Medical Services' Board, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-A, subsection 15, consistent with the document titled "Maine EMS: Two-Year Action Plan" published by Maine Emergency Medical Services on October 27, 2023. The report must include, but is not limited to, identification of the necessary statutory changes and funding needs associated with the reorganization of the Emergency Medical Services' Board and any associated structural and organizational changes within Maine Emergency Medical Services and within the state and regional governance system for the emergency medical services program, as outlined in the document titled "Maine EMS: Two-Year Action Plan." After reviewing the report, the committee may report out legislation relating to the report to the ~~Second Regular Session of the 132nd~~ 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Sec. E-4. PL 2025, c. 520, §7 is amended to read:

Sec. 7. Maine Emergency Medical Services public information campaign; report. The Department of Public Safety, Maine Emergency Medical Services shall, as resources allow, develop and, not later than July 1, ~~2026~~ 2027, implement a public information campaign designed to enhance the public's understanding and appreciation of the delivery of emergency medical services, the design and funding of the emergency medical services system in the State and the essentiality of the services provided by emergency medical services entities.

On or before December ~~3, 2025~~ 15, 2026, Maine Emergency Medical Services shall submit a report to the ~~Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety~~ joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public safety matters regarding its development and anticipated implementation of the public information campaign required under this section. The report must include, but is not limited to, an assessment of the resource needs associated with the public information campaign and identification of any anticipated resource needs not currently available within the existing budgeted resources of Maine Emergency Medical Services necessary for successful implementation of the campaign. After reviewing the report, the committee may report out legislation relating to the report to the ~~Second Regular Session of the 132nd~~ 133rd Legislature in 2027.

PART F

Sec. F-1. 22 MRSA §8111, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 522, §1, is amended to read:

§8111. Closure notice requirements for children's residential care facilities

After October 1, ~~2025~~ 2026, the department shall notify the joint standing committee of the Legislature

having jurisdiction over health and human services matters whenever a children's residential care facility ceases to operate no later than 2 weeks after the facility has ceased operations. The notification to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters must include information about the facility, including but not limited to the name of the facility, the services provided, the number of beds, the number of employees, the stated reasons for closure and a de-identified summary of the transition and discharge plan for the children who were in the facility at the time of closure. The notification must also include a description of any actions taken by the department to prevent the closure.

Sec. F-2. PL 2025, c. 522, §3 is amended to read:

Sec. 3. Provider engagement and needs assessment. The Department of Health and Human Services shall convene a stakeholder group of child residential treatment providers to identify the short-term and long-term staffing and resources needs to ensure the sustainability of child residential treatment providers. The department shall submit a report, no later than ~~December 3, 2025~~ January 15, 2027, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters with its findings, a needs assessment and recommendations. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters is authorized to report out legislation related to the report to the ~~Second Regular Session of the 132nd~~ 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Sec. F-3. PL 2025, c. 522, §5, first ¶ is amended to read:

Sec. 5. Children's behavioral health services data and policy report. The Department of Health and Human Services shall develop and submit a report, no later than ~~December 3, 2025~~ January 15, 2027, to the ~~Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services~~ joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters that includes data and policy efforts as follows:

PART G

Sec. G-1. PL 2025, c. 523, §3 is amended to read:

Sec. 3. Effective date. This Act takes effect ~~January 1, 2026~~ 90 days after adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

PART H

Sec. H-1. 20-A MRSA §6304-A, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 529, §1, is amended to read:

§6304-A. Policy for access to automated external defibrillators

Beginning in the ~~2026-2027~~ 2027-2028 school year, a school administrative unit shall develop and implement a policy that provides access to automated external defibrillators at all school-sponsored athletic events in which students are participating on school property, including team practices. The policy must include how a person can access an automated external defibrillator while attending a school-sponsored athletic event. An automated external defibrillator acquired by a school administrative unit pursuant to this section must be tested and maintained according to the manufacturer's operational guidelines. Appropriate first aid, ambulance, rescue service or other appropriate local emergency medical service providers must be notified of the location and type of automated external defibrillator acquired.

PART I

Sec. I-1. 8 MRSA §374, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 536, §2, is amended to read:

6. Tick laboratory lottery game. No later than July 1, ~~2026~~ 2027, the commission, in consultation with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, shall develop and initiate a tick laboratory instant lottery game designed to raise funds for the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory Operations Fund established in Title 7, section 2481. Tickets for the instant lottery game established under this subsection must be sold for \$4 and must be changed by the commission periodically throughout the year. The commission shall annually provide 20% of the net proceeds of the lottery game established in accordance with this subsection to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory Operations Fund and 80% to the General Fund.

Sec. I-2. PL 2025, c. 536, §6 is amended to read:

Sec. 6. Report. By December 15, ~~2028~~ 2029, the State Liquor and Lottery Commission shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over lottery matters detailing the status of the tick laboratory instant lottery game established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8, section 374, subsection 6, including revenues received by the General Fund and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory Operations Fund established in Title 7, section 2481. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over lottery matters may report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 134th Legislature in 2029.

PART J

Sec. J-1. Resolve 2025, c. 119, §1 is amended to read:

Sec. 1. Child assertive community treatment team. Resolved: That, by March 1, ~~2026~~ 2027,

the Department of Health and Human Services shall issue a request for applications for a grant to establish a pilot program to develop one child assertive community treatment team to serve the Lewiston or Bangor geographic area. The request for applications must require the awardee of the grant to use workforce incentives designed to attract, train and retain child assertive community treatment staff. The department shall engage in a competitive process to determine the awardee. The term of the contract may not exceed 2 years.

PART K

Sec. K-1. Resolve 2025, c. 121, §1 is amended to read:

Sec. 1. Maine Arts Commission study. Resolved: That the Maine Arts Commission shall study federal and national efforts to protect artists from copyright infringement by businesses and others promoting, creating, disseminating or using artificial intelligence software applications and federal and national efforts to monitor the educational use of copyrighted work. The commission shall consult with the Office of the Attorney General on the subject of the study. In its study, the commission may consider any relevant work of or obtain information from the Maine State Cultural Affairs Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, as well as any other similar organizations. The commission may also consider the proposed federal No Fakes Act of 2024, the proposed federal No AI FRAUD Act and Tennessee's Ensuring Likeness, Voice, and Image Security Act of 2024, as well as other relevant law or case law, including *Waits v. Frito-Lay, Inc.*, 978 F.2d 1093 (9th Cir. 1992) and *Midler v. Ford Motor Co.*, 849 F.2d 460 (9th Cir. 1988). The commission shall report its findings, including any suggested legislation, to the ~~Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs~~ joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs by December 3, 2025 January 15, 2027. The joint standing committee may report out a bill to the ~~Second Regular Session of the 132nd~~ 133rd Legislature in 2027 based on the report.

PART L

Sec. L-1. Resolve 2025, c. 122, §2 is amended to read:

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, by January 15, ~~2026~~ 2027, the Department of Education shall submit a report based on the data collected in section 1 to the ~~Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs~~ joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters. The committee is authorized to submit legislation related to the report to the ~~Second Regular Session of the 132nd~~ 133rd Legislature in 2027.

PART M

Sec. M-1. Resolve 2025, c. 124, §2 is amended to read:

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, by February 15, ~~2026~~ 2027, the Department of Education shall submit a report to the ~~Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters~~ based on the review conducted pursuant to section 1. The joint standing committee may report out legislation related to the report to the ~~Second Regular Session of the 132nd~~ 133rd Legislature in 2027.

PART N

Sec. N-1. Resolve 2025, c. 125, §1, last ¶ is amended to read:

The Department of Education shall submit a report based on the results of the survey to the ~~Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters~~ no later than January 15, ~~2026~~ 2027.

Sec. N-2. Resolve 2025, c. 125, §2, first ¶ is amended to read:

Sec. 2. Working group. Resolved: That, beginning in January ~~2026~~ 2027, the Department of Education shall convene a working group of relevant stakeholders to develop recommendations on increasing accessibility to personal finance education to students in the State of all grade levels based on the findings of the report developed pursuant to section 1. The working group must examine professional development, curriculum resources, instructional time, staffing and any other supports the working group considers necessary to expand and strengthen personal finance instruction in school administrative units. The membership of the working group must include, but is not limited to:

Sec. N-3. Resolve 2025, c. 125, §2, last ¶ is amended to read:

The Department of Education shall submit a report based on the findings and recommendations of the working group to the ~~Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters~~ no later than March 1, ~~2026~~ 2027.

PART O

Sec. O-1. Resolve 2025, c. 126, §1, last ¶ is amended to read:

The department shall distribute the best practices for training in de-escalation and behavior intervention to all school administrative units in the State no later than September 1, ~~2026~~ 2027.

PART P

Sec. P-1. Resolve 2025, c. 127, §2 is amended to read:

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That the Department of Education shall submit a report no later than February 1, ~~2026~~ 2027 to the ~~Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters~~ on the findings of the review described in section 1. The report must include data regarding the frequency and duration of abbreviated school day placements and input from stakeholders, including, but not limited to, school personnel and parents. The report must also include information about the impacts that abbreviated school day placements may have on school funding and on student outcomes. The ~~Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs joint standing committee~~ may report out a bill based on the report to the ~~Second Regular Session of the 132nd~~ 133rd Legislature in 2027.

PART Q

Sec. Q-1. Resolve 2025, c. 128, §4 is amended to read:

Sec. 4. Report. Resolved: That the council shall submit a report, no later than January 31, ~~2026~~ 2027, that includes a summary of the findings of the work group along with recommendations and any suggested legislation to the ~~Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters~~. The committee shall review the findings and recommendations of the report and may report out legislation to implement recommendations related to the report in the ~~Second Regular Session of the 132nd~~ 133rd Legislature in 2027.

PART R

Sec. R-1. Resolve 2025, c. 130, §1 is amended to read:

Sec. 1. Department of Corrections to study achieving gender equality. Resolved: That the Department of Corrections shall study the extent of gender inequality present in the programs, services, facilities and policies administered or overseen by the department and shall report its findings to the ~~Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters by December 3, 2025~~ January 15, 2027. The report must include potential solutions for eliminating gender inequality in those areas, including, but not limited to, the construction or redesignation of current facilities and the reallocation of resources, programs and opportunities. The joint standing committee may report out a bill to the ~~Second Regular Session of the 132nd~~ 133rd Legislature in 2027 based on the report.

PART S

Sec. S-1. Resolve 2025, c. 131, §1, first ¶ is amended to read:

Sec. 1. Data related to renewable energy construction projects. Resolved: That the ~~Governor's Energy Office~~ Department of Energy Resources, referred to in this resolve as "the ~~office~~ department," shall coordinate with state agencies that permit, regulate or provide state assistance to renewable energy construction projects, including, but not limited to, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Labor, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Public Utilities Commission, to evaluate how to display and maintain data regarding renewable energy construction projects in an efficient, meaningful and publicly accessible manner for the purposes of identifying renewable energy trends in this State, including through the development of a database. For the purposes of this resolve, "renewable energy construction project" or "project" means a source of electrical generation that has a nameplate capacity of 500 kilowatts or more and relies on a source of generation described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3210, subsection 2, paragraph C, subparagraph (2). The evaluation must provide a method to make the data publicly available and, to the extent practicable, a method for obtaining information from renewable energy construction project developers, including, but not limited to:

Sec. S-2. Resolve 2025, c. 131, §2, first ¶ is amended to read:

Sec. 2. Evaluation criteria. Resolved: That the ~~office's department's~~ evaluation required under section 1 must consider:

Sec. S-3. Resolve 2025, c. 131, §2, sub-§7 is amended to read:

7. Whether and through what mechanism the ~~office~~ department may or could be given the authority to require the provision of timely and accurate information by project developers or owners;

Sec. S-4. Resolve 2025, c. 131, §2, sub-§8 is amended to read:

8. Whether additional staff or financial resources may be necessary to develop and maintain the data under section 1 or if it is feasible to maintain this data within existing resources of the ~~office~~ department; and

Sec. S-5. Resolve 2025, c. 131, §3 is amended to read:

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That the ~~office~~ department, in consultation with the state agencies listed in section 1, shall submit a report on the evaluation under this resolve to the ~~Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology~~ joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy, utilities and technology matters by February 1, ~~2026~~ 2027. The report must contain recommendations related to how to display and maintain data regarding renewable energy construction projects in an efficient, meaningful

and publicly accessible manner for the purposes of identifying renewable energy trends in this State. The committee may report out a bill to the ~~Second Regular Session of the 132nd~~ 133rd Legislature in 2027 based on the report.

PART T

Sec. T-1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ARTS COMMISSION, MAINE

Arts - Administration 0178

Initiative: Appropriates funding for a consultant to research and analyze the impact of unauthorized usage by artificial intelligence on an artist's work as required by Resolve 2025, chapter 121.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$25,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$25,000

ARTS COMMISSION, MAINE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$25,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$25,000

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Higher Education and Educator Support Services Z082

Initiative: Appropriates funding to support the working group established by Resolve 2025, chapter 125 to develop recommendations on increasing accessibility to personal finance education to students of all grade levels in the State.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$5,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$5,000

Innovative Teaching and Learning Z394

Initiative: Appropriates funding to contract for staffing services to perform a review of teacher mentoring programs in public schools and to prepare a report as required by Resolve 2025, chapter 124.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$15,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$15,000

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$20,000

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$20,000
SECTION TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$45,000
SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$45,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 758 H.P. 725 - L.D. 1106

An Act to Provide Funds for the Redevelopment of the Island Nursing Home in Hancock County into Affordable Senior Housing

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

Sec. 1. Accountability and reporting. The Maine State Housing Authority shall submit a detailed report regarding the conversion of the Island Nursing Home in Hancock County to apartments for individuals 55 years of age or older whose household income does not exceed 80% of the median income for the area as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development under the United States Housing Act of 1937, Public Law 75-412, 50 Stat. 888, Section 8, as amended, to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs within 12 months of receipt of funding provided pursuant to section 2. The report must include:

1. A breakdown of how the funds have been used;
2. A progress update; and
3. A financial summary of additional funds raised and any additional funding needs.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE

Housing Authority - State 0442

Initiative: Provides one-time funds to support the conversion of the Island Nursing Home in Hancock County into 24 apartments for eligible individuals 55 years of age or older.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$250,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$250,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 759 H.P. 811 - L.D. 1236

An Act to Address Employee Retention of State Employees Who Are Firefighters at Bangor International Airport

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶H, as amended by PL 1999, c. 493, §5, is further amended to read:

H. Firefighters Until September 30, 2026, firefighters in the employment of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management at Bangor International Airport on July 1, 1998, or hired thereafter, provided as long as the Federal Government pays annually to the retirement system the full employer cost of the participation of these employees;

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §17851-D is enacted to read:

§17851-D. Special plan for firefighters in employment of Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management at Bangor International Airport

1. Establishment and applicability. Effective October 1, 2026, there is established a special retirement plan for firefighters in the employment of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management at Bangor International Airport, referred to in this section as "the special plan." The special plan applies to firefighters in the employment of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management at Bangor International Airport on or after July 1, 1998, if the Federal Government pays annually to the retirement system the full employer cost of the participation of these employees.

2. Qualification for benefits. A member employed under subsection 1 qualifies for a service retirement benefit after completing 25 years of creditable service in that capacity, whether or not the creditable service included in determining that the 25-year requirement has been met was earned under the special plan established in this section or prior to its establishment.

3. Purchase of service credit to be used for qualification for benefits. This subsection governs the use of purchased service credit in order to qualify for benefits under this section. For the purpose of meeting the qualification requirement of subsection 2:

A. Service credit purchased by repayment of an earlier refund of accumulated contributions following termination of service is included if the time to which the refund relates was served in the position described in subsection 1, regardless of whether the

time was served before or after the establishment of the special plan;

B. Service credit purchased under section 17760 is considered service under the special plan; and

C. Service credit purchased other than as provided under paragraphs A and B is not included.

4. Computation of benefits. The amount of the service retirement benefit for members qualified under subsection 2 is 1/2 of the member's average final compensation and an additional 2% of the member's average final compensation for each year of membership service not included in determining qualification under subsection 2.

5. Contributions. Notwithstanding any provision of subchapter 3 to the contrary, after September 30, 2026, a member in a position described in subsection 1 shall contribute to the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program or have pick-up contributions made at the rate of 8.65% of earnable compensation until the member has completed 25 years of creditable service as provided in this section and at the rate of 7.65% thereafter.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Military Training and Operations 0108

Initiative: Allocates ongoing funds for the prospective costs of certain employees within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management who are firefighters at Bangor International Airport being allowed to participate in a special retirement plan that allows for those employees to retire after 25 years of service regardless of age effective October 1, 2026.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27

Personal Services	\$0	\$1,759

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,759

DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$1,759

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$1,759

RETIREMENT SYSTEM, MAINE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Retirement System - Retirement Allowance Fund 0085

Initiative: Provides one-time funds for the increase in the unfunded actuarial liability as a result of allowing the service retirement benefits for certain employees within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management who are firefighters at Bangor International Airport earned under the 1998 Special Plan to be calculated under a special retirement plan that allows for those employees to retire after 25 years of service regardless of age.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$522,078

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$522,078

RETIREMENT SYSTEM, MAINE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27

GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$522,078

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$522,078

SECTION TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27

GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$522,078
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$1,759

SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$523,837

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 760

H.P. 852 - L.D. 1277

An Act Regarding Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Activities

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §7246, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2023, c. 544, §1, is further amended to read:

1. Controlled substance. "Controlled substance" means a controlled substance included in schedules II, III, IV or V of 21 United States Code, Section 812 or 21 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1308, except anabolic steroids.

Sec. 2. Information concerning anabolic steroids. Immediately upon the effective date of this Act, the Department of Health and Human Services shall purge from the records of the Controlled Sub-

stances Prescription Monitoring Program, as established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 7248, all existing information concerning the prescribing and dispensing of anabolic steroids.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
DEPARTMENT OF**

Office of Behavioral Health Z199

Initiative: Provides funding for database maintenance to implement the exception of anabolic steroids from the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$62,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$62,000

Office of Behavioral Health Z199

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to purge records from the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$15,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$15,000

**HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES, DEPARTMENT
OF**

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$77,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$77,000

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 761
H.P. 876 - L.D. 1353**

**An Act Regarding Required
Landings in the Menhaden
Fishery**

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6502-C, sub-§1-C, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 169, §2 and affected by §5, is amended to read:

1-C. Menhaden license limited entry system. Notwithstanding subsection 1-B, the commissioner ~~may~~ **shall** establish by rule a limited entry system under which a person who did not hold a commercial menhaden license in the previous calendar year may become

eligible to obtain that license when the total number of commercial menhaden licenses is less than 350 licenses and as long as the fishery exit ratio is one to one. The rules for a limited entry system must include provisions for the method and administration of the system. ~~Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.~~

Prior to the adoption of rules pursuant to this subsection, when the total number of commercial menhaden licenses is less than 350 licenses and as long as the fishery exit ratio is one to one, the commissioner shall provide preference to individuals:

A. Who meet the requirements of subsection 1-E; and

B. Based on an individual's municipality of residence. The commissioner shall fulfill the requirements of this paragraph by providing preference to an individual whose municipality of residence is located the farthest east in the State and subsequently to an individual whose municipality of residence is located the next farthest east in the State. If more than one individual resides in the municipality, the commissioner shall determine randomly which individual is given first preference.

Rules establishing a limited entry system in accordance with this subsection must be adopted by December 31, 2027. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6502-C, sub-§1-E is enacted to read:

1-E. Commercial menhaden fishing license eligibility. Prior to the adoption of a limited entry system pursuant to subsection 1-C, the commissioner may issue a resident commercial menhaden fishing license or a nonresident commercial menhaden fishing license to an individual if that individual:

A. Possessed a license to fish commercially for menhaden in at least one of the following 3 years, 2019, 2020 or 2021;

B. According to department records, reported legal landings of menhaden of 20,000 pounds or more under a commercial menhaden fishing license in at least one of the following 3 years, 2019, 2020 or 2021; and

C. Did not qualify for or receive a license for any period of time under subsection 1-A.

Documentation, acceptable to the department, showing that the landing requirement in paragraph B has been met must be based on information reported to the department prior to January 1, 2023.

Sec. 3. Assignment of licenses according to preference as soon as practicable; suspension until eligible individuals offered license. The

Commissioner of Marine Resources shall assign limited entry commercial menhaden licenses pursuant to the priorities established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 6502-C, subsection 1-C, paragraphs A and B as soon as practicable following the effective date of this section.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Title 12, section 6502-C, subsections 1-C and 1-E, rules adopted by the commissioner establishing a limited entry system under which a person who did not hold a commercial menhaden license in the previous calendar year may become eligible to obtain that license are suspended until each individual who meets the preference requirements established in Title 12, section 6502-C, subsection 1-C, paragraphs A and B has been offered the opportunity to obtain a commercial menhaden license.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 762

H.P. 966 - L.D. 1474

An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §14 is enacted to read:

§14. Wabanaki studies specialist

The Wabanaki studies specialist, referred to in this section as "the specialist," is established in the department to ensure the inclusion of Wabanaki studies in the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements as required by section 4706, subsection 4.

1. Duties. The specialist, in consultation with the contracted Wabanaki advisors, shall:

A. Assist school administrative units and educators in the exploration of a wide range of educational materials and resources relating to Wabanaki studies;

B. Identify materials and resources for implementing the instruction of Wabanaki studies;

C. Involve organizations and individuals able and willing to assist with the requirements under this subsection, including, but not limited to, museums and educators; and

D. Make recommendations to the department regarding:

(1) Wabanaki studies curricula;

(2) Wabanaki studies courses that count toward the requirements of teacher certification; and

(3) Implementation of teacher education programs and summer teacher institutes.

2. Reporting. The specialist shall annually report to the commissioner and the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission regarding the implementation of the instruction of Wabanaki studies as required by section 4706, subsection 4 and regarding:

A. Educational materials and resources that are appropriate to assist school administrative units and educators in the State to include Wabanaki studies as required by section 4706, subsection 4; and

B. Opportunities for professional development, training and technical assistance that must be provided to assist school administrative units and educators in the State in implementing Wabanaki studies as required by section 4706, subsection 4.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §4706, first ¶, as amended by PL 2021, c. 247, §1 and affected by §3, is further amended to read:

Instruction in American history, African American studies, government, citizenship, Maine studies ~~and~~, the history of genocide and Wabanaki studies must be aligned with the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements established under section 6209.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §4706, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2023, c. 537, §2, is further amended to read:

2. Maine studies. Maine history, including the Constitution of Maine, Maine geography and environment and the natural, industrial and economic resources of Maine and Maine's cultural and ethnic heritage, must be taught. ~~A required component of Maine studies is Wabanaki studies, and Wabanaki studies may be taught as a component of other content areas, as appropriate, including but not limited to the content areas of English language arts, mathematics, science and fine arts. Wabanaki studies and Maine African American studies must be included in the review of content standards and performance indicators of the learning results conducted in accordance with section 6209, subsection 4. Wabanaki studies must address the following topics:~~

~~A. Wabanaki governments and political systems and their relationship with local, state, national and international governments;~~

~~B. Wabanaki cultural systems and the experience of tribal people throughout history;~~

~~C. Wabanaki territories; and~~

~~D. Wabanaki economic systems.~~

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §4706, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Wabanaki studies. Wabanaki studies must be included in the review of content standards and performance indicators of the learning results conducted in accordance with section 6209, subsection 4. Wabanaki studies may include social studies, English language arts, mathematics, science and fine arts in accordance with this subsection. Wabanaki studies must address the following topics:

A. Tribal governments in the State and political systems and their relationship with local, state, national and international governments;

B. Wabanaki cultural systems and the experience of tribal people in the State throughout history;

C. Wabanaki territories;

D. Wabanaki economic systems; and

E. Other curricula recommended by the Wabanaki studies specialist pursuant to section 14.

Beginning July 1, 2027, the department shall, in a representative sample of schools, no less than biannually study the Wabanaki studies curricula under this subsection to assess its implementation. The department shall publish its findings on the department's publicly accessible website.

Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §13011, sub-§11 is enacted to read:

11. Wabanaki studies requirement. The state board may adopt rules to require the completion of a Wabanaki studies component in the qualifications for certifying teachers in accordance with sections 13012-A and 13013.

Sec. 6. State Board of Education to evaluate rules. The State Board of Education shall, no later than July 1, 2027, evaluate whether the adoption of rules requiring the completion of a Wabanaki studies component in the qualifications for certifying teachers is necessary.

Sec. 7. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Office of Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways Z334

Initiative: Provides one-time funds for a contracted review team to study the Wabanaki studies curricula to assess its implementation.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$50,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$50,000

Office of Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways Z334

Initiative: Provides one-time funds to support the contracted Wabanaki advisors and for professional development, training and technical assistance.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$50,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$50,000

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$100,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$100,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 763

S.P. 648 - L.D. 1640

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission and to Reestablish the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission

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

Sec. 1. 37-B MRSA §518 is enacted to read:

§518. Base Gagetown Training Registry

1. Registry. The bureau shall establish the Base Gagetown Training Registry, referred to in this section as "the registry," to collect and maintain data related to military service and health conditions from individuals who voluntarily provide such data and who trained at the Canadian military support base in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada, referred to in this section as "Base Gagetown," as a member of the United States Armed Forces, as a member of the reserve component of the United States Armed Forces or as a member of the National Guard of any state and who are residents of this State or were residents of this State at the time of training.

The bureau shall use the registry to support education and outreach efforts as described in subsection 3 for issues directly related to the individuals described in this subsection and may use the data collected and maintained pursuant to this subsection to conduct, either within the bureau or through a contract with a public or private entity, research related to the effects of chemical exposure on human health.

2. Data collection. To the extent possible, the bureau shall include in the registry the following types of data for individuals described in subsection 1:

- A. Complete name used while in military service;
- B. Date of birth;
- C. Dates of military service;
- D. Branch of service and all unit assignments;
- E. Military occupational specialty;
- F. Dates during military service when the individual trained at Base Gagetown;
- G. Self-reported health conditions or diagnoses;
- H. Cause of death, if applicable; and
- I. Any additional information as determined by the bureau to support the goals of the registry.

In the event that an individual is deceased, the individual's next of kin may provide the data for inclusion in the registry. The bureau shall also include any information in any existing data source created within the bureau related to Base Gagetown in the registry and in conducting education and outreach as described in subsection 3.

3. Education and outreach. The bureau shall make all reasonable efforts to identify eligible individuals for inclusion in the registry. These efforts must include the bureau's contacting any individual who previously provided information to the bureau related to the individual's military training at Base Gagetown regarding the registry under subsection 1 and offering the individual the opportunity to provide new or additional information to the bureau for inclusion in the registry. The bureau shall also work with existing veterans' service organizations, local medical centers operated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the Maine Veterans' Homes and other veterans' programs or organizations in the State in order to increase awareness of the registry and the bureau's work, including information on how to submit data for inclusion in the registry. The bureau shall also work with the Maine National Guard in order to identify and share information regarding the registry with individuals who are current members of the Maine National Guard and who may have trained at or will train in the future at Base Gagetown.

The bureau may also contact another state's bureau of veterans' services or National Guard in order to identify other National Guard units that may have members who are affected by exposure to chemicals at Base Gagetown.

4. Confidentiality. All data within the registry under this section is confidential. Disclosure of the data may be made only with the written consent of the individual who is the subject of the data, or if that individual is deceased, the individual's next of kin and only to a public or private entity, including the bureau, engaged

in research related to the effects of chemical exposure on human health.

5. Report. The director shall submit annually by February 15th to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans affairs a report regarding the status of the registry and information related to education and outreach efforts pursuant to subsection 3, including outreach efforts with other states; any obstacles to data collection or data verification; and any recommended next steps regarding the registry or the use of data collected as a part of the registry. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans affairs may report out a bill related to the report during the legislative session in which the report is received.

Sec. 2. Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission reestablished. The Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission, referred to in this section as "the study commission," is established.

1. Notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the study commission consists of 12 members appointed as follows:

A. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

B. Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, including members from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

C. Two members who represent veterans' advocacy organizations, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House;

D. One member who is a family member of a veteran who served at the Canadian military support base in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada, appointed by the President of the Senate;

E. One member with expertise processing veterans' claims for benefits related to military service-related exposure to harmful chemicals, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

F. Two members who served at the Canadian military support base in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada and were exposed to harmful chemicals during their military service, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

G. Two members with expertise in chemical engineering, environmental science or human health and who have experience in those fields related to the effects of hazardous chemicals on the environment or on human health, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House.

2. The first-named Senate member is the Senate chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the study commission.

3. All appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this Act. To the extent possible, members appointed to the study commission must be the same as members appointed to the study commission pursuant to Resolve 2023, chapter 95. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the study commission. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this Act a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the study commission to meet and conduct its business.

4. The study commission shall study the effects of exposure to harmful chemicals on individuals who trained at the Canadian military support base in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada as a member of the United States Armed Forces, as a member of the reserve component of the United States Armed Forces or as a member of the National Guard of any state.

5. The study commission may request information it determines necessary to complete the study under subsection 4 from the United States Department of Defense and other federal agencies.

6. Notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the study commission, except that Legislative Council staff support is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session.

7. No later than November 4, 2026, the study commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, for presentation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans affairs. The committee may report out a bill based on the recommendations to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Veterans Services 0110

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for consulting costs to create the Base Gagetown Training Registry, which will collect and maintain data related to military service and health conditions from individuals who report this data and trained at the Canadian military support base in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada. The fund does not lapse but must be carried forward to be used for the purpose for which the fund was appropriated.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$250,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$250,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 764

S.P. 603 - L.D. 1488

An Act Regarding Adult Use Cannabis Testing

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, certain additional testing requirements, which this legislation removes, result in a significant financial burden on certain adult use cannabis businesses that have already performed required testing on the adult use cannabis or adult use cannabis product; and

Whereas, the Legislature considered this issue in the prior legislative session, but a final resolution was unable to be determined at that time; and

Whereas, the Legislature has determined that it is necessary to provide more immediate relief to those affected; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 28-B MRSA §605, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2023, c. 679, Pt. B, §120, is further amended to read:

4. No subsequent further processing, manufacturing or alteration. Since the performance of the prior testing under subsection 1, the cannabis or cannabis product has not undergone any further processing, manufacturing or alteration that would result in an increase in the concentration of any contaminants or factors identified in section 602, subsection 1 or in any rules adopted by the office pursuant to that section. For the purposes of this subsection, "further processing, manufacturing or alteration" does not include the use of cannabis concentrate in the creation of an edible cannabis product, except for testing under section 602, subsection 1, paragraph F.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency

cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 19, 2026.

**CHAPTER 765
S.P. 769 - L.D. 1962**

**An Act to Increase Legislative
Access to Department of
Corrections Facilities and to
Direct the Commissioner to
Establish Rules Regarding
Legislator Access to
Correctional and Detention
Facilities**

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

Sec. 1. 34-A MRSA §3001-A, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2023, c. 383, §2, is further amended to read:

1. Appointment. ~~The~~ Except as provided in paragraph H, the Governor shall appoint a board of 7 visitors for each correctional facility under the department, as authorized by Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 5.

A. The terms of the members of the boards of visitors are for 3 years.

B. Members of the boards of visitors are eligible for reappointment at the expiration of their terms.

C. A member of the Legislature or an employee of the department may not serve on any board of visitors.

D. At least one member of each board must be a person licensed by this State to provide mental health services.

E. Each member of the boards of visitors must be compensated according to the provisions of Title 5, chapter 379.

F. The Governor shall appoint a chair from the membership.

G. At least one member of each board of visitors must have been incarcerated in a correctional facility.

H. If a vacancy occurs within a board of visitors, the commissioner shall provide notice to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives within 5 days of the vacancy. A vacancy on a board of visitors under this section must be filled by the Governor within 90 days of the notice of vacancy. If the Governor fails to appoint a member within 90 days of the notice of vacancy, the President of the Senate and the

Speaker of the House of Representatives shall jointly appoint a member to fill the vacancy pursuant to this subsection.

Sec. 2. 34-A MRSA §3001-B is enacted to read:

§3001-B. Legislator access to correctional facilities and detention facilities

A Legislator may access correctional facilities and detention facilities in accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner. In accordance with section 1402, subsection 3, the commissioner shall adopt rules governing a Legislator's access to correctional facilities and detention facilities. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 3. Rules regarding Legislator access. The Commissioner of Corrections shall submit major substantive rules to the Legislature pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-A, section 3001-B by January 31, 2027. The rules must include provisions regarding:

1. A Legislator's access to physical areas of correctional facilities and detention facilities;

2. A Legislator's access to clients and staff; and

3. The circumstances in which a chief administrative officer may deny a Legislator access to correctional facilities and detention facilities.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 766
H.P. 1310 - L.D. 1966**

**An Act to Increase Disclosure
of Utility Charges and Improve
Access to Distributed
Generation Resources in the
State**

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §301-A is enacted to read:

§301-A. Administrative charge limitation

1. "Administrative charge" defined. "Administrative charge" means a fee or charge for services that is added to the actual cost of materials or supplies or labor performed by or on behalf of a transmission and distribution utility with over 50,000 customers and charged to a transmission and distribution utility customer for work funded directly by that customer through a proposal, estimate, invoice or final accounting for the cost of interconnection, line extensions or other work funded directly by the customer other than charges for the customer's regular electricity service. "Administrative

charge" includes, but is not limited to, an administrative service charge, overhead costs, an indirect overhead cost or a cost adder. "Administrative charge" does not include:

A. Expenses for a transmission and distribution utility employee's labor while directly engaged in the work for which a customer is billed if the customer bill states that those expenses are included in the cost of labor; or

B. Expenses related to the purchase, storage or delivery of materials or supplies incorporated into the work if the customer bill states that those expenses are included in the cost of materials or supplies.

2. Administrative charge disclosure. A transmission and distribution utility with over 50,000 customers shall disclose any administrative charges included in a customer bill for work funded directly by that customer. If any line item in a customer bill includes an administrative charge, the customer bill must specifically identify the administrative charge and include a description of the charge. All administrative charges must comply with the requirements of section 301, subsection 2 and any other applicable provisions of this Title.

3. Violations. If the commission finds that a transmission and distribution utility with over 50,000 customers has violated any provision of this section or improperly assessed an administrative charge, the commission may order the transmission and distribution utility to refund all or part of the administrative charge paid by the customer.

4. Rules. The commission may adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted by the commission pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §3107, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 88, §1 and reallocated by RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §49, is amended to read:

2. Consumer assistance. Require a customer bill issued by an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to display clearly and prominently the toll-free telephone number for the commission's consumer assistance and safety division and a statement of the consumer assistance services available by calling the division; and

Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §3107, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 88, §1 and reallocated by RR 2019, c. 1, Pt. A, §49, is amended to read:

3. Correction of misleading information. Establish a process by which, if the commission finds that an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility has included on customer bills, or inserts or attachments to customer bills, information that is misleading, deceptive or inaccurate, the transmission and distribution utility is required to provide to customers a statement that

corrects the misleading, deceptive or inaccurate information that was disseminated. Upon request of the Public Advocate, the commission shall investigate the truth and accuracy of information included on customer bills, or inserts or attachments to customer bills; and

Sec. 4. 35-A MRSA §3107, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Expenses that may be recovered in rates; disclosure. If an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility does not include all expenses that may be recovered in rates in a customer's delivery cost, prohibit the utility from labeling such expenses or any combination thereof as public policy charges or a substantially similar term on customer bills. The rules must require the investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to label such expenses or combination of expenses on customer bills in a way that the commission determines is objective and assists customers in understanding these expenses.

The commission shall also require, to the extent practicable without incurring additional costs for ratepayers, an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to include a brief, objective description of each of the expenses that may be recovered in rates paid by the customer or include a link to the utility's publicly accessible website where a customer may obtain an objective description of such expenses. For the purposes of this subsection, "expenses that may be recovered in rates" means charges or costs paid by a customer, other than those charges or costs for electricity supply, delivery and transmission, including, but not limited to, charges or costs for energy efficiency programs and services, renewable energy programs and low-income energy assistance programs.

Sec. 5. 35-A MRSA §3209-A, sub-§12 is enacted to read:

12. Billing and disclosure standards. The commission shall adopt rules to establish billing and disclosure standards applicable to distributed generation resources with customers who participate in a net energy billing arrangement based upon a shared financial interest in accordance with this section or section 3209-B. The rules must include standardized methods for presenting savings rates in a clear and consistent manner and require the identification of all charges.

A violation of a billing and disclosure standard adopted by the commission by rule in accordance with this subsection is a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act.

Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, rules adopted by the commission pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 6. 35-A MRSA §3210-L is enacted to read:

§3210-L. Renewable energy procurement; low-income and moderate-income consumer-owned projects

The commission shall direct investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to enter into one or more contracts for energy from eligible projects in accordance with this section.

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Distributed generation resource" has the same meaning as in section 3481, subsection 5.

B. "Eligible project" means a distributed generation resource:

(1) With a nameplate capacity of no more than 200 kilowatts;

(2) That serves only low-income customers and moderate-income households;

(3) That is wholly owned by its customer or customers or wholly owned by a cooperative corporation organized under Title 13, chapter 85;

(4) That provides discounts or payments to its customers to offset its customers' electricity bills in a manner similar to customers receiving kilowatt-hour credits in accordance with section 3209-A as determined by the commission;

(5) That is placed in service on or after August 1, 2026; and

(6) That is connected to the electric grid of an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility in the State.

C. "Low-income customer" means a customer of a transmission and distribution utility receiving benefits under the utility's program to assist low-income customers or a customer who has qualified at any time in the prior 12-month period to receive assistance through any state or federal program in which low income or limited assets are criteria for eligibility.

D. "Moderate-income household" means a household in which gross income does not exceed 150% of the median income of the county or metropolitan statistical area in which the household is located.

E. "Renewable energy credit" has the same meaning as in section 3210, subsection 2, paragraph B-2.

2. Competitive solicitation; procurement. By September 1, 2026, the commission shall initiate a competitive solicitation in order to procure up to 4 megawatts of energy from one or more eligible projects. The commission shall select an eligible project or eligible

projects for a contract or contracts under this section as expeditiously as possible, taking into account a bidder's ability to receive federal grants or tax credits in connection with the operation of an eligible project.

A. The commission shall determine the value of kilowatt-hour credits received by customers of a distributed generation resource in accordance with section 3209-A at the time of the competitive solicitation and require a bidder to state the bid price of the eligible project's energy as a percentage of that kilowatt-hour credit value over a proposed contract length not to exceed 20 years.

B. Notwithstanding any provision of this Title to the contrary, the commission shall select an eligible project for a contract if:

(1) At least one bid is received for an eligible project that meets the requirements of this subsection; and

(2) The bid price for the eligible project's energy is not greater than the credit value determined by the commission in accordance with paragraph A.

3. Contract award; terms. A contract entered into pursuant to this section must:

A. Be for a term of no more than 20 years;

B. Include provisions allowing for the commission to periodically increase the contract price to account for inflation, but only in an amount that the commission determines necessary to ensure eligible project viability while minimizing impacts to ratepayers;

C. Include provisions ensuring that an eligible project meets the requirements of this section for the term of the contract;

D. Provide for the sharing of customer usage data and allocation and billing information between the eligible project and the investor-owned transmission and distribution utility in whose service territory the eligible project is located;

E. Prohibit the release of a customer's personal information by the eligible project owner or an entity acting on behalf of the owner or owners without the explicit affirmative consent of the customer other than for purposes of debt collection or credit reporting pursuant to state and federal law or to law enforcement agencies pursuant to lawful process; and

F. Require the investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to sell all of the renewable energy credits generated by the eligible project.

4. Cost recovery. The commission shall ensure that all costs and direct financial benefits associated with contracts entered into under this section are allocated to ratepayers in accordance with section 3210-F.

A price differential existing at any time during the term of the contract between the contract price and the prevailing market price at which the energy generated by an eligible project is sold or any gains or losses derived from contracts for differences must be reflected in the amounts charged to ratepayers and may not be considered imprudent.

5. Rules. The commission may adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 7. Net energy billing; consumer protections. The Public Utilities Commission shall amend its rules adopted pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3209-A, subsection 5, paragraph E and Public Law 2025, chapter 430, section 15 to:

1. Exempt from the requirements described in Public Law 2025, chapter 430, section 15, subsections 1 and 2, distributed generation resources that are wholly owned by the customer or customers receiving the net energy billing credits associated with the output of the distributed generation resource; and

2. Ensure that the prohibition on simultaneous participation in more than one net energy billing agreement pursuant to Title 35-A, section 3209-A, subsection 3 per residential account does not apply to net energy billing agreements related to distributed generation resources in which a customer has an ownership interest. The rules must allow a customer to have multiple net energy billing agreements with distributed generation resources in which the customer has an ownership interest and prohibit the customer from having more than one net energy billing agreement pursuant to Title 35-A, section 3209-A, subsection 3 per residential account if the customer does not have an ownership interest in the distributed generation resource.

Notwithstanding any provision of Title 35-A, section 3209-A to the contrary, rules amended by the commission pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 767

S.P. 881 - L.D. 2176

An Act to Safeguard Personal Information and Strengthen Tenant Rights in Maine

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §4651, sub-§2, ¶C, as amended by PL 2025, c. 400, §1 and c. 417, §1, is further amended to read:

C. A single act or course of conduct constituting a violation of section 4681; Title 14, section 6025-B or 9102; Title 17, section 2931; or Title 17-A, section 201, 202, 203, 204, 207, 208, 209, 210, 210-A, 211, 253, 254, 255-A, 256, 258, 259-A, 259-B, 260, 261, 282, 283, 301, 302, 303, 506, 506-A, 511, 511-A, 556, 802, 805, 806, 852 or 853; or

Sec. 2. 14 MRSA §6025, sub-§3, as amended by PL 1999, c. 204, §1, is further amended to read:

3. Remedy. If a landlord makes an entry in violation of this section, makes a lawful entry in an unreasonable manner or makes repeated demands for entry otherwise lawful that have the effect of harassing the tenant, the tenant may recover actual damages or ~~\$400~~ \$250, whichever is greater, and obtain injunctive relief to prevent recurrence of the conduct, and if the tenant obtains a judgment after a contested hearing, reasonable attorney's fees.

If a tenant changes the lock and does not provide the landlord with a duplicate key, in the case of emergency the landlord may gain admission through whatever reasonable means necessary and charge the tenant reasonable costs for any resulting damage. If a tenant changes the lock and refuses to provide the landlord with a duplicate key, the landlord may terminate the tenancy with a 7-day notice.

Sec. 3. 14 MRSA §6025-B is enacted to read:

§6025-B. Disclosure of information

1. Definitions. For purposes of this section, "personal information" means the following information about a tenant, prospective tenant, occupant or prospective occupant of a rental property:

A. Identifying information, including name, address, telephone number or e-mail address;

B. Information about racial or ethnic origins, religious beliefs, health conditions, sexual activity, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, citizenship, immigration status or alien registration number;

C. A social security number, driver's license number or nondriver identification card number;

D. Billing, financial or payment method information; or

E. Information concerning an individual's status as a victim of a crime. For the purposes of this paragraph, "victim" has the same meaning as in Title 17-A, section 2101, subsection 2.

2. Prohibition. Except as provided in subsection 3, a landlord, a landlord's agent and any other person acting under the direction of the landlord may not, with the intent to harass, intimidate or otherwise cause a person to vacate a rental property outside of the judicial

process as established in chapter 709, and without a legitimate business purpose, disclose to any person the personal information of a known tenant, prospective tenant, occupant or prospective occupant of a rental property owned or managed by the landlord without the express consent of the known or prospective tenant or occupant.

3. Exceptions. Notwithstanding subsection 2, a landlord, a landlord's agent and any other person acting under the direction of the landlord may disclose the personal information of a tenant, prospective tenant, occupant or prospective occupant of the rental property owned or managed by the landlord if the disclosure is:

A. In response to a valid discovery request, subpoena or judicial warrant with respect to any state administrative proceeding, state or federal judicial proceeding or state or federal criminal investigation;

B. Made to a state, local or county law enforcement agency in the State due to exigent circumstances or as reasonably necessary to prevent or prosecute a criminal act;

C. Reasonably necessary for the sale or refinancing of the property subject to the tenancy;

D. Reasonably necessary for the application for or receipt of funds and services related to federally supported or state-supported affordable housing programs; or

E. Reasonably necessary to respond to a request from a municipal code enforcement officer, fire inspector or similar municipal officer.

4. Remedy. If a landlord, a landlord's agent or any other person acting under the direction of the landlord discloses personal information in violation of this section, the tenant, prospective tenant, occupant or prospective occupant whose personal information was disclosed may recover actual damages or \$1,000, whichever is greater, and obtain injunctive relief to prevent the recurrence of the conduct. If the tenant, prospective tenant, occupant or prospective occupant obtains a judgment after a contested hearing, the tenant, prospective tenant, occupant or prospective occupant whose personal information was disclosed may recover reasonable attorney's fees.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 768

H.P. 452 - L.D. 713

An Act to Exclude Data Centers from the Business Equipment Tax Exemption and the Dirigo Business Incentives Program and to Require the Department of Economic and Community Development to Study Financial Incentives for Data Centers

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

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §691, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 588, §§3 to 5 and affected by §7, is further amended by amending subparagraph (8) to read:

(8) Personal property that would otherwise be entitled to exemption under this subchapter used primarily to support a telecommunications antenna used by a telecommunications business subject to the tax imposed by section 457; ~~or~~

Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §691, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 588, §§3 to 5 and affected by §7, is further amended by amending subparagraph (9) to read:

(9) A facility that stores spent nuclear fuel, as defined in Title 22, section 673, subsection 18, or radioactive waste classified by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission as greater-than-Class C waste; ~~or~~

Sec. 3. 36 MRSA §691, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 588, §§3 to 5 and affected by §7, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (10) to read:

(10) Any property located in a data center or in the portion of a facility that constitutes a data center that begins operations on or after August 1, 2026, including any property located in a data center or in the portion of a facility that constitutes a data center that is part of an expansion or project after August 1, 2026. For the purposes of this subparagraph, "begins operations" means that the data center has installed operational computer and networking equipment and is performing data processing, data storage, cloud computing or similar computing infrastructure services. "Begins operations" does not include construction, site preparation or equipment installation.

Sec. 4. 36 MRSA §691, sub-§1, ¶A-1 is enacted to read:

A-1. "Data center" means any facility in the State, which may be a freestanding structure or a facility within a larger structure, that primarily contains electronic equipment used for data processing, data storage, cloud computing or similar computing infrastructure services that uses environmental control equipment to maintain the proper conditions for the operation of electronic equipment. "Data center" does not include a facility or portion of a facility containing electronic equipment that is incidental to and used in support of a business whose primary business activity is not the performance of data processing, data storage, cloud computing or similar computing infrastructure services.

Sec. 5. 36 MRSA §5219-AAA, sub-§1, ¶C-1 is enacted to read:

C-1. "Data center" means any facility in the State, which may be a freestanding structure or a facility within a larger structure, that primarily contains electronic equipment used for data processing, data storage, cloud computing or similar computing infrastructure services that uses environmental control equipment to maintain the proper conditions for the operation of electronic equipment. "Data center" does not include a facility or portion of a facility containing electronic equipment that is incidental to and used in support of a business whose primary business activity is not the performance of data processing, data storage, cloud computing or similar computing infrastructure services.

Sec. 6. 36 MRSA §5219-AAA, sub-§1, ¶G, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. J, §13, is amended by amending subparagraph (4) to read:

(4) Software publishing, data processing and computer design services, excluding services performed at a data center; or

Sec. 7. 36 MRSA §5219-AAA, sub-§3, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. J, §13, is amended to read:

D. A business with a certificate of approval for one of the tax credits allowed under section 5219-RR or 5219-YY; ~~or~~

Sec. 8. 36 MRSA §5219-AAA, sub-§3, ¶E, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. J, §13, is amended to read:

E. A business that has undergone a layoff within the past 2 tax years; or

Sec. 9. 36 MRSA §5219-AAA, sub-§3, ¶F is enacted to read:

F. A business that is a data center that begins operations on or after August 1, 2026. For the purposes of this paragraph, "begins operations" means that the data center has installed operational computer and networking equipment and is performing

data processing, data storage, cloud computing or similar computing infrastructure services. "Begins operations" does not include construction, site preparation or equipment installation.

Sec. 10. Department of Economic and Community Development to study financial incentives that data centers may benefit from. The Department of Economic and Community Development shall study potential financial incentives that data centers may benefit from based on current state laws. The department shall submit a report based on the study, including suggested legislation, no later than November 4, 2026 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over taxation matters. The committee may report out legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027. For the purposes of this section, "data center" has the same meaning as in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 691, subsection 1, paragraph A-1.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 769

H.P. 1004 - L.D. 1519

An Act to Create a Stewardship Program for Electronic Smoking Devices and Related Products

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §1306, sub-§8 is enacted to read:

8. Electronic smoking devices. Beginning on the date that an approved electronic smoking device stewardship plan is first implemented by a producer or electronic smoking device stewardship organization pursuant to section 1618, subsection 8, a person may not dispose of an electronic smoking device except in accordance with an electronic smoking device stewardship program implemented under section 1618 or by delivery to a licensed hazardous waste transporter.

This subsection may not be construed to affect existing laws, rules or regulations governing the disposal of electronic smoking devices prior to the date that an approved electronic smoking device stewardship plan is first implemented by a producer or electronic smoking device stewardship organization pursuant to section 1618, subsection 8.

As used in this subsection, "electronic smoking device," "electronic smoking device stewardship organization," "electronic smoking device stewardship plan," "electronic smoking device stewardship program" and "producer" have the same meanings as in section 1618, subsection 1.

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §1618 is enacted to read:

§1618. Stewardship program for electronic smoking devices

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Brand" means a name, symbol, word or mark that identifies an electronic smoking device, rather than its components, and attributes the device to the owner of the brand.

B. "Collection location" means a location that is approved by a stewardship organization to participate in the collection of unwanted electronic smoking devices.

C. "Electronic smoking device" or "device" means any device that may be used to deliver any aerosolized or vaporized substance to a person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to, an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic pipe, so-called vape pen or electronic hookah. "Electronic smoking device" includes any component, part or accessory of the device and any substance that may be aerosolized or vaporized by that device, whether or not the substance contains nicotine.

D. "Electronic smoking device stewardship organization" or "stewardship organization" means a corporation, nonprofit organization or other legal entity created by a producer or group of producers pursuant to this section to implement an electronic smoking device stewardship program.

E. "Electronic smoking device stewardship plan" or "stewardship plan" means a plan to establish an electronic smoking device stewardship program to be submitted to the department for review pursuant to subsection 6.

F. "Electronic smoking device stewardship program" or "program" means the program established under this section to provide for the collection, transportation, reuse and recycling or disposal, or both, of unwanted electronic smoking devices.

G. "Municipality" means a city, town, township, village, plantation or county; a refuse disposal district under chapter 17; or a regional association.

H. "Producer" means a person that:

(1) Has legal ownership of the brand of an electronic smoking device sold in or into the State;

(2) Imports an electronic smoking device branded by a person that meets the requirements of paragraph A and has no physical presence in the United States; or

(3) Sells an electronic smoking device in the State at wholesale or retail, does not have legal ownership of the brand of the device and elects to fulfill the responsibilities of the producer for that device.

I. "Proprietary information" has the same meaning as in Title 38, section 1771, subsection 6-A.

J. "Recycling" has the same meaning as in Title 38, section 1771, subsection 7.

K. "Retailer" means any of the following persons that sell or offer for sale electronic smoking devices:

(1) A tobacco retailer, as defined in Title 22, section 1551, subsection 3-A;

(2) A caregiver retail store, as defined in Title 22, section 2421-A, subsection 12;

(3) A registered dispensary, as defined in Title 22, section 2421-A, subsection 41; and

(4) A cannabis store, as defined in Title 28-B, section 102-A, subsection 16.

L. "Reuse" has the same meaning as in Title 38, section 1771, subsection 8.

M. "Unwanted electronic smoking device" means an electronic smoking device that is no longer wanted by its owner or that has been abandoned or discarded or is intended to be discarded by its owner.

2. Program. Pursuant to this section, a producer that sells an electronic smoking device in the State shall, individually, collectively or through a stewardship organization, implement and finance an electronic smoking device stewardship program to manage, in accordance with the priorities in section 2101, unwanted electronic smoking devices sold by the producer at the end of the device's life.

A. The program must include a collection system for unwanted electronic smoking devices that is convenient and adequate to serve the needs of persons in both rural and urban areas. No later than one year following commencement of the collection of electronic smoking devices by the program's collection system, the collection system must, at a minimum, include permanent collection locations located within 15 miles of 90% of the residents of the State unless the department determines that the requirements of this paragraph are not practicable due to geographical constraints or that an alternative collection system that does not meet the requirements of this paragraph will result in equivalent and more efficient collection. The program must also be designed to:

(1) Within 90 days of receiving a request from a municipality or a federally recognized Indian

tribe, nation or band in the State to participate in the program as a collection location, allow for such participation and provide to the municipality or Indian tribe, nation or band all appropriate collection receptacles for unwanted electronic smoking devices and all staff training necessary to manage the collection location. A collection location under this subparagraph may be located at a transfer station, fire station or police station;

(2) Within 90 days of receiving a request from a public or private school to participate in the program as a collection location, allow for such participation and provide to the school all appropriate collection receptacles for unwanted electronic smoking devices and all staff training necessary to manage the collection location. A collection location under this subparagraph must be designed to collect unwanted electronic smoking devices from school faculty and devices confiscated from students;

(3) Within 90 days of receiving a request from a retailer to participate in the program as a collection location, allow for such participation and provide to the retailer all appropriate collection receptacles for unwanted electronic smoking devices and all staff training necessary to manage the collection location;

(4) Within 3 years following the date on which the stewardship plan is approved by the department pursuant to subsection 7, ensure that all retailers in the State are participating in the program as collection locations; and

(5) Ensure that each collection receptacle provided by the stewardship organization to a collection location is emptied and serviced as often as necessary to avoid the receptacle's reaching storage capacity and to ensure proper operation of the receptacle.

B. The program must provide for effective education and outreach to promote the use of the program and to ensure that collection options are understood by the public.

C. A producer or stewardship organization, including a producer's or stewardship organization's officers, members, employees and agents that organize an electronic device stewardship program under this section, is immune from liability for the producer's or stewardship organization's conduct under state laws relating to antitrust, restraint of trade, unfair trade practices and other regulation of trade or commerce only to the extent necessary to plan and implement the producer's or stewardship organization's chosen organized collection or recycling system.

D. The program must include at a minimum a half-time employee or contracted agent whose job duties are dedicated to implementing the program in the State unless the department determines that a lesser staffing requirement is adequate to provide the administrative oversight, training and ongoing technical support to collection locations, education and outreach efforts, program performance assessment and reporting necessary for program implementation.

E. The program must provide a financial incentive with a minimum value of \$2 to a person for each unwanted electronic smoking device returned by the person to a collection location, except that a person may not receive a financial incentive for more than 2 devices returned to a collection location in a single day.

3. Requirement for sale; retailer participation.

One hundred eighty days after a stewardship plan submitted to the department pursuant to subsection 6 is approved by the department in accordance with subsection 7, a producer may not sell or offer for sale in the State an electronic smoking device unless the producer participates in an electronic smoking device stewardship program under this section in accordance with an approved stewardship plan.

Within 3 years following the date on which the stewardship plan is approved by the department pursuant to subsection 7, all retailers in the State shall participate in the program as collection locations, and the stewardship organization shall notify the department of any retailer that refuses to participate as a collection location within 90 days of that refusal.

4. Collection location participation fees prohibited.

An electronic smoking device stewardship program may not charge a person a fee to participate in the program as a collection location.

5. Costs. Producers participating in an electronic smoking device stewardship program shall finance the collection, transportation and reuse, recycling or disposition of unwanted electronic smoking devices; financial incentives for the return of unwanted electronic smoking devices to collection locations as described in subsection 2, paragraph E; effective education and outreach related to the program; program assessment; program reporting; any other incentives necessary to achieve program goals; payment of reasonable fees to the department for review of the producers' stewardship plan and any proposed amendments; and payment of annual fees to the department to cover the department's actual costs for the program for annual report review, oversight, administration and enforcement, which may not exceed \$100,000 per year per program and which must be properly documented and provided by the department to the program prior to or at the time that such payment is required.

6. Requirement to submit stewardship plan. On or before November 1, 2027, a producer of electronic smoking devices, individually, collectively or through a stewardship organization, shall submit a stewardship plan to the department for approval. The stewardship plan must include:

A. Identification and contact information for:

- (1) The individual or entity submitting the stewardship plan;
- (2) All producers participating in the program;
- (3) The owners of the brands covered by the program; and
- (4) The stewardship organization, if using a stewardship organization, including a description of the stewardship organization and the tasks to be performed by the stewardship organization. The description must include information on how the stewardship organization is organized, including administration of the stewardship organization and management of the stewardship organization;

B. A description of the collection system to be implemented under the program, including:

- (1) The types of locations or other collection services to be used;
- (2) How all electronic smoking devices covered under the program will be collected in all counties of the State;
- (3) How the collection system will be convenient and adequate to serve the needs of all persons seeking to use the program for the management of unwanted electronic smoking devices; and
- (4) How the collection system will ensure that each collection receptacle provided by the stewardship organization to a collection location will be emptied and serviced as often as necessary to avoid the receptacle's reaching storage capacity and to ensure proper operation of the receptacle;

C. The names and locations of recyclers, processors and disposal facilities that may be used by the program;

D. Information on how the unwanted electronic smoking devices will be safely and securely transported, tracked and handled from collection through final disposition;

E. A description of the methods to be used to reuse, deconstruct and recycle the unwanted electronic smoking devices to ensure that the device components are transformed or remanufactured to the extent feasible;

F. A description of how the convenience and adequacy of the collection system will be monitored and maintained;

G. A description of how the amount of unwanted electronic smoking devices collected, recycled, processed, reused and disposed of will be measured;

H. A description of the education and outreach methods that will be used to recruit, train and monitor collection locations and to encourage participation in the program on an ongoing basis by collection locations and by persons throughout the State;

I. A description of how education and outreach methods will be evaluated, including, at a minimum, completion of an annual consumer awareness survey to assess consumer knowledge regarding management options and collection locations for unwanted electronic smoking devices. The survey questions and methodology must be approved by the department, and the survey must be administered by a qualified 3rd party;

J. A description of how program performance will be assessed, including performance goals to show success of the program. When a performance goal is expressed as a recycling rate or a diversion from disposal rate, the stewardship plan must include a description of the methodology and the relevant historic sales data used to develop the rate. Sales information submitted to the department pursuant to this paragraph that is identified by the producer or stewardship organization as proprietary information is confidential and must be handled by the department in accordance with subsection 11. The performance goals under this paragraph must include, at a minimum, one of the following:

- (1) That at least 50% of the residents of the State will be aware of the program by no later than the end of the 3rd year of program implementation and at least 70% of the residents of the State will be aware of the program by no later than the end of the 6th year of program implementation;
- (2) That a diversion from disposal rate of at least 50% will be achieved by the program by no later than the end of the 4th year of program implementation; or
- (3) An alternative performance goal that does not meet the criteria in subparagraph (1) or (2) as long as sufficient evidence is provided to the department to justify that alternative performance goal;

K. A description of how the program will be financed. If the program is financed by a per unit assessment paid by the consumer at the point of sale, a plan for an annual 3rd-party audit to ensure

revenue from the assessment does not exceed the costs of implementing the program must be included;

L. An anticipated annual budget for the program that includes identification of specific anticipated administrative, collection, transportation, disposition and communication costs for the program. The anticipated annual budget must be sufficient to fund the program staffing required under subsection 2, paragraph D and the reimbursement by the producer or stewardship organization of the department's actual costs incurred in annual report review and in overseeing, administering and enforcing the program. The anticipated annual budget may not include costs for legal fees or costs related to legislative efforts that have been or will be incurred by the producer or stewardship organization; and

M. Any other information required by the department.

7. Department review and approval. Within 120 days after receipt of a proposed stewardship plan, or a proposed amendment to a previously approved stewardship plan, the department shall determine whether the stewardship plan complies with this section. If the stewardship plan is approved, the department shall notify the person that submitted the plan in writing. If the department rejects the stewardship plan, the department shall notify the person that submitted the plan in writing stating the reason for rejecting the stewardship plan. Within 30 days of approval by the department of a submitted stewardship plan, or approval of an amendment to a previously approved stewardship plan submitted pursuant to subsection 9, the department shall publish the approved stewardship plan, or an approved amendment to a previously approved stewardship plan, on the department's publicly accessible website.

8. Implementation of plan. A producer or stewardship organization that submitted a stewardship plan under subsection 6 that was approved by the department under subsection 7 shall implement the plan no later than 180 days after the date the plan was approved.

9. Stewardship plan amendments. In accordance with the provisions of this subsection, a producer or stewardship organization or the department may initiate changes to an approved electronic smoking device stewardship plan.

A. A change to an approved stewardship plan by a producer or stewardship organization operating the program implemented under the stewardship plan must be submitted to the department for review and approval prior to the implementation of that change, except that if the producer or stewardship organization determines that the change is not substantive, such as the addition of or a change to collection locations, or if an additional producer joins

the program, the producer or stewardship organization must inform the department of the change within 14 days of implementing the change but need not receive department approval unless the department determines that the change is substantive. The department shall review and approve stewardship plan amendments in accordance with subsection 7.

B. If the department determines that a program has failed to make adequate progress toward achieving the program's performance goals described in the approved stewardship plan pursuant to subsection 6, paragraph J, the department shall notify the producer or stewardship organization operating the program in writing regarding its determination and may direct the producer or stewardship organization to implement specific changes to the stewardship plan within 6 months of the written notification, which may include, but are not limited to, improvements to the convenience of the collection system or to the education and outreach efforts under the program to improve program performance. The department may also recommend in its annual report under section 1772, subsection 1 that the program be amended to require additional financial or other incentives or, if appropriate, implementation of a deposit and refund system.

10. Annual report. By March 1st of the calendar year after the calendar year in which an approved stewardship plan is implemented, and annually thereafter, the producer or stewardship organization operating the program shall submit to the department a report on the program for the previous calendar year. The report must include:

A. The amount of unwanted electronic smoking devices collected at each collection location;

B. A description of the methods used to collect, transport and process the electronic smoking devices;

C. An evaluation of program performance, including, if possible, diversion and recycling rates together with certificates of recycling or similar confirmations and an evaluation of the convenience of the collection system implemented under the program;

D. A description of the methods used for education and outreach efforts and an evaluation of the effectiveness of those efforts. The report must include the results of an assessment of the methods used for and effectiveness of education and outreach efforts. The assessment must be completed by a qualified 3rd party;

E. If applicable, the report of the 3rd-party audit conducted to ensure that revenue collected from the assessment does not exceed implementation costs pursuant to subsection 6, paragraph K;

F. Any recommendations for changes to the program and to the approved goals for the program to improve convenience of collection, consumer education and program evaluation;

G. A financial report on the program, including the total cost of implementing the program as determined by a 3rd-party audit that includes identification of specific administrative, collection, transportation, disposition and communication costs for the program, and an anticipated budget for the program for the next program year; and

H. Any other information required by the department.

The department shall include the information reported by a producer or stewardship organization pursuant to this subsection in the department's annual report under section 1772, subsection 1.

11. Proprietary information. Proprietary information submitted to the department in a stewardship plan, in an amendment to a stewardship plan or pursuant to reporting requirements of this section that is identified by the submitter as proprietary information is confidential and must be handled by the department in the same manner as confidential information is handled under section 1310-B.

12. Administration and enforcement; rules. The department shall enforce this section and may adopt rules as necessary for the purposes of implementing, administering and enforcing this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF

Remediation and Waste Management 0247

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for one limited-period Environmental Specialist III position and associated position costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$104,480
All Other	\$0	\$5,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$109,480

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 770

H.P. 1421 - L.D. 2106

An Act to Limit Consent for Entry into Nonpublic Areas of and to Limit Access to Protected Records Maintained by Certain Public Entities

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §200-O is enacted to read:

§200-O. Model policies and guidance for limiting authority to consent for entry or records review

1. Model policies and guidance. No later than 60 days after the effective date of this section, the Attorney General shall publish model policies and guidance for ensuring that facilities providing services to members of the public remain safe and accessible to all state residents regardless of immigration status by limiting, to the fullest extent possible consistent with state and federal law, voluntary consent for entry into nonpublic areas of the facility by law enforcement officers for immigration enforcement purposes and disclosure of protected records held by the facility to law enforcement officers for immigration enforcement purposes. The Attorney General shall review and may amend the published model policies and guidance on a biennial basis.

2. Mandatory adoption of model policies and guidance. The following facilities shall adopt the model policies and guidance published by the Attorney General under subsection 1, or establish equivalent policies and guidance, within 3 months of the date that the Attorney General publishes the model policies and guidance applicable to the facility and within 3 months of the date that the Attorney General publishes any amended model policies and guidance applicable to the facility:

A. Public schools and postsecondary educational institutions as provided in Title 20-A, section 14;

B. State institutions as provided in Title 22, section 1730-B; and

C. State libraries as provided in Title 27, section 109-A.

3. Optional adoption of model policies and guidance. The following facilities may, but are not required to, adopt the model policies and guidance or an amendment to the model policies and guidance published by the Attorney General under subsection 1:

A. A private preschool, private elementary school, private secondary school or private postsecondary educational institution that is not subject to Title 20-A, section 14, subsection 5;

B. A health care facility that is not subject to Title 22, section 1730-B, subsection 5. For purposes of this paragraph, "health care facility" has the same meaning as in section 19201, subsection 2-B;

C. A facility that provides residential or community supports for adults or children or a facility or program that provides health care, assisted living services, behavioral health services, services to persons with intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorder or acquired brain injuries or similar services that is not subject to Title 22, section 1730-B, subsection 5;

D. A child care facility or family child care provider licensed under Title 22, section 8301-A;

E. A public library that is not subject to Title 27, section 109-A, subsection 5. For purposes of this paragraph, "public library" has the same meaning as in Title 27, section 110, subsection 10; and

F. A house of worship or other place where religious services are conducted.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §14 is enacted to read:

§14. Limited authority of public schools and postsecondary educational institutions to consent for entry into nonpublic areas and to access records

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Education record" has the same meaning as in the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 United States Code, Section 1232g(a)(4), and its implementing regulations.

B. "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as defined in Title 16, section 638, subsection 2 and includes a "federal officer" as defined in Title 25, section 1502-A, subsection 1.

C. "Nonpublic area" means an area of a building or facility that the public is not free to enter or access and includes a restricted access area within a building or facility that is otherwise predominately open to the public. "Nonpublic area" also includes all areas within a building or facility during any time that the building or facility is closed for operation.

D. "Public school" means a "public preschool program" as defined in section 1, subsection 23-A; a "publicly supported secondary school" as defined in section 1, subsection 23-B; and a "public school" as defined in section 1, subsection 24.

E. "State postsecondary educational institution" means a university within the University of Maine System; a college within the Maine Community

College System; and the Maine Maritime Academy.

2. Voluntary consent for entry into nonpublic areas prohibited. A person acting on behalf of a public school or state postsecondary educational institution may not provide voluntary consent permitting a law enforcement officer to enter a nonpublic area of the public school or state postsecondary educational institution for immigration enforcement purposes.

3. Voluntary consent to access education records prohibited. A person acting on behalf of a public school or state postsecondary educational institution may not provide voluntary consent permitting a law enforcement officer to access education records for immigration enforcement purposes. This subsection may not be construed to prevent a person acting on behalf of a public school or state postsecondary educational institution from disclosing education records in response to a request from a law enforcement officer to the extent that the disclosure is required by a court order or by state or federal law.

4. Mandatory compliance activities. Notwithstanding subsections 2 and 3, if a public school or state postsecondary educational institution is required by federal law to permit a law enforcement officer to inspect specific records or to conduct interviews regarding the eligibility of noncitizens to work in the United States or to attend school in the United States:

A. The public school or state postsecondary educational institution shall designate a nonpublic area within the public school or state postsecondary educational institution where federal immigration officials may conduct these inspections and interviews; and

B. The public school or state postsecondary educational institution may permit law enforcement officers to access a specific location to verify eligibility for employment or school attendance, if federal law requires that law enforcement officers be provided access to that specific location within the public school or state postsecondary educational institution when conducting these inspections and interviews.

5. Required policy and guidance. Each public school and state postsecondary educational institution in the State shall adopt the model policies and guidance published by the Attorney General under Title 5, section 200-O or establish equivalent policies and guidance as required by Title 5, section 200-O, subsection 2.

6. Violation; exemption. Prior to the date that a public school or state postsecondary educational institution adopts, or is required to adopt, whichever is earlier, a policy and guidance pursuant to Title 5, section 200-O, subsection 2, a person acting on behalf of the public school or state postsecondary educational institution does not violate subsection 2 or subsection 3 if

the person provides voluntary consent permitting a law enforcement officer to enter a nonpublic area of a public school or state postsecondary educational institution or to access education records and if the person is acting in good faith.

7. Other educational facilities. A private preschool, private elementary school, private secondary school or private postsecondary educational institution that is not subject to subsection 5 may, but is not required to, adopt the model policies and guidance or an amendment to the model policies and guidance published by the Attorney General pursuant to Title 5, section 200-O, subsection 1.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §1730-B is enacted to read:

§1730-B. Limited authority of certain health care facilities to consent for entry into nonpublic areas and to access records

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Health care facility" has the same meaning as in Title 5, section 19201, subsection 2-B.

B. "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as defined in Title 16, section 638, subsection 2 and includes a "federal officer" as defined in Title 25, section 1502-A, subsection 1.

C. "Nonpublic area" means an area of a building or facility that the public is not free to enter or access and includes a restricted access area within a building or facility that is otherwise predominately open to the public. "Nonpublic area" also includes all areas within a building or facility during any time that the building or facility is closed for operation.

D. "Protected health care information" has the same meaning as "health care information" as defined in section 1711-C, subsection 1, paragraph E and includes individually identifiable health care information, the disclosure of which is restricted by the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Public Law 104-191 and its implementing regulations.

E. "State institution" has the same meaning as in Title 34-B, section 1001, subsection 8.

2. Voluntary consent for entry into nonpublic areas prohibited. A person acting on behalf of a state institution may not provide voluntary consent permitting a law enforcement officer to enter a nonpublic area of the state institution for immigration enforcement purposes.

3. Voluntary consent to access protected health care information prohibited. A person acting on behalf of a state institution may not provide voluntary con-

sent permitting a law enforcement officer to access protected health care information for immigration enforcement purposes. This subsection may not be construed to prevent a person acting on behalf of a state institution from disclosing protected health care information in response to a request from a law enforcement officer to the extent that the disclosure is required by a court order or by state or federal law.

4. Mandatory compliance activities. Notwithstanding subsection 2, if a state institution is required by federal law to permit a law enforcement officer to inspect specific records that do not contain protected health care information or to conduct interviews regarding the eligibility of noncitizens to work in the United States:

A. The state institution shall designate a nonpublic area within the state institution where federal immigration officials may conduct these inspections and interviews; and

B. The state institution may permit law enforcement officers to access a specific location to verify eligibility for employment, if federal law requires that law enforcement officers be provided access to that specific location within the state institution when conducting these inspections and interviews.

5. Required policy and guidance; licensure. Each state institution shall adopt the model policies and guidance published by the Attorney General under Title 5, section 200-O or establish equivalent policies and guidance as required by Title 5, section 200-O, subsection 2. Beginning January 1, 2027, the department may verify compliance with this requirement as part of any applicable initial licensure or license renewal process under this Title.

6. Violation; exemptions. The following provisions govern violations of this section.

A. Violations of this section are not subject to section 47, subsections 3 and 4.

B. Prior to the date that a state institution adopts, or is required to adopt, whichever is earlier, a policy and guidance pursuant to Title 5, section 200-O, subsection 2, a person acting on behalf of the state institution does not violate subsection 2 or subsection 3 if the person provides voluntary consent permitting a law enforcement officer to enter a nonpublic area of a state institution or to access protected health care information for immigration purposes and if the person is acting in good faith.

7. Other facilities. A health care facility or a facility providing residential or community supports for adults or children or a facility or program that provides health care, assisted living services, behavioral health services, services to persons with intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorder or acquired brain injuries or similar services that is not subject to subsection 5

may, but is not required to, adopt the model policies and guidance or an amendment to the model policies and guidance published by the Attorney General pursuant to Title 5, section 200-O, subsection 1.

Sec. 5. 27 MRSA §109-A is enacted to read:

§109-A. Limited authority of certain libraries to consent for entry into nonpublic areas and to access records

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as defined in Title 16, section 638, subsection 2 and includes a "federal officer" as defined in Title 25, section 1502-A, subsection 1.

B. "Nonpublic area" means an area of a building or facility that the public is not free to enter or access and includes a restricted access area within a building or facility that is otherwise predominately open to the public. "Nonpublic area" also includes all otherwise public areas within a building or facility during any time that the building or facility is closed for operation.

C. "Protected patron record" means a record maintained by a state library or public library that is confidential pursuant to section 121, subsection 1.

D. "Public library" has the same meaning as in section 110, subsection 10.

E. "State library" means the Maine State Library; the Law and Legislative Reference Library; and a library of the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy.

2. Voluntary consent for entry into nonpublic areas prohibited. A person acting on behalf of a state library may not provide voluntary consent permitting a law enforcement officer to enter a nonpublic area of the state library for immigration enforcement purposes.

3. Voluntary consent to access protected patron records prohibited. A person acting on behalf of a state library may not provide voluntary consent permitting a law enforcement officer to access protected patron records for immigration enforcement purposes. This subsection may not be construed to prevent a person acting on behalf of a state library from disclosing protected patron records in response to a request from a law enforcement officer to the extent that the disclosure is required by a court order or by state or federal law.

4. Mandatory compliance activities. Notwithstanding subsection 2, if a state library is required by federal law to permit a law enforcement officer to inspect specific records other than protected patron records or to conduct interviews regarding the eligibility of noncitizens to work in the United States;

A. The state library shall designate a nonpublic area within the state library where law enforcement officers may conduct these inspections and interviews; and

B. The state library may permit law enforcement officers to access a specific location to verify eligibility for employment if federal law requires that law enforcement officers be provided access to that specific location within the state library when conducting these inspections and interviews.

5. Required policy and guidance. Each state library shall adopt the model policies and guidance published by the Attorney General under Title 5, section 200-O or establish equivalent policies and guidance as required by Title 5, section 200-O, subsection 2.

6. Violation; exceptions. Prior to the date that a state library adopts, or is required to adopt, whichever is earlier, a policy and guidance pursuant to Title 5, section 200-O, subsection 2, a person acting on behalf of the state library does not violate subsection 2 or subsection 3 if the person provides voluntary consent permitting a law enforcement officer to enter a nonpublic area of a state library or to access protected patron records for immigration purposes and if the person is acting in good faith.

7. Other public libraries. A public library that is not subject to subsection 5 may, but is not required to, adopt the model policies and guidance or an amendment to the model policies and guidance published by the Attorney General pursuant to Title 5, section 200-O, subsection 1.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 771

H.P. 18 - L.D. 54

**An Act to Require Employers
to Disclose Pay Ranges and
Maintain Records of
Employees' Pay Histories**

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §622-A is enacted to read:

§622-A. Pay transparency

This section governs disclosure and record keeping by employers of employee pay information.

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Posting" means a solicitation that is intended to recruit employment applicants for a specific available position and that includes qualifications for

desired applicants, including recruitment done directly by an employer or indirectly through a 3rd party. "Posting" includes postings made electronically or with a printed hard copy.

B. "Range of pay" means the range of pay that an employer anticipates relying on in setting wages for a position, including, but not limited to, reference to:

- (1) Any applicable pay scale;
- (2) A previously determined range of wages for the position;
- (3) The actual range of wages for those currently holding equivalent positions; or
- (4) The budgeted amount for the position.

"Range of pay" does not include compensation that is based solely on commission.

2. Employer with 10 or more employees. An employer that has 10 or more employees shall ensure that a posting includes a statement that lists the prospective range of pay the employer will offer to a successful applicant unless the position that is the subject of the posting is compensated solely on the basis of commission, in which case the required posted statement must indicate that the compensation for the position is based solely on commission.

3. Pay disclosure; records. Upon the request of an employee, an employer shall disclose the range of pay the employer offers for the position the employee holds. An employer shall maintain a record of each position held by an employee and the pay history of the employee in each position for the duration of the employee's employment with the employer and for 3 years after the termination of the employee's employment.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF

Regulation and Enforcement 0159

Initiative: Provides ongoing funds for one Labor and Safety Inspector position and provides funding for related All Other costs to enforce the requirement that employers disclose pay ranges and maintain records of employees' pay histories.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$75,336
All Other	\$0	\$6,065
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$81,401

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 772

S.P. 874 - L.D. 2155

An Act to Exempt, for Licenses Issued Prior to December 21, 2025, Persons Holding a Majority Ownership Interest from the Restriction on the Number of Manufacturing Facility Licenses and On-premises Retail Licenses

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

Sec. 1. 28-A MRSA §1355-A, sub-§2-C is enacted to read:

2-C. Grandfathering of certain licenses issued prior to December 21, 2025. The bureau may not suspend, revoke or refuse to renew a license issued under this section or chapter 43 that was initially issued prior to December 21, 2025 solely on the basis that the person or persons holding a majority ownership interest in the licensed manufacturing facility were determined by the bureau after the license was initially issued to hold a majority ownership interest in more than the allowable number of on-premises retail licenses issued under chapter 43 if the on-premises retail licenses issued under chapter 43 were also initially issued prior to December 21, 2025.

A license grandfathered pursuant to this subsection may not be sold, transferred or otherwise conveyed.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 773

H.P. 223 - L.D. 323

An Act to Fund Staff Support for the State Board of Education

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

Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, STATE BOARD OF

State Board of Education 0614

Initiative: Provides one-time funds for the State Board of Education to contract for staffing services. Funds may not be used to establish or fund a permanent position.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$25,000

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$25,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 774

S.P. 628 - L.D. 1544

An Act to Support Families by Improving the Court Process for Child Protection Cases

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4002, sub-§1-B, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 715, Pt. B, §1, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4034, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2015, c. 501, §9, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

1. Request. A petitioner may add to a child protection petition a request for a preliminary protection order or may request a preliminary protection order separately from the child protection petition. A request for a preliminary protection order must be sworn and must include at least the following:

A. A summary of facts to support the request:

B. A detailed summary of how the department weighed the trauma to the child of removal from the child's home against the alleged immediate risk of serious harm to the child and the specific factors the department considered; and

C. The specific services offered and provided under section 4036-B, subsection 3 to prevent the removal of the child from the child's home.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §4034, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2001, c. 696, §25, is further amended to read:

2. Order. If the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence presented in the sworn summary or otherwise that there is an immediate risk of serious harm to the child, it may order any disposition under section 4036. In considering whether to grant a preliminary protection order, the court shall consider the trauma to the child of removal from the child's home and whether the department has exhausted the options to mitigate the immediate risk of serious harm to the child and avoid the removal of the child from the child's home. A preliminary protection order automatically expires at the time of the issuing of a final protection order under section 4035 or a judicial review order under section 4038.

Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §4034, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2015, c. 501, §10, is further amended to read:

4. Summary preliminary hearing. The court shall schedule a summary preliminary hearing on a preliminary protection order within 14 days but not less

than 7 days after issuance of the preliminary protection order, except that counsel for a parent may request that the hearing take place sooner. Upon request of counsel, the court may conduct the summary preliminary hearing as expeditiously as the court determines the interests of justice require. If a parent, custodian or legal guardian appears for the summary preliminary hearing and does not consent to the preliminary protection order, the court shall conduct a hearing at which the petitioner bears the burden of proof. At a summary preliminary hearing, the court shall consider the trauma to the child of removal from the child's home in determining whether to continue the preliminary protection order and whether the department has exhausted the options to mitigate the immediate risk of serious harm to the child and avoid the removal of the child from the child's home. The court may limit testimony to the testimony of the caseworker, parent, custodian, legal guardian, guardian ad litem, foster parent, preadoptive parent or relative providing care and may admit evidence, including reports and records, that would otherwise be ~~inadmissible~~ inadmissible as hearsay evidence. If after the hearing the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that returning the child to the child's custodian would place the child in immediate risk of serious harm, it shall make findings explaining why the risk of harm to the child is outweighed by the trauma of the child's removal from the child's home and that the department has exhausted the options to mitigate the immediate risk of serious harm and avoid the removal of the child from the child's home and continue the order or make another disposition under section 4036. If the court's preliminary protection order includes a finding of an aggravating factor, the court may order the department not to commence reunification or to cease reunification, in which case the court shall conduct a hearing on jeopardy and conduct a permanency planning hearing. The hearings must commence within 30 days of entry of the preliminary protection order.

If the petitioner has not been able to serve a parent, custodian or legal guardian before the scheduled summary preliminary hearing, the parent, custodian or legal guardian may request a subsequent summary preliminary hearing within 10 days after receipt of the petition.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 775

S.P. 871 - L.D. 2150

An Act to Enhance Notice to Individuals Whose Access to State Property Has Been Restricted

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §60 is enacted to read:

§60. Restriction of access to state property or services; restriction of communication with or through entities of the State

1. Entity of the State; definition. As used in this section, "entity of the State" means any office, department, agency, authority, commission, board, institution, hospital or other instrumentality of the State, except that "entity of the State" does not include a public institution of higher education.

2. Notice or communication of restriction. An entity of the State that issues a notice or communication, or a local law enforcement agency that issues a notice or communication on behalf of an entity of the State, that restricts a person from accessing state property or services provided by the State or from communicating with or through the entity to which an otherwise unrestricted person would have access must issue the notice or communication in writing to the restricted person. The written notice or communication must include the factual basis for the entity of the State's decision to restrict the person's access or communication as well as information describing the procedure to challenge the notice or communication. The issuance of a court order does not satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

3. Final agency action. A notice or communication issued pursuant to this section constitutes final agency action for the purposes of review under chapter 375.

4. Copy to Department of Public Safety. An entity of the State other than the Department of Public Safety that issues a written notice or communication pursuant to this section shall send a copy of that notice or communication to the Department of Public Safety.

5. Applicability. This section does not apply to the Department of Corrections with respect to placing restrictions on a resident of a department facility as defined under Title 34-A, section 3015, subsection 1.

Sec. 2. Department of Public Safety; data collection, report. No later than January 15, 2028, the Department of Public Safety shall, within existing resources, submit a report regarding the implementation of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 60 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters. The report must include at least the following data:

1. The number of notices or communications issued by or on behalf of an entity of the State;
2. The number of notices or communications issued by or on behalf of an entity of the State that were subsequently violated by the person being restricted;
3. A list of the entities of the State that issued notices or communications and the number of notices or communications issued on behalf of each entity;

4. The geographic scope of the impact that the notice or communication issued to the restricted person has on the entity of the State, including whether the notice or communication was issued for a regional office or offices across the State;

5. The final duration of each notice or communication; and

6. The number of notices or communications that were challenged pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375.

The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters may report out legislation based on the findings and recommendations of the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

PRIVATE AND SPECIAL LAWS OF THE STATE OF MAINE
AS PASSED AT
THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
2025

CHAPTER 11

H.P. 1371 - L.D. 2041

**An Act to Increase the Debt
Limit of the North Jay Water
District**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, a new water main is needed to allow the North Jay Water District to protect the health of residents served by the district; and

Whereas, the needed funds would exceed the current borrowing capacity of the district; and

Whereas, the district needs an immediate increase in its borrowing authority in order to timely schedule the needed improvements; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. P&SL 1951, c. 107, §9, first sentence, as amended by P&SL 2003, c. 10, §1, is further amended to read:

For accomplishing the purposes of this act, the district, through its trustees, is authorized to borrow money from time to time, not exceeding ~~\$900,000~~ **\$15,000,000** and to issue therefor the interest-bearing negotiable notes or bonds of the district, maturing serially or otherwise, and to make subsequent renewals of the same in whole or in part, and for said purposes and for the purpose of refunding any notes, bonds or other lawful indebtedness, to establish a fund therefor, and for the purpose of obtaining or providing money to pay or to meet any necessary expenses and liabilities incurred or assumed under the provisions of this act, including expenses in the creation of this district, in securing sources of supply, taking water and land, paying damages, laying pipes, constructing, maintaining and operating a water plant and making extensions, additions and improvements to the same, the district, through its trustees, may, from time to time, issue bonds of the district to an amount

necessary in the judgment of the trustees therefor, maturing at ~~4~~ **one** time or in uniform or varying installments, with or without call provisions and at such rates of interest and on such terms and conditions as the trustees determine.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 12

H.P. 1374 - L.D. 2050

**An Act to Dissolve the Great
Salt Bay Community School
District**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the towns of Bremen, Damariscotta and Newcastle are members of the Great Salt Bay Community School District that voted to approve a reorganization plan to form Regional School Unit No. 48, effective July 1, 2025; and

Whereas, the method for voters to dissolve a community school district under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 1751 was repealed in 2007; and

Whereas, the Great Salt Bay Community School District has no connection to the reorganized Regional School Unit No. 48 and no longer serves a purpose but has not been formally dissolved; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. Great Salt Bay Community School District dissolved. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Great Salt Bay Community School District is dissolved.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 13

S.P. 833 - L.D. 2043

An Act to Raise the Ogunquit Sewer District Debt Limit

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

Sec. 1. P&SL 1963, c. 87, §17, first ¶, as amended by P&SL 2021, c. 15, §14, is further amended to read:

Sec. 17. Authorized to borrow money and to issue bonds and notes. To procure funds for the purposes of this Act and for such other expenses as may be necessary for the carrying out of the purposes, the district without a district vote but by action of its board of trustees is authorized to raise funds from sources other than operational activities by receiving governmental aid and also by borrowing money in accordance with this section. The district may issue its notes and bonds in one series or in separate series from time to time, as long as the aggregate outstanding principal balance at any one time does not exceed ~~\$12,000,000~~ \$17,000,000, unless a higher debt obligation limit is established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 1054, except that the district may employ the procedures set forth in Title 30-A, section 2354 as an alternative to the procedures in Title 30-A, chapter 121.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 14

H.P. 1447 - L.D. 2158

An Act to Address Vacancies on the Knox County Budget Committee

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, current law establishes the Knox County budget committee and requires the membership, consisting of 9 members, to be elected to the budget committee in an even-numbered year; and

Whereas, under the Knox County charter, business may not be conducted without the presence of a quorum, which is at least 5 members; and

Whereas, due to vacancies on the budget committee and the failure to fill those vacancies at the 2024 election, the budget committee no longer has a quorum; and

Whereas, this legislation provides for a temporary alternative method of appointment of members to the budget committee; and

Whereas, this legislation must take effect as soon as possible to allow the budget committee to complete its work on the Knox County budget for 2026; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. Temporary appointment of members to Knox County budget committee. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 751 or in the Knox County charter regarding the election of members to the Knox County budget committee and the filling of vacancies on the Knox County budget committee, the following provisions apply.

1. Definitions. As used in this Act, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Budget committee" means the Knox County budget committee established in Title 30-A, section 751.

B. "County commissioners" means the county commissioners of Knox County.

C. "District" means the budget committee districts established in Title 30-A, section 757, subsection 2.

D. "Eligible resident" means an individual registered to vote in Knox County who is a resident of the district for which that individual is nominated and elected.

2. Appointment of eligible residents. The county commissioners may appoint an eligible resident to fill a vacancy on the budget committee when there are fewer than 5 members of the budget committee who have been duly elected or who have been appointed pursuant to this subsection and seated.

3. Candidates recommended by municipalities. Notwithstanding Title 30-A, section 751, subsection 1, paragraph B, a municipality may submit a written recommendation identifying an eligible resident to fill a vacancy on the budget committee. The county commissioners shall give due regard to such a recommendation

when making an appointment to the budget committee pursuant to subsection 2.

4. Term of appointed members. A member of the budget committee appointed to fill a vacancy pursuant to this section fills the vacant seat for the balance of the unexpired term.

5. Voting status of appointed members. A member of the budget committee appointed to fill a vacancy pursuant to this section is a full voting member of the budget committee.

6. Authority to fill vacant seats when quorum exists unaffected. This section does not affect the requirement in Title 30-A, section 751, subsection 1, paragraph D that the budget committee fill a vacancy occurring on the budget committee when it has a quorum to act.

7. Termination of authority. The authority granted in this Act expires December 31, 2028.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 14, 2026.

CHAPTER 15

H.P. 1441 - L.D. 2152

An Act to Make Allocations from Maine Turnpike Authority Funds for the Maine Turnpike Authority for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2027

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

Sec. 1. Allocation. Gross revenues of the Maine Turnpike Authority for the calendar year ending December 31, 2027 must be segregated, apportioned and disbursed as designated in the following schedule.

MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY 2027

Administration

Personal Services	\$1,743,073
All Other	1,988,572
TOTAL	\$3,731,645

Accounts and Controls

Personal Services	\$4,522,635
All Other	2,075,653
TOTAL	\$6,598,288

Highway Maintenance

Personal Services	\$8,107,865
All Other	5,473,270
TOTAL	\$13,581,135

Equipment Maintenance

Personal Services	\$1,889,717
All Other	3,983,550
TOTAL	\$5,873,267

Fare Collection

Personal Services	\$11,968,837
All Other	4,458,974
TOTAL	\$16,427,811

Public Safety and Special Services

Personal Services	\$772,225
All Other	9,253,515
TOTAL	\$10,025,740

Building Maintenance

Personal Services	\$1,027,086
All Other	861,627
TOTAL	\$1,888,713

Subtotal of Line Items Budgeted \$58,126,599

General Contingency - 10% of line items budgeted for 2027 (10% allowed) \$5,812,660

MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
TOTAL REVENUE FUNDS **\$63,939,259**

Sec. 2. Transfer of allocations. Any balance of the allocation for "General Contingency" made by the Legislature for the Maine Turnpike Authority may be transferred at any time prior to the closing of the books to any other allocation or subdivision of any other allocation made by the Legislature for the use of the Maine Turnpike Authority for the same calendar year. Any balance of any other allocation or subdivision of any other allocation made by the Legislature for the Maine Turnpike Authority that at any time is not required for the purpose named in the allocation or subdivision may be transferred at any time prior to the closing of the books to any other allocation or subdivision of any other allocation made by the Legislature for the use of the Maine Turnpike Authority for the same calendar year subject to review by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters. Financial statements describing the transfer, other than a transfer from "General Contin-

agency," must be submitted by the Maine Turnpike Authority to the Office of Fiscal and Program Review 30 days before the transfer is to be implemented. In case of extraordinary emergency transfers, the 30-day prior submission requirement may be waived by vote of the committee. These financial statements must include information specifying the accounts that are affected, amounts to be transferred, a description of the transfer and a detailed explanation as to why the transfer is needed.

Sec. 3. Encumbered balance at year-end.

At the end of each calendar year, encumbered balances may be carried to the next calendar year.

Sec. 4. Supplemental information. As required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 1961, subsection 6, the following statement of the revenues in 2027 that are necessary for capital expenditures and reserves and to meet the requirements of any resolution authorizing bonds of the Maine Turnpike Authority during 2027, including debt service and the maintenance of reserves for debt service and reserve maintenance, is submitted.

Turnpike Revenue Bond Resolution Adopted April 18, 1991; Issuance of Bonds Authorized Pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 1968, subsections 1 and 2-A 2027

Debt Service Fund	\$44,058,800
Reserve Maintenance Fund	42,000,000
General Reserve Fund, to be applied as follows:	
Capital Improvements	39,558,032
Debt Service Fund under the General Special Obligation Bond Resolution Adopted May 15, 1996; Issuance of Bonds Authorized Pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 1968, subsection 2-A	2,357,000
TOTAL	\$127,973,832

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 16

H.P. 1493 - L.D. 2214

An Act to Confirm and Finalize the Boundary Between the Town of Kittery and the Town of York

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until

90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the communities of Kittery and York have experienced a history of border disputes and disagreement over the municipal boundary line between the 2 towns; and

Whereas, the 2 towns have reached a mutually agreed-upon description of their common boundary in an amicable manner; and

Whereas, it is in the public interest to immediately acknowledge the amicable settlement of the boundary line dispute between the 2 towns as mutually agreed upon; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. Boundary line. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the boundary line between the Town of Kittery and the Town of York is as described:

Beginning at the base of a 5-foot tall 3-inch by 9-inch granite monument found at the northwesterly corner of the Town of Kittery and the southwesterly line of the Town of York, located N 35°48'52" E, a distance of 48.45 feet from a 2-foot tall 6-inch by 6-inch granite monument found with disc stamped "1995 YORK ELIOT STA 202-49.63 CIVIL CONSULTANTS PLS 1302" at the northeasterly corner of the Town of Eliot and common line of the Towns of York and Kittery;

1. Thence S 74°55'57" E, a distance of 151.79 feet to the centerline of a discontinued road known as Gee Road or Old Cutts Road;

2. Thence S 58°04'52" E, a distance of 1,591.44 feet;

3. Thence S 53°25'18" E, a distance of 2,048.07 feet to a 5/8-inch iron rebar with identifying cap marked "U.S. DEPT. OF INTERIOR – FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE – TR 22 COR 241 – PLS 2384 – 2023";

4. Thence S 53°22'19" E, a distance of 468.58 feet to a 3/4-inch iron pipe;

5. Thence S 53°21'17" E, a distance of 399.80 feet to a 3/4-inch iron pipe;

6. Thence S 56°49'54" E, a distance of 150.33 feet to a point near the westerly sideline of Betty Welch Road;

7. Thence S 43°27'47" E, a distance of 50.31 feet to a point near the easterly sideline of said Betty Welch Road;

8. Thence S 55°12'35" E partially along remains of a stone wall, a distance of 92.38 feet;

9. Thence S 57°55'09" E along said stone wall remains, a distance of 41.51 feet to the end of said stone wall remains;

10. Thence S 52°42'17" E, a distance of 106.31 feet to the beginning of stone wall remains;

11. Thence S 53°18'12" E, a distance of 38.26 feet to a point to the end of said stone wall remains and a barbed wire fence;

12. Thence S 53°15'32" E, a distance of 307.11 feet to a tree embedded with barbed wire fence;

13. Thence S 48°52'46" E along a barbed wire fence, a distance of 60.39 feet;

14. Thence S 53°41'38" E, a distance of 320.72 feet to the beginning of a stone wall;

15. Thence S 52°33'59" E along said stone wall, a distance of 55.50 feet;

16. Thence S 55°26'51" E along said stone wall, a distance of 145.46 feet;

17. Thence S 53°49'54" E along said stone wall, a distance of 28.65 feet;

18. Thence S 42°54'12" E along said stone wall, a distance of 17.66 feet;

19. Thence S 58°22'49" E along said stone wall, a distance of 42.47 feet;

20. Thence S 54°56'50" E along said stone wall, a distance of 30.63 feet to a stone wall end;

21. Thence S 55°26'19" E, a distance of 922.07 feet to a 6-inch by 6-inch concrete highway monument;

22. Thence S 56°02'51" E, a distance of 335.90 feet to a 6-inch by 6-inch concrete highway monument with a drill hole on the northwesterly sideline of Interstate 95;

23. Thence S 56°34'41" E, a distance of 635.55 feet to the intersection of a stone wall and the southeasterly sideline of Interstate 95;

24. Thence S 63°01'42" E partially along said stone wall, a distance of 167.51 feet to the beginning of a stone wall;

25. Thence S 60°20'38" E along said stone wall, a distance of 242.94 feet to stone wall intersection;

26. Thence S 31°49'29" W along said stone wall, a distance of 78.87 feet to a drill hole in said stone wall on the northeasterly sideline of Parsons Lane;

27. Thence S 52°04'31" E along said Parsons Lane, a distance of 224.58 feet to the beginning of stone wall remains;

28. Thence S 50°06'32" E along said Parsons Lane and partially along said stone wall remains, a distance of 289.81 feet to a 1 1/2-inch iron pipe in said stone wall remains;

29. Thence S 50°53'17" E along said Parsons Lane, a distance of 284.70 feet to a 2-inch iron pipe;

30. Thence S 55°33'32" E along said Parsons Lane, a distance of 173.02 feet;

31. Thence S 54°30'52" E along said Parsons Lane, a distance of 174.14 feet to a 2-inch iron pipe;

32. Thence S 57°29'03" E along said Parsons Lane, a distance of 316.82 feet to a point near the westerly sideline of U.S. Route 1;

33. Thence S 35°12'57" E, a distance of 72.80 feet to a 2-inch iron pipe near the easterly sideline of U.S. Route 1;

34. Thence S 48°59'32" E, a distance of 282.64 feet to the beginning of a stone wall;

35. Thence S 49°50'11" E along said stone wall, a distance of 90.31 feet to the end of said stone wall;

36. Thence S 47°40'32" E, a distance of 52.39 feet to the beginning of a stone wall;

37. Thence S 49°29'55" E along said stone wall, a distance of 116.45 feet;

38. Thence S 46°13'38" E along said stone wall, a distance of 29.30 feet;

39. Thence S 51°58'56" E along said stone wall, a distance of 59.64 feet;

40. Thence S 47°59'13" E along said stone wall, a distance of 11.38 feet to a stone wall corner;

41. Thence S 48°09'08" E, a distance of 283.55 feet to the beginning of a stone wall;

42. Thence S 54°57'32" E along said stone wall, a distance of 38.47 feet;

43. Thence S 53°57'44" E along said stone wall, a distance of 77.39 feet;

44. Thence S 35°50'06" E along said stone wall, a distance of 31.78 feet;

45. Thence S 55°04'41" E along said stone wall, a distance of 24.83 feet to the end of said stone wall;

46. Thence S 51°16'02" E, a distance of 104.86 feet to a stone wall corner with a 1 1/2-inch iron pipe;

47. Thence S 51°23'43" E along said stone wall, a distance of 59.27 feet to stone wall intersection;

48. Thence S 52°08'10" E along said stone wall, a distance of 58.42 feet to the end of said stone wall;

49. Thence S 62°19'16" E, a distance of 7.44 feet to the beginning of a stone wall;

50. Thence S 56°16'09" E along said stone wall, a distance of 13.62 feet;

51. Thence S 49°22'29" E along said stone wall, a distance of 25.03 feet;

52. Thence S 60°31'13" E along said stone wall, a distance of 20.02 feet;

53. Thence S 51°26'03" E along said stone wall, a distance of 18.51 feet;

54. Thence S 42°28'29" E along said stone wall, a distance of 34.80 feet;

55. Thence S 47°57'25" E along said stone wall, a distance of 46.77 feet to a drill hole in said stone wall;

56. Thence S 53°33'49" E along said stone wall, a distance of 53.92 feet;

57. Thence S 51°39'23" E along said stone wall, a distance of 77.61 feet;

58. Thence S 53°00'16" E along said stone wall, a distance of 36.97 feet to the end of said stone wall;

59. Thence S 50°54'28" E, a distance of 17.95 feet to the beginning of a stone wall;

60. Thence S 52°51'53" E along said stone wall, a distance of 107.92 feet to a drill hole in said stone wall;

61. Thence S 55°07'03" E along said stone wall, a distance of 93.79 feet to the end of said stone wall;

62. Thence S 62°10'24" E, a distance of 4.67 feet to beginning of a stone wall;

63. Thence S 52°57'00" E along said stone wall, a distance of 31.10 feet to a drill hole in said stone wall;

64. Thence S 44°23'14" E along said stone wall, a distance of 17.36 feet;

65. Thence S 53°03'40" E along said stone wall, a distance of 201.36 feet to the end of said stone wall;

66. Thence S 46°24'03" E, a distance of 383.66 feet to the beginning of a stone wall;

67. Thence S 59°42'26" E along said stone wall, a distance of 34.92 feet;

68. Thence S 55°17'23" E along said stone wall, a distance of 38.52 feet;

69. Thence S 58°49'09" E along said stone wall, a distance of 32.53 feet;

70. Thence S 51°10'52" E along said stone wall, a distance of 44.35 feet;

71. Thence S 56°58'29" E along said stone wall, a distance of 22.71 feet to a drill hole in said stone wall;

72. Thence S 48°11'47" E along said stone wall, a distance of 71.53 feet;

73. Thence S 46°23'19" E along said stone wall, a distance of 75.87 feet;

74. Thence S 49°24'03" E along said stone wall, a distance of 23.98 feet;

75. Thence S 53°50'45" E along said stone wall, a distance of 27.87 feet;

76. Thence S 49°28'27" E along said stone wall, a distance of 51.42 feet to a stone wall intersection;

77. Thence S 50°23'37" E along said stone wall, a distance of 69.64 feet to the end of said stone wall;

78. Thence S 52°52'48" E, a distance of 230.58 feet to a stone wall corner;

79. Thence S 51°57'36" E along said stone wall, a distance of 24.42 feet to the end of said stone wall;

80. Thence S 48°41'37" E, a distance of 10.16 feet to the beginning of a stone wall;

81. Thence S 52°17'45" E along said stone wall, a distance of 67.30 feet;

82. Thence S 53°22'24" E along said stone wall, a distance of 93.19 feet;

83. Thence S 59°26'50" E along said stone wall, a distance of 11.59 feet;

84. Thence S 54°15'23" E along said stone wall, a distance of 20.78 feet;

85. Thence S 49°00'07" E along said stone wall, a distance of 50.55 feet;

86. Thence S 53°28'14" E partially along said stone wall, a distance of 60.56 feet to a point in said stone wall;

87. Thence S 62°44'57" E along said stone wall, a distance of 14.94 feet;

88. Thence S 52°36'12" E partially along said stone wall and stone wall remains, a distance of 213.30 feet to the beginning of a stone wall;

89. Thence S 54°31'23" E along said stone wall, a distance of 21.82 feet to the end of said stone wall;

90. Thence S 52°12'05" E, a distance of 156.31 feet to a drill hole at the beginning of a stone wall;

91. Thence S 54°37'29" E along said stone wall, a distance of 94.71 feet;

92. Thence S 43°10'27" E along said stone wall, a distance of 27.88 feet;

93. Thence S 54°25'01" E along said stone wall, a distance of 75.21 feet;

94. Thence S 50°10'16" E along said stone wall, a distance of 80.90 feet to a 4-inch by 4-inch granite monument;

95. Thence S 50°56'45" E, a distance of 538.97 feet to a 4-inch by 4-inch granite monument in said stone wall at a stone wall corner;

96. Thence S 36°36'40" E along said stone wall, a distance of 17.74 feet;

97. Thence S 49°30'54" E along said stone wall, a distance of 58.27 feet;

98. Thence S 45°56'27" E along said stone wall, a distance of 69.35 feet;

99. Thence S 55°47'19" E along said stone wall, a distance of 25.30 feet;

100. Thence S 50°16'36" E along said stone wall, a distance of 138.81 feet;

101. Thence S 36°53'27" E along said stone wall, a distance of 40.90 feet;

102. Thence S 30°20'31" E along said stone wall, a distance of 19.30 feet;

103. Thence S 24°11'48" E along said stone wall, a distance of 20.28 feet to the end of said stone wall and the beginning of stone wall remains;

104. Thence S 50°49'13" E along said stone wall remains, a distance of 69.17 feet;

105. Thence S 46°51'39" E partially along said stone wall remains, a distance of 188.73 feet to the beginning of a stone wall;

106. Thence S 54°28'54" E along said stone wall, a distance of 69.21 feet;

107. Thence S 49°39'58" E along said stone wall, a distance of 44.41 feet;

108. Thence S 52°48'42" E along said stone wall, a distance of 19.44 feet to a 5/8-inch rebar with identification cap marked "ALE 1197" in a stone wall intersection;

109. Thence S 55°23'17" E along said stone wall, a distance of 23.11 feet to the end of stone wall and the beginning of stone wall remains;

110. Thence S 55°57'22" E along said stone wall remains, a distance of 85.01 feet;

111. Thence S 53°46'21" E along said stone wall remains, a distance of 114.72 feet to the beginning of a stone wall;

112. Thence S 43°53'01" E along said stone wall, a distance of 40.69 feet;

113. Thence S 59°23'28" E along said stone wall, a distance of 37.68 feet;

114. Thence S 54°54'07" E along said stone wall, a distance of 108.40 feet;

115. Thence S 41°53'54" E along said stone wall, a distance of 8.75 feet;

116. Thence S 56°24'51" E along said stone wall, a distance of 46.45 feet to a drill hole at a stone wall intersection;

117. Thence S 53°03'59" E along said stone wall, a distance of 167.12 feet;

118. Thence S 51°58'31" E along said stone wall, a distance of 74.89 feet;

119. Thence S 57°05'59" E along said stone wall, a distance of 72.39 feet to the end of said stone wall;

120. Thence S 59°03'10" E partially along a stone wall, a distance of 121.65 feet to a 5/8-inch iron rod in a stone wall intersection;

121. Thence S 58°04'15" E along said stone wall, a distance of 19.19 feet;

122. Thence S 49°16'43" E along said stone wall, a distance of 12.34 feet;

123. Thence S 68°16'30" E along said stone wall, a distance of 49.03 feet;

124. Thence S 50°58'24" E along said stone wall, a distance of 97.81 feet to a 5/8-inch rebar in a stone wall intersection;

125. Thence S 53°33'10" E along said stone wall, a distance of 134.46 feet;

126. Thence S 50°39'27" E along said stone wall, a distance of 202.96 feet to stone wall corner;

127. Thence S 54°35'10" E, a distance of 401.01 feet to the beginning of a stone wall;

128. Thence S 66°37'15" E along said stone wall, a distance of 75.15 feet to the end of said stone wall;

129. Thence S 57°02'54" E, a distance of 322.70 feet to a point near the westerly sideline of Bartlett Road;

130. Thence S 57°02'54" E, a distance of 51.52 feet to a point near the easterly side of said Bartlett Road and the northerly sideline of Payne Road;

131. Thence S 46°28'40" E along said Payne Road, a distance of 180.93 feet;

132. Thence S 51°40'57" E along said Payne Road, a distance of 906.32 feet;

133. Thence S 46°33'50" E along said Payne Road, a distance of 700.39 feet;

134. Thence S 50°35'20" E along said Payne Road, a distance of 586.67 feet;

135. Thence S 46°35'43" E along said Payne Road, a distance of 258.37 feet;

136. Thence S 59°04'12" E along said Payne Road, a distance of 102.44 feet;

137. Thence S 01°56'58" W through the center of a 36-inch corrugated metal culvert running underneath said Payne Road, a distance of 56.59 feet to the southerly sideline of said Payne Road and center of a tidal inlet;

138. Thence S 38°27'43" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 13.65 feet;

139. Thence S 61°38'16" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 62.45 feet;

140. Thence S 46°18'38" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 42.45 feet;

141. Thence S 20°06'20" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 12.59 feet;

142. Thence S 27°04'07" W along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 9.01 feet;

143. Thence S 07°32'08" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 13.29 feet;

144. Thence S 30°33'38" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 11.47 feet;

145. Thence S 87°53'35" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 21.22 feet;

146. Thence S 39°00'00" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 9.53 feet;

147. Thence S 04°20'24" W along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 16.52 feet;

148. Thence S 21°41'44" W along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 25.71 feet;

149. Thence S 23°59'49" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 4.65 feet;

150. Thence S 78°04'06" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 11.37 feet;

151. Thence N 16°25'39" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 26.71 feet;

152. Thence S 79°13'30" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 13.12 feet;

153. Thence S 48°51'18" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 11.91 feet;

154. Thence S 07°26'20" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 30.69 feet;

155. Thence S 17°05'22" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 20.89 feet;

156. Thence S 20°47'00" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 32.41 feet;

157. Thence S 83°47'54" W along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 8.37 feet;

158. Thence N 67°16'02" W along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 22.69 feet;

159. Thence S 66°29'26" W along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 9.63 feet;

160. Thence S 10°13'34" W along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 12.93 feet;

161. Thence S 35°17'25" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 10.30 feet;

162. Thence S 12°35'25" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 22.74 feet;

163. Thence S 50°11'56" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 8.28 feet;

164. Thence N 47°05'34" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 29.71 feet;

165. Thence S 62°15'55" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 16.56 feet;

166. Thence S 18°03'35" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 10.66 feet;

167. Thence S 23°51'17" W along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 33.48 feet;

168. Thence S 21°03'30" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 40.00 feet;

169. Thence S 03°29'41" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 13.06 feet;

170. Thence S 25°46'25" W along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 6.07 feet;

171. Thence S 09°27'11" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 21.55 feet;

172. Thence S 04°47'45" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 34.92 feet;

173. Thence S 44°50'14" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 20.46 feet;

174. Thence N 87°05'59" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 10.87 feet;

175. Thence S 21°25'22" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 13.08 feet;

176. Thence S 46°09'23" W along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 45.87 feet;

177. Thence S 16°29'21" W along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 18.14 feet;

178. Thence S 26°23'11" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 12.93 feet;

179. Thence S 04°51'15" W along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 54.45 feet;

180. Thence S 59°12'02" W along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 18.37 feet;

181. Thence S 32°39'08" W along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 20.22 feet;

182. Thence S 25°19'54" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 11.23 feet;

183. Thence S 58°58'47" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 28.54 feet;

184. Thence S 20°27'35" W along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 39.05 feet;

185. Thence S 08°52'27" W along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 44.95 feet;

186. Thence S 32°11'08" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 15.00 feet;

187. Thence S 67°39'20" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 32.80 feet;

188. Thence S 48°23'42" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 17.39 feet;

189. Thence S 09°21'43" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 24.62 feet;

190. Thence S 15°39'27" W along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 22.16 feet;

191. Thence S 27°20'38" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 12.19 feet;

192. Thence S 53°51'03" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 24.13 feet;

193. Thence S 05°01'23" W along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 20.53 feet;

194. Thence S 21°40'02" W along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 36.37 feet;

195. Thence S 10°35'30" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 16.14 feet;

196. Thence S 27°36'22" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 40.96 feet;

197. Thence S 26°25'32" W along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 63.00 feet;

198. Thence S 46°58'05" E along the thread of the inlet, a distance of 26.00 feet to a point near the westerly sideline of State Route 103;

199. Thence S 51°32'12" E along the thread of the inlet being through and along the center of the box culvert for the bridge crossing, a distance of 49.50 feet to the easterly sideline of State Route 103;

200. Thence S 53°01'20" E, a distance of 103.88 feet;

201. Thence S 15°07'16" E, a distance of 155.96 feet;

202. Thence S 04°05'23" W, a distance of 155.57 feet;

203. Thence S 47°19'48" W, a distance of 89.31 feet;

204. Thence S 33°20'00" E, a distance of 210.38 feet;

205. Thence S 14°14'24" E, a distance of 135.32 feet;

206. Thence S 73°56'47" E, a distance of 231.60 feet;

207. Thence S 32°07'57" E, a distance of 192.66 feet;

208. Thence S 02°34'01" E, a distance of 188.47 feet;

209. Thence S 56°43'17" E, a distance of 291.98 feet;

210. Thence S 27°20'08" E, a distance of 412.60 feet;

211. Thence S 62°09'02" E, a distance of 583.68 feet;

212. Thence S 13°48'35" E, a distance of 560.00 feet;

213. Thence S 65°22'42" E, a distance of 675.96 feet;

214. Thence S 19°27'31" E, a distance of 174.71 feet;

215. Thence S 25°52'02" W, a distance of 733.83 feet;

216. Thence S 14°56'46" E, a distance of 263.27 feet;

217. Thence S 61°39'04" E, a distance of 1,574.30 feet;

218. Thence N 83°43'26" E, a distance of 1,145.45 feet;

219. Thence S 63°56'51" E to the Atlantic Ocean.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 17

H.P. 1510 - L.D. 2234

An Act to Increase the Debt Limit of the Vinalhaven Water District

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, a new water main is needed to allow the Vinalhaven Water District to protect the health of residents served by the district; and

Whereas, other improvements in the water system are urgently needed to bring the district into compliance with state standards; and

Whereas, the needed funds to complete these projects would exceed the current borrowing capacity of the district; and

Whereas, the district needs an immediate increase in its borrowing authority in order to timely schedule the needed improvements; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. P&SL 1977, c. 99, §12, as repealed and replaced by P&SL 2001, c. 21, §5, is amended to read:

Sec. 12. Debt limit. For accomplishing the purposes of this Act, and for any other expenses that may be necessary for the carrying out of those purposes, the district, through its trustees, is authorized to borrow money temporarily and to issue for the money its negotiable notes; and for the purpose of renewing and refunding the indebtedness created, of paying any necessary expenses and liabilities incurred under the provisions of this Act, including organizational and other necessary expenses and liabilities, whether incurred by the district or the municipality, the district being authorized to reimburse the municipality for any such expenses incurred by it, and in acquiring properties, paying damages, laying pipes, mains, aqueducts and conduits, constructing, maintaining and operating a water plant or system and making renewals, additions, extensions and improvements to the same, and to cover interest payments during the period of construction, the district, through its trustees, is also authorized to issue, from time to time, bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness of the district in one series or in separate series and to make subsequent renewals of the bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness, the amount or amounts, not exceeding the sum of \$1,500,000 \$4,000,000 outstanding at any one time, bearing interest at such rate or rates, and having such terms and provisions as the trustees determine; except that, in the case of a vote by the trustees to authorize bonds or notes to pay for the acquisition of property, for the cost of a water system or part of a water system, for renewal or additions or for other improvements in the nature of capital costs, the estimated cost of which, singly or in the aggregate included in any one financing is \$30,000 or more, or for renewing or refunding existing indebtedness, notice of the proposed debt and of the general purpose or purposes for which it was authorized must be given by the clerk by publication at least once in a newspaper having a general circulation in the Town of Vinalhaven.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the district, through its trustees, may issue bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness in amounts exceeding \$1,500,000 \$4,000,000 at any one time if a greater debt limit is established by referendum in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A,

section 6413. The district may not have outstanding at any one time bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness in amounts exceeding any debt limit established by referendum in accordance with Title 35-A, section 6413.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 18

H.P. 1426 - L.D. 2111

An Act to Amend the Charter of the Boothbay-Boothbay Harbor Community School District

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

Sec. 1. P&SL 1953, c. 156, §3, as repealed and replaced by P&SL 2023, c. 12, §1, is amended to read:

Sec. 3. Board of trustees; district school committee. Except as provided by this Act, the board of trustees and district school committee have the duties and authority pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 105. The board of trustees ~~may~~ shall act as a building and facilities governing committee and has authority over capital expenditures and the district's capital reserve fund, including authority in consultation with the district school committee over the budget for maintaining, repairing, replacing and improving the community school district's buildings and other facilities and over the district's capital reserve funds for non-instructional capital purchases. The community school district may vote in accordance with Title 20-A, section 1651, subsection 4 to have the district school committee perform the duties of the board of trustees. The board of trustees and the district school committee shall have distinct areas of responsibility or authority as outlined in this Act and in Title 20-A, chapter 105. If issues arise involving overlapping responsibilities, the board of trustees and district school committee shall create joint bylaws or procedures as necessary to further assist them in understanding and executing their duties and responsibilities to the community school district.

Sec. 2. P&SL 1953, c. 156, §6, as repealed and replaced by P&SL 2023, c. 12, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

Sec. 6. Budget approval. The board of trustees shall prepare the revenues and expenditures for the capital portion of the budget in accordance with section 3. The district school committee shall prepare the revenues and expenditures for the operating portion of the budget. The district school committee shall integrate the

capital and operating portions of the budget into cost centers in accordance with the cost center summary budget format and shall submit the budget to the budget meeting for the budget validation referendum procedure under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 105, subchapter 3. The board of trustees may prepare other articles related to capital needs, such as capital reserve fund articles, for the budget meeting. The district school committee shall include these articles in the warrant for the budget meeting.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 19

S.P. 875 - L.D. 2156

An Act to Provide for the 2026 and 2027 Allocations of the State Ceiling on Private Activity Bonds

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

Sec. 1. Allocation to Treasurer of State. The \$5,000,000 of the state ceiling on private activity bonds for calendar year 2026 previously allocated to the Treasurer of State remains allocated to the Treasurer of State to be used or reallocated in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 363, subsection 5 for calendar year 2026. Five million dollars of the state ceiling for calendar year 2027 is allocated to the Treasurer of State to be used or reallocated in accordance with Title 10, section 363, subsection 5.

Sec. 2. Allocation to Finance Authority of Maine, including as successor to Maine Educational Loan Authority. The \$235,000,000 of the state ceiling on private activity bonds for calendar year 2026 previously allocated to the Finance Authority of Maine, including as successor to the Maine Educational Loan Authority, remains allocated to the Finance Authority of Maine to be used or reallocated in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 363, subsections 6 and 8 for calendar year 2026. An additional \$100,000,000 of the state ceiling on private activity bonds for calendar year 2026, of which \$47,625,000 was previously unallocated and \$52,375,000 was previously allocated to the Maine State Housing Authority, is allocated to the Finance Authority of Maine to be used or reallocated in accordance with Title 10, section 363, subsections 6 and 8 for calendar year 2026. One hundred twenty-five million dollars of the state ceiling for calendar year 2027 is allocated to the Finance Authority of Maine to be used or reallocated in accordance with Title 10, section 363, subsections 6 and 8.

Sec. 3. Allocation to Maine Municipal Bond Bank. The \$10,000,000 of the state ceiling on private

activity bonds for calendar year 2026 previously allocated to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank remains allocated to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to be used or reallocated in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 363, subsection 7 for calendar year 2026. Ten million dollars of the state ceiling for calendar year 2027 is allocated to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to be used or reallocated in accordance with Title 10, section 363, subsection 7.

Sec. 4. Allocation to Maine State Housing Authority. The \$100,000,000 of the state ceiling on private activity bonds for calendar year 2026 previously allocated to the Maine State Housing Authority is reduced to \$47,625,000, and the remaining \$52,375,000 is reallocated to the Finance Authority of Maine, for use or reallocation in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 363, subsection 4 for calendar year 2026. Two hundred fifty million dollars of the state ceiling for calendar year 2027 is allocated to the Maine State Housing Authority to be used or reallocated in accordance with Title 10, section 363, subsection 4.

Sec. 5. Unallocated state ceiling. Zero dollars of the state ceiling on private activity bonds for calendar year 2026 is unallocated. Seven million six hundred twenty-five thousand dollars of the state ceiling for calendar year 2027 is unallocated and must be reserved for future allocation in accordance with applicable laws.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 20

S.P. 921 - L.D. 2243

An Act Increasing the Debt Limit of the West Paris Water District

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the West Paris Water District is under an administrative order from the Maine drinking water program to replace a water storage tank by December 31, 2027; and

Whereas, the needed funds exceed the current borrowing capacity of the district; and

Whereas, the district needs an immediate increase in its borrowing authority in order to timely schedule the needed improvements; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. P&SL 1963, c. 83, §10, first ¶, as amended by P&SL 1995, c. 8, §1, is further amended to read:

Sec. 10. Authorized to borrow money, to issue bonds and notes. For accomplishing the purposes of this act, and for such other expenses as may be necessary for the carrying out of these purposes, the district, through its trustees, without vote of the inhabitants, is authorized to borrow money temporarily and to issue therefor its negotiable notes; and for the purpose of renewing and refunding the indebtedness so created, of paying any necessary expenses and liabilities incurred under the provisions of this act, including organizational and other necessary expenses and liabilities whether incurred by the district or the Town of West Paris, the district being authorized to reimburse the Town of West Paris for any such expense incurred by it and in acquiring properties, paying damages, laying pipes, mains, aqueducts and conduits, constructing, maintaining and operating a water plant or system and making renewals, additions, extensions and improvements to the same and to cover interest payments during the period of construction, the district, through its trustees, without the vote of its inhabitants, is also authorized to issue, from time to time, bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness of the district in one series, or in separate series, in such amount or amounts, bearing interest at such rate or rates, and having such terms and provisions as the trustees determine; ~~provided except that~~ the total outstanding indebtedness of the district may not exceed ~~\$1,000,000~~ \$8,000,000 at any one time.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 13, 2026.

**RESOLVES OF THE STATE OF MAINE
AS PASSED AT
THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
2025**

**CHAPTER 119
H.P. 935 - L.D. 1426**

**Resolve, to Expand Child
Assertive Community
Treatment**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, Maine is experiencing significant challenges in providing timely services to children with behavioral health challenges; and

Whereas, services for children with severe behavioral health challenges are especially scarce; and

Whereas, assertive community treatment is an evidence-based intervention effective at keeping people with severe behavioral health challenges in the community setting and out of institutional settings; and

Whereas, Maine currently has only one child assertive community treatment team in the State; and

Whereas, this legislation needs to take effect as soon as possible in order to develop the pilot program required by this legislation that addresses the scarcity of child assertive community treatment teams and provides timely services to children with behavioral health challenges; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Child assertive community treatment team. Resolved: That, by March 1, 2026, the Department of Health and Human Services shall issue a request for applications for a grant to establish a pilot program to develop one child assertive community treatment team to serve the Lewiston or Bangor geographic area. The request for applications must require the awardee of the grant to use workforce incentives designed to attract, train and retain child assertive community treatment staff. The department shall engage in a competitive process to determine the awardee. The term of the contract may not exceed 2 years.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, within 90 days following the conclusion of the pilot program under

section 1, the Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters describing the outcomes and recommendations for continuation of the pilot program. The joint standing committee is authorized to report out legislation related to the report to the next regular or special session after the report is received.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
DEPARTMENT OF**

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for child assertive community treatment services.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$102,717
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$102,717

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$155,321
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$155,321

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$744
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$744

Mental Health Services - Children Z206

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for a grant for a pilot program to develop a child assertive community treatment team.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$80,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$80,000

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$182,717

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$155,321
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	\$0	\$744
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$338,782

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective January 11, 2026.

CHAPTER 120 H.P. 1016 - L.D. 1558

Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this legislation establishes the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education; and

Whereas, this legislation must take effect before the expiration of the 90-day period so that the commission may timely meet and make its report to the Legislature by November 4, 2026; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved: That the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established.

Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the commission consists of 14 members, including:

1. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, who serve on the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, including one member of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and one member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature;

2. Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House, who serve on

the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, including one member of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and one member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature;

3. One member who is a representative of a union representing the faculty of the Maine Community College System, the University of Maine System or the Maine Maritime Academy, appointed by the President of the Senate, as recommended by the Maine Education Association Board of Directors;

4. One member representing the Certification and Higher Education Committee of the State Board of Education, appointed by the President of the Senate, as recommended by the Chair of the State Board of Education;

5. One member representing private colleges and universities in the State, appointed by the Speaker of the House, as recommended by the Maine Independent Colleges Association;

6. The Chancellor of the University of Maine System or the chancellor's designee;

7. The Chair of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees or the chair's designee;

8. The President of the Maine Community College System or the president's designee;

9. The Chair of the Maine Community College System Board of Trustees or the chair's designee;

10. The Chair of the Maine Maritime Academy Board of Trustees or the chair's designee;

11. The President of the Maine Maritime Academy or the president's designee; and

12. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee.

In appointing members of the commission, the appointing authorities shall give consideration to race, gender, socioeconomic diversity and geographic diversity.

Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the commission.

Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission; number of meetings. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and

the Legislative Council may grant authority for the commission to meet and conduct its business. The commission may not meet more than 8 times.

Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the commission shall review all related laws and rules addressing the State's public policy on higher education, including, but not limited to, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 10902, and make recommendations for potential legislative changes. In conducting its review, the commission shall analyze present and future goals, including, but not limited to, expanding access to affordable high-quality higher education to help students achieve postsecondary success. To assist the commission in carrying out its review, the Department of Education, the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy shall each provide to the commission any data and information the commission considers relevant to its work. At the discretion of the chairs, the commission may seek input from any students, faculty or staff in the State's public institutions of higher education, groups that have an interest in the State's public institutions of higher education and other stakeholders.

Sec. 6. Agreement for outside staffing. Resolved: That the Legislative Council shall enter into an agreement with the Maine Education Policy Research Institute to provide staffing services to the commission, for which the Legislature shall provide \$5,000.

Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, no later than November 4, 2026, the commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters. The joint standing committee may report out a bill related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective January 11, 2026.

CHAPTER 121

H.P. 74 - L.D. 109

Resolve, Directing the Maine Arts Commission to Study Federal and National Efforts to Protect Artists from Copyright Infringement by Artificial Intelligence Companies and Users and to Monitor Educational Use

Sec. 1. Maine Arts Commission study. Resolved: That the Maine Arts Commission shall study

federal and national efforts to protect artists from copyright infringement by businesses and others promoting, creating, disseminating or using artificial intelligence software applications and federal and national efforts to monitor the educational use of copyrighted work. The commission shall consult with the Office of the Attorney General on the subject of the study. In its study, the commission may consider any relevant work of or obtain information from the Maine State Cultural Affairs Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, as well as any other similar organizations. The commission may also consider the proposed federal No Fakes Act of 2024, the proposed federal No AI FRAUD Act and Tennessee's Ensuring Likeness, Voice, and Image Security Act of 2024, as well as other relevant law or case law, including *Waits v. Frito-Lay, Inc.*, 978 F.2d 1093 (9th Cir. 1992) and *Midler v. Ford Motor Co.*, 849 F.2d 460 (9th Cir. 1988). The commission shall report its findings, including any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by December 3, 2025. The joint standing committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature based on the report.

Sec. 2. Funding. Resolved: That the Maine Arts Commission may accept grants, private contributions and any additional outside funding for the study under this resolve.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

ARTS COMMISSION, MAINE

Arts - Administration 0178

Initiative: Provides one-time funds for a consultant to research and analyze the impact of unauthorized usage by artificial intelligence on an artist's work.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$25,000	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$25,000	\$0

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 122

S.P. 162 - L.D. 370

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Collect Data on Secondary School Mathematics Requirements

Sec. 1. Secondary school mathematics requirements. Resolved: That the Department of Education shall, within existing resources, collect data on

the number of mathematics classes required for a high school diploma at secondary schools in the State. Data collected must include, but is not limited to:

1. The number of secondary schools that require 2 years of mathematics for a high school diploma;
2. From secondary schools that require 2 years of mathematics for a high school diploma, estimated costs associated with raising the mathematics requirements from 2 to 3 years;
3. The number of secondary schools that require more than 2 years of mathematics for a high school diploma; and
4. The number of secondary schools that accept credits from alternative mathematics classes, such as accelerated 8th-grade mathematics classes and early college classes, toward fulfillment of the mathematics requirements for a high school diploma.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, by January 15, 2026, the Department of Education shall submit a report based on the data collected in section 1 to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. The committee is authorized to submit legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 123

H.P. 265 - L.D. 411

Resolve, Directing the Attorney General to Update Rules Relating to the Disposition of Forfeited Firearms

Sec. 1. Attorney General to update rules. Resolved: That the Attorney General shall update the rules regarding the disposition of forfeited firearms to clarify that the proceeds from the auctioning of forfeited firearms by the State must be placed in the Safe Homes Program Fund pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, section 7001, subsection 4, except that the Department of Administrative and Financial Services may retain 12% of the proceeds and the Department of Public Safety, Maine State Police, sheriff's departments and municipal police departments may retain the proceeds resulting from the auction of firearms forfeited to their respective departments.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 124

S.P. 209 - L.D. 470

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Review Teacher Mentoring Programs in Maine Public Schools

Sec. 1. Teacher mentoring programs; review. Resolved: That the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Maine Education Association, the Maine School Management Association and Educate Maine, shall conduct a review of teacher mentoring programs in public schools in the State. The review must include, but is not limited to:

1. The number of teachers holding emergency teacher certificates, conditional teacher certificates and new teacher certificates with less than 3 years of experience employed at each school administrative unit;
2. Verification that every teacher holding an emergency teacher certificate, a conditional teacher certificate or a new teacher certificate with less than 3 years of experience is assigned a mentor;
3. Interviews with public school principals about teacher mentoring programs; and
4. A compilation of descriptions of basic requirements of teacher mentoring programs throughout the State, including the structure of each program, training and available stipends.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, by February 15, 2026, the Department of Education shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs based on the review conducted pursuant to section 1. The joint standing committee may report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Higher Education and Educator Support Services Z082

Initiative: Provides one-time funds to contract for staffing services to perform a review of teacher mentoring programs in public schools and to prepare a report.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$5,000	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$5,000	\$0

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 125
S.P. 454 - L.D. 1069

**Resolve, Directing the
Department of Education to
Review Personal Finance
Course Offerings in Maine
Schools and Convene a
Working Group of Relevant
Stakeholders**

Sec. 1. Personal finance; school survey. Resolved: That the Department of Education shall administer a survey to all school administrative units in the State to collect data and information on the status of personal finance education in schools. The survey must include, but is not limited to:

1. Whether personal finance is taught as a discrete course or the personal finance standards contained in the statewide system of learning results, as established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209, are integrated into other social studies courses;

2. If personal finance is not taught as a discrete course, the name and curriculum of the courses into which personal finance learning standards are integrated;

3. To which grade levels discrete personal finance courses are offered; and

4. The number of students enrolled in discrete personal finance courses and the number of instructional hours those students receive in personal finance.

The Department of Education shall submit a report based on the results of the survey to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 15, 2026.

Sec. 2. Working group. Resolved: That, beginning in January 2026, the Department of Education shall convene a working group of relevant stakeholders to develop recommendations on increasing accessibility to personal finance education to students in the State of all grade levels based on the findings of the report developed pursuant to section 1. The working group must examine professional development, curriculum resources, instructional time, staffing and any other supports the working group considers necessary to expand and strengthen personal finance instruction in school administrative units. The membership of the working group must include, but is not limited to:

1. One member representing the Finance Authority of Maine;

2. One member representing the Maine Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy;

3. At least 3 teachers employed in school administrative units in the State who teach personal finance subject matter; and

4. One member representing the Maine Education Association.

The Department of Education shall submit a report based on the findings and recommendations of the working group to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than March 1, 2026.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Innovative Teaching and Learning Z394

Initiative: Provides one-time funds in fiscal year 2025-26 to support the working group established to develop recommendations on increasing accessibility to personal finance education to students of all grade levels in the State.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$15,000	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$15,000	\$0

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 126
H.P. 719 - L.D. 1097

**Resolve, to Require the
Department of Education to
Convene a Group to Develop
Best Practices for De-escalation
and Behavior Intervention**

Sec. 1. Convening of group to develop best practices. Resolved: That the Department of Education shall convene teachers and other educators and experts in de-escalation and behavior intervention to develop best practices for training in the following topics:

1. Positive behavior interventions;
2. Communicative intent of behaviors;
3. Alternatives to restrictive procedures, including techniques to identify events and environmental factors that may escalate behavior;
4. De-escalation methods;
5. Standards for using restraint and seclusion procedures;
6. Obtaining emergency medical assistance;
7. The physiological and psychological effect of restraint and seclusion;

8. Monitoring and responding to a child's physical signs of distress;

9. The timely reporting and documenting of each incident involving the dangerous behavior of a student and the law governing dangerous behavior prevention and intervention under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6555; and

10. Positive behavior strategies.

The department shall distribute the best practices for training in de-escalation and behavior intervention to all school administrative units in the State no later than September 1, 2026.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 127 H.P. 720 - L.D. 1098

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Review the Use of Abbreviated School Days

Sec. 1. Abbreviated school day; review. Resolved: That the Department of Education shall, within existing resources, review the use of the abbreviated school day provisions described in department rule 05-071 C.M.R. Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty-Two in schools in the State. The Department of Education may consult with the Maine Education Policy Research Institute to complete the review and requirements of the report described in section 2.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That the Department of Education shall submit a report no later than February 1, 2026 to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs on the findings of the review described in section 1. The report must include data regarding the frequency and duration of abbreviated school day placements and input from stakeholders, including, but not limited to, school personnel and parents. The report must also include information about the impacts that abbreviated school day placements may have on school funding and on student outcomes. The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs may report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 128

S.P. 624 - L.D. 1540

Resolve, Directing the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council to Examine the Unmet Needs of Children Who Need Skilled Medical Care

Sec. 1. Maine Developmental Disabilities Council to convene work group to examine needs of families of children who need skilled medical care. Resolved: That the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council, established by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 66, referred to in this resolve as "the council," shall convene a work group, referred to in this resolve as "the work group," to examine the unmet needs of children in the State who need skilled medical care and families of those children. Working in partnership with the children and youth with special health care needs program within the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the work group shall:

1. Determine the number of children in the State with special health care needs who require skilled nursing;

2. Determine the number of children with special health care needs under department rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapters II and III, Section 40 and Section 96 who are:

- A. Eligible for skilled medical support;

- B. Currently receiving services;

- C. Receiving a different number of hours of services per week compared to the number to which the children are entitled and what the difference is;

- D. On waiting lists for services in each county; and

- E. On more than one waiting list under paragraph D and how many;

3. Recommend a method to collect data systematically for any data components in subsection 2 that are not available;

4. Identify the variety of unmet needs for children with special health care needs and families of those children and develop recommendations so that those children are able to get their needs met;

5. Identify the best method to compensate families with children who need skilled medical care who are unable to find appropriate professionals to provide care resulting in parents providing services themselves;

6. Consider benefits and disadvantages to amending Department of Health and Human Services rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapters II

and III, Section 40 or Section 96, developing a federal waiver for children with complex medical needs or a combination of these strategies or other methods; and

7. Develop recommendations to ensure that medical assessments are conducted on children who need them through existing or expanded services or funding streams.

Sec. 2. Work group membership. Resolved: That the work group convened pursuant to section 1 must include, but is not limited to, members appointed by the council as follows:

1. A representative from the children and youth with special health care needs program within the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention;

2. A representative from the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Public Health Nursing;

3. A representative from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of MaineCare Services with expertise in the early and periodic screening, diagnostic treatment program;

4. Two parents or guardians of children who require complex medical care;

5. A representative of an agency providing home health services;

6. A representative of an agency providing private duty nursing services;

7. A physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner who takes care of pediatric patients with complex medical needs;

8. A representative from children's behavioral health services within the Department of Health and Human Services;

9. A representative from the State Board of Nursing; and

10. A representative from the council.

Sec. 3. Convening of work group; staffing assistance; funding. Resolved: That the council shall provide the necessary resources to organize and support the work of the work group convened pursuant to this resolve, including convening and providing any necessary staffing services for the work group.

Sec. 4. Report. Resolved: That the council shall submit a report, no later than January 31, 2026, that includes a summary of the findings of the work group along with recommendations and any suggested legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. The committee shall review the findings and recommendations of the report and may report out legislation to implement recommendations

related to the report in the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 129

S.P. 661 - L.D. 1667

Resolve, to Allow Hemphill Farms, Inc. to Sue the State

Sec. 1. Authorization to sue State. Resolved: That, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, Hemphill Farms, Inc., in Presque Isle, which claims to have suffered damages in connection with actions taken by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, is authorized to bring a civil action against the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. This resolve is a waiver of the State's defense of immunity under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 14, chapter 741.

Notwithstanding the application of any statute of limitations barring this action, this action may be brought in the Aroostook County Superior Court within one year from the effective date of this resolve. Liability and damages, including punitive damages, must be determined according to state law as in litigation between individuals, except that the award of damages resulting from a civil action authorized by this resolve may not exceed \$400,000. The action may be heard by a Justice of the Superior Court or by a jury. The Maine Rules of Civil Procedure govern the conduct of the action. The Attorney General shall appear, answer and defend the action. To the extent possible, the Attorney General shall conduct negotiations in good faith to resolve this action by settlement.

The Treasurer of State shall pay any settlement determined by agreement of the parties or any judgment, including costs and interest, upon final process issued by the Superior Court or, if applicable, the Supreme Judicial Court.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 130

H.P. 1167 - L.D. 1749

Resolve, Directing the Department of Corrections to Study Achieving Gender Equality

Sec. 1. Department of Corrections to study achieving gender equality. Resolved: That the Department of Corrections shall study the extent of gender inequality present in the programs, services, facili-

ties and policies administered or overseen by the department and shall report its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety by December 3, 2025. The report must include potential solutions for eliminating gender inequality in those areas, including, but not limited to, the construction or redesignation of current facilities and the reallocation of resources, programs and opportunities. The joint standing committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature based on the report.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 131

H.P. 1234 - L.D. 1850

Resolve, to Improve Interagency Coordination and Information Accessibility Regarding Renewable Energy Construction Projects

Sec. 1. Data related to renewable energy construction projects. Resolved: That the Governor's Energy Office, referred to in this resolve as "the office," shall coordinate with state agencies that permit, regulate or provide state assistance to renewable energy construction projects, including, but not limited to, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Labor, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Public Utilities Commission, to evaluate how to display and maintain data regarding renewable energy construction projects in an efficient, meaningful and publicly accessible manner for the purposes of identifying renewable energy trends in this State, including through the development of a database. For the purposes of this resolve, "renewable energy construction project" or "project" means a source of electrical generation that has a nameplate capacity of 500 kilowatts or more and relies on a source of generation described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3210, subsection 2, paragraph C, subparagraph (2). The evaluation must provide a method to make the data publicly available and, to the extent practicable, a method for obtaining information from renewable energy construction project developers, including, but not limited to:

1. The project's name;
2. The project owner's name and contact information, including, but not limited to, the project owner's mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address;
3. The project's location;
4. A description of the purposes for which the land on which the project is located was used prior to the development of the project;

5. The project's nameplate capacity;
6. The anticipated start date of construction of the project;
7. Whether the project is subject to the provisions of Title 26, chapter 43;
8. Whether the project is subject to the provisions of Title 26, section 1306-A or 3213;
9. Whether the project owner has sought, intends to seek or has received state or federal assistance, including, but not limited to, tax credits, grants or loans;
10. The status of environmental and construction permits the project has applied for or received;
11. The status of any approval requested for the project under Title 38, section 484-C or 484-D or Title 38, chapter 35; and

12. Whether the project owner intends to seek certification for the project under Title 35-A, section 3210 and, if so, under which resource class.

Sec. 2. Evaluation criteria. Resolved: That the office's evaluation required under section 1 must consider:

1. Whether state agencies that permit, regulate or provide state assistance to projects currently have access to the information listed in section 1 and have the ability to make the information publicly available;
2. Efficient and cost-effective methods to gather information listed in section 1 that is not held by a state agency;
3. Whether information in addition to that listed in section 1 should be collected from project developers or owners for the purposes of identifying renewable energy trends;
4. Whether existing state databases can be modified to most efficiently display any information in addition to that listed in section 1 required by this resolve;
5. Appropriate criteria for the inclusion of a project with a nameplate capacity of more than 500 kilowatts, including, but not limited to, criteria related to the project's in-service date;
6. A reasonable frequency for database updates;
7. Whether and through what mechanism the office may or could be given the authority to require the provision of timely and accurate information by project developers or owners;
8. Whether additional staff or financial resources may be necessary to develop and maintain the data under section 1 or if it is feasible to maintain this data within existing resources of the office; and
9. Potential funding sources to support the development and long-term maintenance of the data under section 1.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That the office, in consultation with the state agencies listed in section 1, shall submit a report on the evaluation under this resolve to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology by February 1, 2026. The report must contain recommendations related to how to display and maintain data regarding renewable energy construction projects in an efficient, meaningful and publicly accessible manner for the purposes of identifying renewable energy trends in this State. The committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature based on the report.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 132

H.P. 1357 - L.D. 2027

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Woolwich the Woolwich Veterans Memorial Bridge

Sec. 1. Bridge in Woolwich renamed. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation shall designate Bridge 3039 on Main Street in the Town of Woolwich, currently known as the Station 46 Bridge, the Woolwich Veterans Memorial Bridge.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 133

H.P. 1359 - L.D. 2029

Resolve, to Name the New East Main Street Bridge in Dover-Foxcroft in Honor of Private Willard Merrill and Private Barton Merrill, Jr.

Sec. 1. Bridge in Dover-Foxcroft named. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation shall designate Bridge 2293 on East Main Street in the Town of Dover-Foxcroft, formerly known as the Foxcroft West Bridge, the Private Willard D. Merrill and Private Barton G. Merrill, Jr. Bridge.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 134

S.P. 822 - L.D. 2006

Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Make Certain Land Transactions in Aroostook and Somerset Counties

Preamble. The Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 23 requires that real estate held by the State for conservation or recreation purposes may not be reduced or its uses substantially altered except on the vote of 2/3 of all members elected to each House.

Whereas, certain real estate authorized for conveyance by this resolve is under the designations described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 598-A; and

Whereas, the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may sell or exchange lands with the approval of the Legislature in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, sections 1814 and 1851; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Director of Bureau of Parks and Lands authorized to convey certain land in Westmanland, Aroostook County. Resolved: That the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may convey, by quitclaim deed with a reverter clause, and at no cost, on other terms and conditions as the director may direct, the State's interest in approximately 7 acres of public reserved land to the Town of Westmanland. The 7 acres represent the section of the Little Madawaska Lake Road that is currently designated as public reserved lands under the bureau. The purpose of the conveyance is to enable the town to improve and maintain this section of road by which several town property taxpayers access their property. The cost of the bureau's attorney's fees, as well as the cost of a survey of the property boundaries, must be paid by the town, and the recording costs may not be paid by the bureau.

Sec. 2. Director of Bureau of Parks and Lands authorized to sell certain land in Seboomook Township, Somerset County. Resolved: That the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may sell to the owners of 51 Sebey Lane in Big W Township, and no other party, approximately 0.25 acres of public reserved land. The 0.25 acres represent the land under an existing septic system that serves 51 Sebey Lane and was installed prior to state ownership of the land. The buyer must pay all transaction costs, including survey, legal and recording costs for the transaction. The director may negotiate a

price for the land or, if needed, obtain an appraisal that must be paid by the buyer.

Sec. 3. Director of Bureau of Parks and Lands authorized to exchange certain land in Presque Isle, Aroostook County. Resolved: That the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may engage in a minor land exchange of less than 0.25 acres with Towers North, Inc. in the City of Presque Isle. The land swap will rectify a recently identified boundary issue in which a communication tower occupies a very small portion of state land. Towers North, Inc. must pay all transaction costs, including legal and recording costs for the transaction.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 135

H.P. 1358 - L.D. 2028

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in West Forks Plantation and The Forks Plantation the Gordon Clifton Berry, Sr. Bridge

Sec. 1. Bridge in West Forks Plantation and The Forks Plantation renamed. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation shall designate Bridge 2841 on Route 201, which crosses the Kennebec River between West Forks Plantation and The Forks Plantation and is currently known as the Forks Bridge, the Gordon Clifton Berry, Sr. Bridge.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 136

H.P. 1363 - L.D. 2033

Resolve, to Designate Route 3 in Trenton as the Deputy Luke Gross Memorial Highway

Sec. 1. Designate Route 3 in Trenton the Deputy Luke Gross Memorial Highway. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation shall designate Route 3 in the Town of Trenton the Deputy Luke Gross Memorial Highway and shall erect appropriate signs to identify Route 3 as the Deputy Luke Gross Memorial Highway.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 137

H.P. 94 - L.D. 161

Resolve, Directing the Maine Office of Community Affairs to Convene a Working Group Tasked with a Comprehensive Overhaul and Modernization of Maine's Subdivision Laws

Sec. 1. Maine Office of Community Affairs to establish working group; purpose. Resolved: That the Maine Office of Community Affairs, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 3202, shall convene and administer a working group composed of representatives from the Maine Office of Community Affairs, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Department of Environmental Protection to review the subdivision laws in Title 12, chapter 206-A; Title 30-A, chapter 187, subchapter 4; and Title 38, chapter 3, subchapter 1, article 6. The purpose of the review is to make recommendations on how to overhaul and modernize the regulation of residential, commercial and industrial development.

Sec. 2. Commissioners to assign representatives. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall assign one or more employees to represent their respective departments as members in the working group established pursuant to section 1. An assigned employee must have experience and knowledge relevant to the purpose of the working group and the working group's assigned tasks as specified in section 3.

Sec. 3. Working group tasks. Resolved: That the working group established pursuant to section 1 shall, within existing resources, undertake the following tasks with respect to the State's subdivision laws:

1. Develop recommendations on how to overhaul and consolidate the subdivision laws in a manner that reduces inconsistencies and ambiguities;
2. Develop recommendations on how to streamline the application processes under the subdivision laws; and
3. Identify policy conflicts, opportunities to clarify policies and ways to promote improved outcomes for housing, economic development, conservation and other matters identified by the working group.

If the working group is unable to achieve consensus on any finding or recommendation identified through its work, the working group shall include in the report required in section 6 an explanation of the issue lacking consensus, the possible solutions to the issue and the areas of disagreement.

Sec. 4. Consultation. Resolved: That the working group established pursuant to section 1 shall consult and engage persons with knowledge of and experience with the State's subdivision laws, including, but not limited to:

1. Land surveyors;
2. Civil engineers;
3. Code enforcement officers;
4. Municipal government officials who are responsible for interpreting subdivision law and represent different geographic areas of the State and municipalities of varying population sizes;
5. Regional planning agencies;
6. Real estate developers;
7. Commercial and residential builders;
8. The Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 5154;
9. Community land trusts engaged in affordable housing development;
10. Organizations engaged in environmental preservation and conservation; and
11. Attorneys admitted to the Maine Bar with experience in subdivision law.

Sec. 5. Work plan; public comment; submission to committees. Resolved: That the working group established pursuant to section 1 shall develop a work plan for completing the tasks required by this resolve. The working group shall solicit public comments on a draft work plan after posting the draft work plan on the publicly accessible websites of the Maine Office of Community Affairs, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Department of Environmental Protection. By November 4, 2026, the working group shall prepare a final work plan and shall submit it to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development. By January 1, 2027, the working group shall submit the final work plan to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters.

Sec. 6. Report. Resolved: That, by February 15, 2027, the Maine Office of Community Affairs, on behalf of the working group established pursuant to section 1, shall submit a report that includes the working group's findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over subdivision law matters under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, chapter 206-A; Title 30-A, chapter 187, subchapter 4; and Title 38, chapter 3, subchapter 1, article 6. The joint standing committees that receive the report may report

out legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 138

H.P. 1456 - L.D. 2167

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 100: Enforcement Procedures, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Health Data Organization

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A requires legislative authorization before major substantive agency rules may be finally adopted by the agency; and

Whereas, a major substantive rule has been submitted to the Legislature for review; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this resolve is necessary to record the Legislature's position on final adoption of the rule; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Adoption. Resolved: That final adoption of portions of Chapter 100: Enforcement Procedures, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Maine Health Data Organization that has been submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, is authorized.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 19, 2026.

CHAPTER 139
H.P. 1369 - L.D. 2039

**Resolve, Regarding Legislative
Review of Portions of Chapter
1: Fee Schedule, a Major
Substantive Rule of the
Department of Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry,
Maine Land Use Planning
Commission**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A requires legislative authorization before major substantive agency rules may be finally adopted by the agency; and

Whereas, a major substantive rule has been submitted to the Legislature for review; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this resolve is necessary to record the Legislature's position on final adoption of the rule; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Adoption. Resolved: That final adoption of portions of Chapter 1: Fee Schedule, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Maine Land Use Planning Commission that has been submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, is authorized.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 19, 2026.

CHAPTER 140
H.P. 1455 - L.D. 2166

**Resolve, Regarding Legislative
Review of Chapter 6:
Delegation of Nursing
Activities and Tasks to
Unlicensed Assistive Personnel
by Registered Professional
Nurses, a Major Substantive
Rule of the Department of
Professional and Financial
Regulation, State Board of
Nursing**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A requires legislative authorization before major substantive agency rules may be finally adopted by the agency; and

Whereas, a major substantive rule has been submitted to the Legislature for review; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this resolve is necessary to record the Legislature's position on final adoption of the rule; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Adoption. Resolved: That final adoption of Chapter 6: Delegation of Nursing Activities and Tasks to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel by Registered Professional Nurses, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, State Board of Nursing that has been submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, is authorized.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 19, 2026.

CHAPTER 141
H.P. 1319 - L.D. 1975

**Resolve, Directing the Maine
Connectivity Authority to
Develop Recommendations to
Transition Functions
Performed by the
ConnectMaine Authority to the
Maine Connectivity Authority**

Sec. 1. Maine Connectivity Authority; statutory review; report. Resolved: That the Maine Connectivity Authority established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 9404, in consultation with the ConnectMaine Authority established under Title 35-A, section 9203, shall review the provisions of Title 35-A, chapter 93 and develop recommendations for any legislative changes necessary to transition functions performed by the ConnectMaine Authority to the Maine Connectivity Authority by October 1, 2027. On or before January 15, 2027, the Maine Connectivity Authority shall submit a report containing the recommendations resulting from that review, including any proposed legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy, utilities and technology matters. After reviewing the report, the joint standing committee may report out a bill related to the Maine Connectivity Authority's recommendations to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 142
S.P. 885 - L.D. 2181

**Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in
Roxbury the Roxbury-Frye
Veterans Memorial Bridge**

Sec. 1. Bridge in Roxbury renamed. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation shall designate Bridge 2300 on Frye Crossover Road in the Town of Roxbury, currently known as the Frye Bridge, the Roxbury-Frye Veterans Memorial Bridge.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 143
S.P. 887 - L.D. 2183

**Resolve, to Rename the Little
River Bridge in the Town of
Cornish the Cornish Veterans
Memorial Bridge**

Sec. 1. Bridge in Cornish renamed. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation shall

designate Bridge 2465 on Maple Street in the Town of Cornish, currently known as the Little River Bridge, the Cornish Veterans Memorial Bridge.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 144
H.P. 1370 - L.D. 2040

**Resolve, to Study Food
Insecurity Measures in Maine**

Sec. 1. Assessment and evaluation of food insecurity measures in State. Resolved: That, in view of the fact that the United States Department of Agriculture terminated its annual Household Food Security report, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall study opportunities to assess and evaluate food insecurity measures in the State and the State's progress in its strategic plan to end hunger by 2030 under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 2, subsection 6. The commissioner shall seek input from the advisory committee established in Title 7, section 2, subsection 6, outside organizations and other state agencies as necessary in conducting the study. The commissioner may contract with external agencies to study feasible methods to measure and track food insecurity in the State over time, if sufficient funding has been provided for this purpose. This study may include reviewing existing measurements of disparities of food insecurity in target populations, including, but not limited to, those defined by age, geography, income, race and veteran status, as defined by federal and state policy. The study may include a gap analysis to identify missing or incomplete data sets. Results of the study must be published and made available on a publicly accessible website.

Sec. 2. Acceptance of funds for study. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may accept funds from any public or private source for the purposes of the study under section 1. Funds must be transferred into a separate, nonlapsing account, administered by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, for the purposes of this resolve and may not be used for any other purpose.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That, no later than January 15, 2027, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall submit a report to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters; health and human services matters; and education and cultural affairs. The report must include the following:

1. A summary of issues or challenges encountered in conducting the study under section 1;

2. Data and metrics measuring the outcomes and impacts of the study; and

3. Recommendations regarding further study or courses of action relative to the report findings.

Each joint standing committee receiving a report under this section may submit legislation based on the subject matter of the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 145
H.P. 1388 - L.D. 2075

**Resolve, to Authorize the State
Tax Assessor to Convey the
Interest of the State in Certain
Real Estate in the Unorganized
Territory**

Sec. 1. State Tax Assessor authorized to convey real estate. Resolved: That the State Tax Assessor is authorized to convey by sale the interest of the State in real estate in the unorganized territory as indicated in this resolve. Except as otherwise directed in this resolve, the sale must be made to the highest bidder subject to the following provisions.

1. In accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 943-C, at least 90 days prior to listing property for sale, the State Tax Assessor shall send a written notice to the last known address of the former owner by United States Postal Service certified mail, return receipt requested, and first-class mail of the sale process under Title 36, section 943-C, subsection 3.

2. After 90 days, the State Tax Assessor shall list and sell the property with a real estate broker or agent licensed under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, chapter 114 using the sale process described in Title 36, section 943-C, subsection 3.

3. If, after 3 attempts, the State Tax Assessor is unable to contract with a real estate broker or agent for the sale of the property, or the broker or agent is unable to sell the property within 12 months after listing, the State Tax Assessor shall sell the property to the highest bidder for an amount not less than the outstanding taxes, interest, deed and other costs. Notice of the sale must be published 3 times prior to the sale, once each week for 3 consecutive weeks in a newspaper in the county where the real estate lies, except in those cases in which the sale is to be made to a specific individual or individuals as authorized in this resolve, in which case notice need not be published.

4. Following the sale of any property under this resolve, the State Tax Assessor shall pay the former owner any excess sale proceeds in accordance with the

Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 943-C, subsection 3.

If bids in the minimum amount recommended in this resolve are not received after the notice of sale under subsection 3, the State Tax Assessor may sell the property for not less than the minimum amount without again asking for bids if the property is sold on or before August 1, 2027.

Employees of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services and spouses, siblings, parents and children of employees of the Bureau of Revenue Services are barred from acquiring from the State any of the real property subject to this resolve.

Upon receipt of payment as specified in this resolve, the State Tax Assessor shall record the deed in the appropriate registry at no additional charge to the purchaser before sending the deed to the purchaser.

Abbreviations and plan and lot references are identified in the 2023 unorganized territory valuation book. Parcel descriptions are as follows:

2023 MATURED TAX LIENS

Sinclair Township, Aroostook County

Map AR021, Plan 10, Lot 86	038982003 1198-7215

Camp Spirit, LLC	7.30 acres with building

TAX LIABILITY	
2023	\$2,219.16
2024	\$2,749.83
2025	\$2,070.23
2026 (estimated)	\$2,070.23
Estimated Total Taxes	\$9,109.45
Interest	\$565.18
Costs	\$38.00
Deed	\$25.00
Total	\$9,737.63

Recommendation: Sell to the former owner or the former owner's heirs or devisees for \$9,737.63. If payment is not received within 90 days after the effective date of this resolve, sell to the highest bidder for not less than \$9,750.00.

T20 R11 & R12 WELS (Big Twenty Township),
Aroostook County

Map AR078, Plan 02, Lot 4	038010084 1201-1250

Gaz Bar US, Inc.	3.79 acres

TAX LIABILITY

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2021	\$51.08
2022	\$52.17
2023	\$51.95
2024	\$66.66
2025	\$64.58
2026 (estimated)	\$64.58

Estimated Total Taxes	\$351.02
Interest	\$28.55
Costs	\$76.00
Deed	\$25.00

Total \$480.57

Recommendation: Sell to the former owner or the former owner's heirs or devisees for \$480.57. If payment is not received within 90 days after the effective date of this resolve, sell to the highest bidder for not less than \$500.00.

T20 R11 & R12 WELS (Big Twenty Township), Aroostook County

Map AR078, Plan 02, Lots 4.1 & 5 038010010 1213-5154

Gaz Bar US, Inc. 2.81 acres with building

TAX LIABILITY

2021	\$180.81
2022	\$182.10
2023	\$181.33
2024	\$225.83
2025	\$195.43
2026 (estimated)	\$195.43

Estimated Total Taxes	\$1,160.93
Interest	\$99.14
Costs	\$76.00
Deed	\$25.00

Total \$1,361.07

Recommendation: Sell to the former owner or the former owner's heirs or devisees for \$1,361.07. If payment is not received within 90 days after the effective date of this resolve, sell to the highest bidder for not less than \$1,375.00.

T4 R3 BKP WKR (Wyman Township), Franklin County

Map FR004, Plan 02, Lot 99 078280191 1411-5387

Purtle, Thomas 0.23 acre

TAX LIABILITY

2023	\$182.28
2024	\$167.11
2025	\$180.10

2026 (estimated) \$180.10

Estimated Total Taxes	\$709.59
Interest	\$41.73
Costs	\$38.00
Deed	\$25.00

Total \$814.32

Recommendation: Sell to the former owner or the former owner's heirs or devisees for \$814.32. If payment is not received within 90 days after the effective date of this resolve, sell to the highest bidder for not less than \$825.00.

Freeman Township, Franklin County

Map FR025, Plan 02, Lots 162.62 & 162.63 078082059 1197-4373

Pinkham, Mark 14.00 acres

TAX LIABILITY

2023	\$60.49
2024	\$174.85
2025	\$311.42
2026 (estimated)	\$311.42

Estimated Total Taxes	\$858.18
Interest	\$28.76
Costs	\$38.00
Deed	\$25.00

Total \$949.94

Recommendation: Sell to the former owner or the former owner's heirs or devisees for \$949.94. If payment is not received within 90 days after the effective date of this resolve, sell to the highest bidder for not less than \$950.00.

Albany Township, Oxford County

Map OX016, Plan 01, Lot 109 178020370 1214-5868

Conery, Robert, Jr. 1.40 acres with building

TAX LIABILITY

2023	\$116.87
2024	\$138.00
2025	\$233.48
2026 (estimated)	\$233.48

Estimated Total Taxes	\$721.83
Interest	\$29.16
Costs	\$38.00
Deed	\$25.00

Total \$813.99

RESOLVE, C. 145

SECOND REGULAR SESSION - 2025

Recommendation: Sell to the former owner or the former owner's heirs or devisees for \$813.99. If payment is not received within 90 days after the effective date of this resolve, sell to the highest bidder for not less than \$825.00.

Kingman Township, Penobscot County

Map PE036, Plan 01, Lot 3.2 198080029
1218-0040

Whitehead, Donald 0.83 acre with building

TAX LIABILITY

2023	\$114.26
2024	\$128.53
2025	\$161.76
2026 (estimated)	\$161.76
Estimated Total Taxes	\$566.31
Interest	\$28.06
Costs	\$38.00
Deed	\$25.00
Total	\$657.37

Recommendation: Sell to the former owner or the former owner's heirs or devisees for \$657.37. If payment is not received within 90 days after the effective date of this resolve, sell to the highest bidder for not less than \$675.00.

Kingman Township, Penobscot County

Map PE036, Plan 03, Lots 118 & 119 198080295
1201-6033

Osgood, Keith and Helen 0.55 acre with building

TAX LIABILITY

2023	\$182.05
2024	\$214.16
2025	\$324.37
2026 (estimated)	\$324.37
Estimated Total Taxes	\$1,044.95
Interest	\$45.47
Costs	\$38.00
Deed	\$25.00
Total	\$1,153.42

Recommendation: Sell to the former owner or the former owner's heirs or devisees for \$1,153.42. If payment is not received within 90 days after the effective date of this resolve, sell to the highest bidder for not less than \$1,175.00.

Kingman Township, Penobscot County

Map PE036, Plan 03, Lot 143 198080097
1212-0663

Keith, Helen M. and Perry, Patricia A. 1.75 acres

TAX LIABILITY

2023	\$89.00
2024	\$104.72
2025	\$150.35
2026 (estimated)	\$150.35
Estimated Total Taxes	\$494.42
Interest	\$22.23
Costs	\$38.00
Deed	\$25.00
Total	\$579.65

Recommendation: Sell to the former owner or the former owner's heirs or devisees for \$579.65. If payment is not received within 90 days after the effective date of this resolve, sell to the highest bidder for not less than \$600.00.

Prentiss Township, Penobscot County

Map PE038, Plan 11, Lot 21 195400197
1197-9190

Keough, George and Santiago, Damian 41.00 acres

TAX LIABILITY

2023	\$244.53
2024	\$305.42
2025	\$292.10
2026 (estimated)	\$292.10
Estimated Total Taxes	\$1,134.15
Interest	\$62.45
Costs	\$38.00
Deed	\$25.00
Total	\$1,259.60

Recommendation: Sell to the former owner or the former owner's heirs or devisees for \$1,259.60. If payment is not received within 90 days after the effective date of this resolve, sell to the highest bidder for not less than \$1,275.00.

Greenfield Township, Penobscot County

Map PE039, Plan 08, Lot 67.3 192700339
1231-5069

Dagostino, David and James 2.60 acres

SECOND REGULAR SESSION - 2025

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TAX LIABILITY	
2023	\$61.58
2024	\$64.54
2025	\$105.56
2026 (estimated)	\$105.56
Estimated Total Taxes	\$337.24
Interest	\$14.74
Costs	\$38.00
Deed	\$25.00
Total	\$414.98

Recommendation: Sell to the former owner or the former owner's heirs or devisees for \$414.98. If payment is not received within 90 days after the effective date of this resolve, sell to the highest bidder for not less than \$425.00.

Elliotsville Township, Piscataquis County

Map PI084, Plan 02, Lot 34 210800115
1225-5098

Beety, Therese R. and Thomas, 0.45 acre with building
Michael P. (Personal Representative)

TAX LIABILITY	
2023	\$220.65
2024	\$278.78
2025	\$269.87
2026 (estimated)	\$269.87
Estimated Total Taxes	\$1,039.17
Interest	\$37.52
Costs	\$38.00
Deed	\$25.00
Total	\$1,139.69

Recommendation: Sell to the former owner or the former owner's heirs or devisees for \$1,139.69. If payment is not received within 90 days after the effective date of this resolve, sell to the highest bidder for not less than \$1,150.00.

T2 R1 BKP WKR (Lexington Township), Somerset County

Map SO001, Plan 02, Lot 19.3 258310268
1204-6690

Emond, Normand 0.23 acre with building,
25% ownership

TAX LIABILITY	
2023	\$13.17
2024	\$13.00
2025	\$23.09
2026 (estimated)	\$23.09

Estimated Total Taxes	\$72.35
Interest	\$1.23
Costs	\$38.00
Deed	\$25.00
Total	\$136.58

Recommendation: Sell to the former owner or the former owner's heirs or devisees for \$136.58. If payment is not received within 90 days after the effective date of this resolve, sell to the highest bidder for not less than \$150.00.

T3 R6 BKP WKR (Upper Enchanted Township), Somerset County

Map SO015, Plan 09, Lot 158 258582016
1225-0264

Stratton, Basil and Raeann 41.20 acres with building

TAX LIABILITY	
2023	\$497.50
2024	\$540.91
2025	\$553.12
2026 (estimated)	\$553.12
Estimated Total Taxes	\$2,144.65
Interest	\$120.65
Costs	\$38.00
Deed	\$25.00
Total	\$2,238.30

Recommendation: Sell to the former owner or the former owner's heirs or devisees for \$2,238.30. If payment is not received within 90 days after the effective date of this resolve, sell to the highest bidder for not less than \$2,350.00.

T5 R6 BKP WKR (Haynestown), Somerset County

Map SO017, Plan 01, Lot 5 258650008
1236-5194

McCorrison, Melvin B. 3.00 acres with building

TAX LIABILITY	
2023	\$785.57
2024	\$757.39
2025	\$973.05
2026 (estimated)	\$973.05
Estimated Total Taxes	\$3,489.06
Interest	\$182.76
Costs	\$38.00
Deed	\$25.00
Total	\$3,734.82

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION - 2025

Recommendation: Sell to the former owner or the former owner's heirs or devisees for \$3,734.82. If payment is not received within 90 days after the effective date of this resolve, sell to the highest bidder for not less than \$3,750.00.

T29 Middle Division (Devereaux Township), Washington County

Map WA009, Plan 01, Lot 12 298020016
1198-7576

Corey, Paul B. 0.94 acre

TAX LIABILITY	
2023	\$436.33
2024	\$426.62
2025	\$674.42
2026 (estimated)	\$674.42
Estimated Total Taxes	\$2,211.79
Interest	\$101.97
Costs	\$38.00
Deed	\$25.00
Total	\$2,376.76

Recommendation: Sell to the former owner or the former owner's heirs or devisees for \$2,376.76. If payment is not received within 90 days after the effective date of this resolve, sell to the highest bidder for not less than \$2,400.00.

T30 Middle Division, Washington County

Map WA010, Plan 01, Lot 1.1 298260035
1219-0038

Moody, Joshua 0.00 acres building only

TAX LIABILITY	
2023	\$281.27
2024	\$313.52
2025	\$324.02
2026 (estimated)	\$324.02
Estimated Total Taxes	\$1,242.83
Interest	\$68.83
Costs	\$38.00
Deed	\$25.00
Total	\$1,374.66

Recommendation: Sell to the former owner or the former owner's heirs or devisees for \$1,374.66. If payment is not received within 90 days after the effective date of this resolve, sell to the highest bidder for not less than \$1,375.00.

Brookton Township, Washington County

Map WA028, Plan 02, Lot 33 298010112
1201-1577

Butterfield, Mary 0.50 acre with building

TAX LIABILITY	
2023	\$505.47
2024	\$801.68
2025	\$848.92
2026 (estimated)	\$848.92
Estimated Total Taxes	\$3,004.99
Interest	\$130.64
Costs	\$38.00
Deed	\$25.00
Total	\$3,198.63

Recommendation: Sell to the former owner or the former owner's heirs or devisees for \$3,198.63. If payment is not received within 90 days after the effective date of this resolve, sell to the highest bidder for not less than \$3,200.00.

Trescott Township, Washington County

Map WA032, Plan 01, Lot 47.8 298110352
1209-5631

Scollan, Michael F. and Raymond J. 1.62 acres

TAX LIABILITY	
2023	\$55.30
2024	\$55.20
2025	\$81.83
2026 (estimated)	\$81.83
Estimated Total Taxes	\$274.16
Interest	\$13.03
Costs	\$38.00
Deed	\$25.00
Total	\$350.19

Recommendation: Sell to the former owner or the former owner's heirs or devisees for \$350.19. If payment is not received within 90 days after the effective date of this resolve, sell to the highest bidder for not less than \$375.00.

Big Lake Township, Washington County

Map WA033, Plan 03, Lot 7.4 293400192
1200-2275

Blaney, Richard et al. 0.60 acre with building

TAX LIABILITY

2023	\$476.54
2024	\$468.98
2025	\$1,117.88
2026 (estimated)	\$1,117.88
Estimated Total Taxes	\$3,181.28
Interest	\$111.60
Costs	\$38.00
Deed	\$25.00
Total	\$3,355.88

Recommendation: Sell to the former owner or the former owner's heirs or devisees for \$3,355.88. If payment is not received within 90 days after the effective date of this resolve, sell to the highest bidder for not less than \$3,375.00.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 146

S.P. 772 - L.D. 1965

Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Create a Court Navigation Program Plan

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this legislation needs to take effect before the expiration of the 90-day period due to the rise in the number of litigants who are not represented by an attorney and in order to provide the task force established by this resolve sufficient time to complete its work; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. University of Maine System to convene task force. Resolved: That the University of Maine System shall convene a task force, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," to create a court navigation program plan. The membership of the task force must consist of at least one representative from each of the following:

1. The schools of social work of the University of Maine System;
2. The University of Maine School of Law;
3. Maine Pretrial Services, Inc.;
4. Pine Tree Legal Assistance;

5. Disability Rights Maine;
6. The National Alliance on Mental Illness Maine;
7. 211 Maine;
8. The Department of Health and Human Services;
- and
9. The judicial branch.

Sec. 2. Court navigation program plan. Resolved: That the task force shall examine court navigation programs nationwide, recommend a model for a court navigation program for use in the State and create a plan for implementing the program. At a minimum, the court navigation program model recommended by the task force must be designed to:

1. Provide guidance and information about court processes and procedures to persons involved with the court system;
2. Provide persons involved with the court system referrals to community-based resources related to their behavioral health needs, such as mental health treatment and substance use disorder treatment, and their economic and social service-related needs, such as housing, employment, transportation and food, in order to address those needs; and
3. Be operated, in significant part, by social work students and law students who have the opportunity to earn academic credit for their participation in the operation of the court navigation program.

In pursuing its duties under this section, the task force shall consult with advocates for persons who are unhoused, for survivors of domestic violence, for survivors of sexual assault and for other identifiable populations who may particularly benefit from the assistance of the court navigation program.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That, no later than January 15, 2027, the task force shall submit a report that includes the court navigation program plan required by section 2, including a model for a court navigation program for use in this State, and that includes suggested legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters. The joint standing committee may report out legislation based on the subject matter of the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective March 22, 2026.

CHAPTER 147
S.P. 862 - L.D. 2144

**Resolve, to Establish the
Working Group to Prioritize
Wellness and Mental Health
Resources for Heritage
Industries**

Preamble. Whereas, struggles with mental health and wellness are common within Maine's heritage industries, with many individuals and family members reporting high levels of stress, burnout, depression and anxiety; and

Whereas, a July 2025 survey conducted by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and partners revealed 61% of respondents from the agriculture, aquaculture and wild harvest fisheries industries identified the need for increased public education to raise awareness and reduce stigma around mental health issues and access to industry-specific and culturally competent supportive services; and

Whereas, Vermont, Colorado, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and other states have recognized this critical need and implemented solutions; and

Whereas, Maine held its first Maine Land and Sea Farmer Wellness Forum in September 2025, at which over 200 people were in attendance; and

Whereas, the 2021 suicide rate among persons of working age in the United States is approximately 33% higher than it was 2 decades ago, with the agriculture, forestry, logging and fishing industries remaining among occupation groups with higher suicide rates; and

Whereas, the purpose of the working group under this legislation is to convene a group of leaders and experts in heritage industries and mental health and wellness care and wellness programs to improve access to mental health and wellness and wellness care for those involved in agriculture, fisheries, forestry and logging and their families; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Working group established. Resolved: That the Working Group to Prioritize Wellness and Mental Health Resources for Heritage Industries, referred to in this resolve as "the working group," is established.

Sec. 2. Working group membership. Resolved: That the working group consists of 11 members as follows:

1. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, or the commissioner's designee, who serves as a cochair of the working group;
2. The Commissioner of Marine Resources, or the commissioner's designee, who serves as a cochair of the working group;

3. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services, or the commissioner's designee, who serves as a cochair of the working group;

4. One member representing the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, appointed by the co-chairs of the working group;

5. One member representing the State's agriculture industry, appointed by the cochairs of the working group;

6. One member representing the State's fishing industry, appointed by the cochairs of the working group;

7. One member representing the State's logging sector, appointed by the cochairs of the working group;

8. One member representing a statewide mental health services provider organization, appointed by the cochairs of the working group;

9. One member representing an occupational health and safety organization, appointed by the co-chairs of the working group;

10. One member with expertise in rural health or public health services, appointed by the cochairs of the working group; and

11. One member representing a statewide organization that delivers community services, appointed by the cochairs of the working group.

Sec. 3. Duties. Resolved: That the working group shall:

1. Review existing mental health, primary care and wellness resources available to individuals in the State's heritage industries, including agriculture, fishing, forestry and logging;

2. Consider the specific challenges for individuals with serious brain disorders and traumatic brain injuries working in heritage industries;

3. Identify gaps in the provision of services and barriers to accessing existing resources;

4. Identify issues facing migrant workers;

5. Examine successful models from other states and jurisdictions;

6. Develop recommendations for establishing sustainable funding mechanisms and service delivery models; and

7. Explore opportunities for public education to reduce stigma around mental health issues and increase awareness of mental health services.

Sec. 4. Report. Resolved: That, no later than December 1, 2026, the working group shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations based on its review under section 3, including suggested legislation, for presentation to the joint standing com-

mittees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters, marine resources matters and health and human services matters. The joint standing committees may each submit legislation based on the findings and recommendations in the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 148

S.P. 889 - L.D. 2184

Resolve, to Name a Bridge Between the Town of Hiram and the Town of Cornish Warren's Bridge

Sec. 1. Bridge between Hiram and Cornish named. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation shall designate Bridge 5088 on South Hiram Road between the Town of Hiram and the Town of Cornish Warren's Bridge.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 149

H.P. 1376 - L.D. 2052

Resolve, to Study the Use of Technology in Classrooms and Study Safeguards Related to Its Use

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this resolve directs the Maine Education Policy Research Institute to develop a survey to gather and analyze information from school administrative units, schools in the unorganized territory and private schools approved for the receipt of public funds under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 117, subchapter 2 that enroll 60% or more publicly funded students regarding the use of technology in the classroom, safety policies and procedures in place and the means employed to ensure compliance with those policies and procedures and to gather information on current guidance about best practices for safe instructional technology use for children from state and national experts; and

Whereas, the survey and analysis must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that the work may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative session; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of

the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Maine Education Policy Research Institute study. Resolved: That the Maine Education Policy Research Institute shall develop a survey as described under section 2 to gather and analyze information from school administrative units, schools in the unorganized territory and private schools approved for the receipt of public funds under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 117, subchapter 2 that enroll 60% or more publicly funded students regarding the use of technology in the classroom, safety policies and procedures in place and the means employed to ensure compliance with those policies and procedures. In developing the survey, the Maine Education Policy Research Institute may consult with the Department of Education, the Maine School Management Association, the Maine Principals' Association, the Maine Education Association, the Association of Computer Technology Educators of Maine and other stakeholders as appropriate.

Sec. 2. Survey requirements. Resolved: That the Maine Education Policy Research Institute shall survey educators from all 16 counties in the State on the use of technology in the classroom. The survey parameters must include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The amount of average instruction time per grade level spent on school-issued technology devices;
2. The safeguards undertaken before introducing new school-issued technology products, such as enabling screen time settings, blocking access to social media applications and websites and configuring default privacy settings to the highest level;
3. The policies regarding allowed use or prohibition of gamification, leader boards, push notification alerts, advertising, geolocation, generative and conversational artificial intelligence, use of free online tools and use of unlicensed educational websites or online tools that are not certified as safe for schools under the federal Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998;
4. The compliance measures to ensure that school policies under subsection 3 are followed;
5. The timeline for school review of education technology products;
6. Adherence to the provisions of the Student Information Privacy Act;
7. The policies in place for prohibiting artificial intelligence use in grading, teacher evaluations and any other education or administrative areas;

8. Known instances of students bypassing Internet restrictions on school-issued technology devices; and

9. Suggestions for state policies and guidance to assist and support local action and policy development regarding the use of technology in schools.

Sec. 3. Guidance. Resolved: That the Maine Education Policy Research Institute shall gather information on current guidance about best practices for safe instructional technology use for children from state and national experts. The guidance must include, but is not limited to, a review of neuropsychological and developmental studies, comparative academic performance data and behavioral and environmental observations that provide insight on the impact of digital consumption on cognitive development. The institute shall share this guidance with its steering committee to facilitate distribution to its stakeholders.

Sec. 4. Report. Resolved: That, by December 1, 2026, the Maine Education Policy Research Institute shall submit a report based on the survey and research under sections 1 to 3, including recommendations to the Department of Education and suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs is authorized to submit legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Sec. 5. Funding. Resolved: That funding for the requirements of this resolve must be incorporated into the Maine Education Policy Research Institute's fiscal year 2026-27 cooperative project agreement with the Legislature.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 150

H.P. 1459 - L.D. 2171

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 305: Natural Resources Protection Act - Permit by Rule Standards and Portions of Chapter 335: Significant Wildlife Habitat, Major Substantive Rules of the Department of Environmental Protection

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until

90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A requires legislative authorization before major substantive agency rules may be finally adopted by the agency; and

Whereas, major substantive rules have been submitted to the Legislature for review; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this resolve is necessary to record the Legislature's position on final adoption of the rules; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Adoption. Resolved: That final adoption of portions of Chapter 305: Natural Resources Protection Act - Permit by Rule Standards and portions of Chapter 335: Significant Wildlife Habitat, provisionally adopted major substantive rules of the Department of Environmental Protection that have been submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, is authorized.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 151

H.P. 1460 - L.D. 2172

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 33: Rule Governing Physical Restraint and Seclusion, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A requires legislative authorization before major substantive agency rules may be finally adopted by the agency; and

Whereas, a major substantive rule has been submitted to the Legislature for review; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this resolve is necessary to record the Legislature's position on final adoption of the rule; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Adoption. Resolved: That final adoption of portions of Chapter 33: Rule Governing Physical Restraint and Seclusion, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education that has been submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, is authorized.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 152

S.P. 850 - L.D. 2139

Resolve, Authorizing the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to Convey the Interests of the State in Certain Real Property in East Millinocket

Sec. 1. Authority to convey state property. Resolved: That, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State, by and through the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services, referred to in this resolve as "the commissioner," may:

1. Enter into an option agreement with the Town of East Millinocket for sale of certain interests of the State in all or portions of the state property described in section 2, together with all appurtenant rights and easements;

2. Negotiate, draft, execute and deliver the option agreement under subsection 1 and any documents related to the option agreement for the sale of all or portions of the state property described in section 2;

3. Exercise, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, chapter 3, subchapter 3, the power of eminent domain to quiet for all time any possible challenges to ownership of the state property described in section 2;

4. Negotiate, draft, execute and deliver any easements or other rights that, in the commissioner's discretion, may contribute to the value of a proposed sale of

the State's interests in all or portions of the state property described in section 2; and

5. Release any interests in all or portions of the state property described in section 2 that, in the commissioner's discretion, do not contribute to the value of the remaining state property described in section 2.

Sec. 2. Property interests that may be conveyed. Resolved: That the state property authorized to be sold pursuant to the option agreement under section 1, subsection 1 is land located in the Town of East Millinocket consisting of approximately 3,384 acres of property transferred to the State by deed from Katahdin Paper Company, LLC to the State of Maine dated September 28, 2011 and recorded in the Penobscot County Registry of Deeds in Book 12608, Pages 97-104 and does not include timber rights to the property.

Sec. 3. Property to be sold "as is". Resolved: That the commissioner may negotiate and execute an option agreement under section 1, subsection 1 upon terms the commissioner considers appropriate; however, all or portions of the state property described in section 2 must be sold "as is," with no representations or warranties; the purchase price must be the current market value as described in section 4; and the option agreement must expire 5 years from the effective date of this resolve. Title must be transferred by quitclaim deed without covenant or release deed and executed by the commissioner.

Sec. 4. Opinion of value. Resolved: That the commissioner shall have the current market value of all or portions of the state property to be conveyed described in section 2 determined by a broker opinion of value and current comparative market analysis.

Sec. 5. Sale or lease if option not exercised. Resolved: That, if the Town of East Millinocket does not execute an option agreement under section 1, subsection 1 within one year from the effective date of this resolve, the commissioner may list all or portions of the state property described in section 2 for sale, lease or auction with a private real estate broker or auction company and negotiate any sale or lease, solicit bids, sell directly to a purchaser or enter directly into leases with tenants. The commissioner may reject any offer.

Sec. 6. Proceeds. Resolved: That any proceeds from the sale or lease of all or portions of the state property described in section 2 pursuant to this resolve must be used to reimburse the Department of Administrative and Financial Services for administrative expenses and be deposited into the department's Bureau of General Services capital repair and improvement account for capital improvements.

Sec. 7. Repeal. Resolved: That the authorization to convey property granted by this resolve is repealed 5 years from the effective date of this resolve.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 153
H.P. 1353 - L.D. 2023

**Resolve, to Establish a
Working Group to Identify
Ways to Manage Moorings on
Inland Waters**

Sec. 1. Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to convene working group. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall convene a working group to educate those who use the State's inland waters under the public trust doctrine, explore issues related to moorings and develop proposals to manage and regulate moorings on inland waters. The working group must include, but is not limited to:

1. Two representatives of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, one of whom is a game warden representing the Maine Warden Service and one of whom represents the department's administration;
2. Three representatives of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands, one representing inland navigational aids, one representing the submerged lands program and one representing the Maine Land Use Planning Commission;
3. One representative who owns or operates a business that provides mooring rentals;
4. One representative of the State of Maine Harbor Masters Association;
5. One representative representing municipal interests from a municipality with moorings on inland waters that has a mooring ordinance;
6. One representative representing municipal interests from a municipality with moorings on inland waters that does not have a mooring ordinance;
7. One representative representing a lake association; and
8. One representative of a statewide organization that represents inland waters of the State.

Sec. 2. Working group duties. Resolved: That the duties of the working group convened under section 1 must include:

1. Identifying the issues related to moorings on inland waters at both a statewide and local level and identifying potential solutions;
2. Identifying the impacts and opportunities of moorings related to public safety, the environment, property ownership, recreation, commerce and fish and wildlife; and
3. Exploring how other states that have a public trust doctrine manage moorings on inland waters.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters by November 4, 2026 with the findings and conclusions of the working group under section 2, including any recommended legislation. The joint standing committee is authorized to submit a bill related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 154
H.P. 464 - L.D. 725

**Resolve, Directing the
Efficiency Maine Trust to
Study the Quality of Jobs It
Creates in Consultation with
an Advisory Group**

Sec. 1. Efficiency Maine Trust study. Resolved: That the Efficiency Maine Trust, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 10103 and referred to in this resolve as "the trust," shall study, within existing resources and in consultation with the advisory group under section 2, the quality of jobs created through projects funded by the trust pursuant to Title 35-A, section 10104. As part of the study, the trust, in consultation with the advisory group, shall prepare a survey to study the quality of jobs created through projects funded by the trust and shall distribute that survey to qualified partners that employ 3 or more craft workers. The findings of the survey must be used to identify workforce development needs and any existing plans to address these needs and to develop the findings and recommendations of the study.

As used in this resolve, "qualified partner" means an installer that has completed an application and received acceptance by the trust to serve as an Efficiency Maine Qualified Partner; and "craft worker" has the same meaning as in Title 26, section 1304, subsection 3-A.

Sec. 2. Advisory group; members and duties. Resolved: That the trust shall convene an advisory group to consult with the trust regarding the study described in section 1, including regarding the development of the survey described in section 1 and the analysis of the data collected through that survey. The director of the trust or the director's designee shall participate in and oversee the advisory group and shall invite at least one representative from the Maine Labor Climate Council and any additional members considered necessary by the director to ensure comprehensive stakeholder representation. The advisory group shall assist the trust in:

1. Developing the questions to be included in and the distribution method for the survey described in section 1. The survey must include questions designed to collect employment data from qualified partners surveyed, including data regarding:

- A. Employee compensation;
- B. Employee retirement benefits and health insurance benefits, including the number of employees enrolled in the employer's health plan and the employer's contribution;
- C. Where employees received training; and
- D. The number of employees injured while working on projects funded by the trust;

2. Analyzing employment data collected through the survey; and

3. Developing findings and recommendations to be included in the report under section 3.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That, no later than January 31, 2027, the director of the trust shall submit a report setting forth the findings and recommendations of the study under section 1 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters. The committee may report out legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 155

S.P. 848 - L.D. 2138

Resolve, Authorizing the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to Convey the Interests of the State in Certain Real Property in Bangor

Sec. 1. Authority to convey state property. Resolved: That, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State, by and through the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services, referred to in this resolve as "the commissioner," may convey to United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Maine a single-story brick building, known as "the Elizabeth Levinson Center," approximately 25,412 square feet in size and located at 159 Hogan Road in Bangor.

Sec. 2. Property to be sold "as is". Resolved: That the commissioner may negotiate and execute a purchase and sale agreement for transfer of the building pursuant to section 1 upon terms the commissioner considers appropriate; however, the building to be sold must be transferred "as is," with no representations or warranties. The purchase price of the building must be the current market value as described in section 3 but may not exceed \$100,000.

Sec. 3. Opinion of value. Resolved: That the commissioner shall have the current market value of the building described in section 1 determined by a broker opinion of value and current comparative market analysis.

Sec. 4. Proceeds. Resolved: That any proceeds from the building sale must be used to reimburse the Department of Administrative and Financial Services for administrative expenses and be deposited into the Bureau of General Services capital repair and improvement account for capital improvements.

Sec. 5. Repeal. Resolved: That the authority of the commissioner to convey the property described in section 1 under this resolve is repealed 5 years from its effective date.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 156

H.P. 1488 - L.D. 2209

Resolve, to Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to Develop Innovative Models for the Delivery of Dental Services to Expand Access to Oral Health Care Throughout the State

Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services development of models for expanded access to dental services. Resolved: That, based on the recommendation of the Commission to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Studying Alternative Pathways for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry pursuant to Resolve 2025, chapter 107, the Department of Health and Human Services shall:

1. Consider the development of a so-called hub-and-spoke model to expand access to dental services throughout the State. In developing the model, the department must include as components of the model the dental services provided by the University of New England and federally qualified health centers, mobile units and nontraditional dental care practices, such as dental care practices that are limited in scope, that provide services in areas where the population density is insufficient to support a dental provider setting up a practice;

2. Explore options to establish dental specialist residency programs in the State, especially for pediatric dentists, oral surgeons and orthodontists; and

3. Explore options to expand education and training programs for dental therapists in the State.

Sec. 2. Stakeholder participation. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human Services shall invite the participation of stakeholders to

ensure that the department has the information and expertise necessary to complete the tasks identified in section 1, including, but not limited to, representatives from the University of New England College of Dental Medicine, the Maine Public Health Association, the Maine Dental Association, the Maine Dental Hygienists' Association, the Maine Oral Health Centers Alliance and dentists working in private practice who serve the oral health care needs of underserved and high-need populations. The Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation shall provide technical assistance to the Department of Health and Human Services on behalf of the Board of Dental Practice.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That, no later than February 15, 2027, the Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations under this resolve, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health coverage, insurance and financial services matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters. Each joint standing committee may report out legislation to the 133rd Legislature in 2027 based on the report.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 157

S.P. 824 - L.D. 2131

Resolve, Regarding the Nursing Facility Reform Transition Fund

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, since 2014, 29 nursing facilities have closed across the State, and these closures have been driven in large part by MaineCare reimbursement rates and a workforce crisis that threatens the stability of long-term care services; and

Whereas, Maine has the oldest population in the nation, and the demand for long-term care services continues to rise even as access to such care rapidly declines, placing vulnerable older and disabled adults at immediate risk; and

Whereas, severe workforce shortages within nursing facilities have created ongoing instability in the sector, and timely adjustments to MaineCare reimbursement rates for nursing facilities are essential to support the recruitment and retention of qualified staff necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of residents; and

Whereas, the Legislature established the Nursing Facility Reform Transition Fund to assist facilities in moving toward fully implemented MaineCare rate reforms by calendar year 2028, and all facilities should receive cost-of-living increases in their reimbursement rates during this transition; and

Whereas, unappropriated General Fund surplus amounts were transferred to the Department of Health and Human Services, Nursing Facilities program, Other Special Revenue Funds account, including by Part SSS of Public Law 2023, chapter 643, to provide the financial support necessary for facilities to implement new nursing facility rates beginning January 1, 2025; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services to amend its rules to provide cost-of-living adjustments. Resolved: That, as soon as practicable, the Department of Health and Human Services shall amend its rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 67, Principles of Reimbursement for Nursing Facilities, to remove the prohibition on adjusting the guardrails for inflation and require that the guardrails used in the 3-year transition period to the new reimbursement methodology are adjusted for inflation. The cost-of-living adjustment applied to rates for certain MaineCare services under Public Law 2025, chapter 388, Part GGG on January 1, 2026 must be applied to the guardrails and retroactively applied to January 1, 2026. The guardrails must be adjusted for any subsequently implemented cost-of-living adjustment until the end of the rate reform transition period or until guardrails are no longer applied, whichever is later.

Sec. 2. Nursing Facility Reform Transition Fund stakeholder group. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human Services shall convene a stakeholder group to examine the use of the Nursing Facility Reform Transition Fund. The stakeholder group must include, but is not limited to, representatives from the department, representatives of a statewide organization that represents nursing facilities, operators of nursing facilities and the long-term care ombudsman described under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 5107-A. The department shall ensure that meetings are open to the public and interested parties are provided with notice of meetings. The stakeholder group shall examine the following issues related to the Nursing Facility Reform Transition Fund established in Public Law 2023, chapter 643, Part SSS:

1. The uses for funding that has been spent from the fund;

2. The plan for the expenditure of the remaining funds in the fund;

3. The planned cycle for rebasing reimbursement rates; and

4. The use of the fund to pay for cost-of-living increases for staff pay compared to the use of other funding sources for other cost-of-living increases for direct care services.

The stakeholder group shall submit a report, no later than January 15, 2027, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters. The committee is authorized to report out legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 158 H.P. 1521 - L.D. 2242

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 6: Standards Relating to Prescriptive Authorities and Collaborative Relationship for Naturopathic Doctors, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A requires legislative authorization before major substantive agency rules may be finally adopted by the agency; and

Whereas, a major substantive rule has been submitted to the Legislature outside the legislative rule acceptance period; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this resolve is necessary to record the Legislature's position on final adoption of the rule; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Adoption. Resolved: That final adoption of portions of Chapter 6: Standards Relating to Prescriptive Authorities and Collaborative Relationship for Naturopathic Doctors, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation that has been submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A outside the legislative rule acceptance period, is authorized.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 159 H.P. 1513 - L.D. 2238

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 348: Exemption for On-farm Raising, Slaughter, and Processing of Less than 1,000 Ready-to-cook Whole Poultry, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A requires legislative authorization before major substantive agency rules may be finally adopted by the agency; and

Whereas, a major substantive rule has been submitted to the Legislature outside the legislative rule acceptance period; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this resolve is necessary to record the Legislature's position on final adoption of the rule; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Adoption. Resolved: That final adoption of Chapter 348: Exemption for On-farm Raising, Slaughter, and Processing of Less than 1,000 Ready-to-cook Whole Poultry, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conser-

vation and Forestry that has been submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A outside the legislative rule acceptance period, is authorized.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 160
H.P. 1463 - L.D. 2175

**Resolve, Regarding Legislative
Review of Portions of Chapter
115: The Credentialing of
Education Personnel, a Major
Substantive Rule of the
Department of Education,
State Board of Education**

Sec. 1. Adoption notwithstanding truncated comment period. Resolved: That final adoption of portions of Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education that has been submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, is authorized, notwithstanding that the filing period for written statements and arguments concerning the proposed rule closed 9 days after the public hearing, only if:

1. In the rule Part II: Requirements for Specific Certificates and Endorsements, Section 1: Teachers and Educational Specialists: General Certificates and Endorsements, a new Section 1.19 establishing a Mathematics Specialist Certificate is added;

2. In the rule Part II: Requirements for Specific Certificates and Endorsements, Section 2.1: Endorsement 282: Teacher of Children with Disabilities, the grade level specifications of birth to school age 5, preschool through grade 8 and grades 6 through 12 are established;

3. In the rule Part II: Requirements for Specific Certificates and Endorsements, Section 2.1: Endorsement 282: Teacher of Children with Disabilities, a transitional pathway is added to allow holders of an endorsement 282 with a grade span inclusive of kindergarten to earn an endorsement 282 with a grade span inclusive of preschool and elementary grades without the need for additional coursework; and

4. Any existing certificate or endorsement established for grades 7 through 12 is amended to grades 6 through 12.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 161
H.P. 1515 - L.D. 2240

**Resolve, Regarding Legislative
Review of Chapter 10:
Significant Wildlife Habitat, a
Late-filed Major Substantive
Rule of the Department of
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**

Sec. 1. Adoption. Resolved: That final adoption of Chapter 10: Significant Wildlife Habitat, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife that has been submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A outside the legislative rule acceptance period, is authorized.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 162
S.P. 858 - L.D. 2140

**Resolve, to Establish a Demand
Response Program to Lower
Electric Bills and Improve
Grid Reliability**

Sec. 1. Demand response program; established. Resolved: That the Efficiency Maine Trust, referred to in this resolve as "the trust," currently administering behind-the-meter demand management programs in the State, shall establish the demand response program, referred to in this resolve as "the program," to encourage electricity customers to reduce their consumption of electricity during periods of peak demand to help lower their electric bills and improve grid reliability. The trust shall administer the program through the end of fiscal year 2027-28. The trust may extend the program beyond that date, in its discretion, if such an extension is proposed and approved in the trust's next triennial plan pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 10104, subsection 4.

Sec. 2. Savings and reliability through reduction of peak demand. Resolved: That, as a part of the program, the trust shall develop an outreach and education campaign to increase participation in the State's transmission and distribution utilities opt-in time-of-use rates to encourage shifting electricity consumption to off-peak periods. The trust may not require an electricity customer to participate in the program. The program must be designed to focus on savings opportunities most appropriate for the State's electrical loads, grid planning and climate.

Sec. 3. Accessibility. Resolved: That the program must be designed to provide outreach and education to renters, low-income electricity customers and customers having the greatest potential for peak-demand electricity usage reductions, as determined by the trust, and the trust shall prioritize outreach and education for low-income electricity customers.

Sec. 4. Collaboration. Resolved: That the trust shall collaborate with the State's transmission and distribution utilities, the Public Utilities Commission, the Office of the Public Advocate, the Department of Energy Resources, as well as the public, and public interest organizations, including, but not limited to, community action agencies, by seeking input on the design of the program. The transmission and distribution utilities shall provide assistance in delivering information about the program to potential program participants. The transmission and distribution utilities shall provide customer data and other information to the trust necessary for program assessment and enhancing participation in the program.

Sec. 5. Report. Resolved: That the trust shall assess the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of the program and, by February 28, 2028, submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters regarding its assessment. The trust shall include in the report any challenges it encountered in administering the program and any opportunities the trust identifies for improving and expanding efforts to shift electricity consumption to off-peak periods and to help lower electricity bills and improve grid reliability.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 163

H.P. 341 - L.D. 522

Resolve, Directing the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women to Study the Extent of Workforce Gender Segregation in the State

Sec. 1. Occupational and workforce segregation study. Resolved: That the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, as established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 88-A, shall study the extent of occupational and workforce segregation by gender in the State and assess any disparities in safety or compensation related to that segregation.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, by December 1, 2027, the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women shall submit a report based on its findings in section 1 to the Secretary of State and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over

labor matters, which may report out legislation regarding the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions 0692

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women to study the extent of occupational and workforce gender segregation.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$5,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$5,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 164

H.P. 1438 - L.D. 2123

Resolve, to Improve Dental Care Access by Modifying the MaineCare Reimbursement Methodology for the Provision of Certain Dental Services

Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services to remove requirement for prior authorization for deep sedation or general anesthesia for dental services. Resolved: That, effective July 1, 2026, the Department of Health and Human Services shall provide that prior authorization may not be required for the provision of deep sedation or general anesthesia for dental services to MaineCare members.

Sec. 2. Department of Health and Human Services to modify fee schedule; reimbursement rates for anesthesia provided for dental services. Resolved: That, effective July 1, 2026, the Department of Health and Human Services shall update the department's fee schedule for MaineCare reimbursement for dental services as follows:

1. The reimbursement rate for deep sedation and general anesthesia for dental services must be established at 67% of the commercial median benchmark and this rate must, at a minimum, be maintained until June 30, 2028 or until rates established pursuant to a dental rate determination conducted according to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3173-J are effective, whichever is sooner; and

2. Deep sedation and general anesthesia services must be billed using current dental terminology codes D9222, D9223, D9224 and D9225.

Sec. 3. Department of Health and Human Services to modify fee schedule; reimbursement rates for certain dental services. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human Services shall provide for the following in its fee schedule for MaineCare reimbursement for dental services:

1. The temporary reimbursement rates for tooth extractions billed using current dental terminology code D7140 must, at a minimum, be maintained until June 30, 2028 or until rates established pursuant to a dental rate determination conducted according to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3173-J are effective, whichever is sooner; and

2. The temporary reimbursement rate for dental caries arresting medicament application billed using current dental terminology code D1354 must, at a minimum, be maintained until June 30, 2028 or until rates established pursuant to a dental rate determination conducted according to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3173-J are effective, whichever is sooner.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides funding for the Department of Health and Human Services to prohibit requirements for prior authorization for deep sedation or general anesthesia for dental services provided to MaineCare members and establish a reimbursement rate for these services at 67% of the commercial median benchmark.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$17,580
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$17,580
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$31,647
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$31,647
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$5,787
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$5,787

Sec. 5. Retroactivity. Resolved: That this resolve applies retroactively to July 1, 2026.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 165

S.P. 181 - L.D. 395

Resolve, Establishing the Working Group to Develop Recommendations for Extending Federal Beneficial Laws to the Wabanaki Nations

Sec. 1. Working group established. Resolved: That the Working Group to Develop Recommendations for Extending Federal Beneficial Laws to the Wabanaki Nations, referred to in this resolve as "the working group," is established.

Sec. 2. Working group membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the working group consists of the following members.

1. Two members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, including one member of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and one member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature.

2. Two members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, including one member of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and one member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the Legislature.

The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall invite to participate as voting members of the working group the Chief of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians or the chief's designee; the Chief of the Mi'kmaq Nation or the chief's designee; the Chief of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik or the chief's designee; the Chief of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk or the chief's designee; and the Chief of the Penobscot Nation or the chief's designee.

The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives also shall invite to participate as nonvoting ex officio members of the working group the Governor or the Governor's designee; the Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee; and the Managing Director of the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission.

Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the working group.

Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of working group. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 15 days following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council

once all appointments have been made. When the appointment and invitation of all members has been completed, the chairs of the working group shall call and convene the first meeting of the working group. If 15 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the working group to meet and conduct its business.

Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the working group shall review the federal Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 96-420, Sections 6(h) and 16(b), which provide that the laws and regulations of the United States that are generally applicable to, enacted for the benefit of or that relate to a special status or right of Indians, Indian tribes or lands owned by or held in trust for Indians or Indian tribes, referred to in this resolve as "federal beneficial laws," do not apply within the State if these laws or regulations affect or preempt the laws of the State. The working group shall develop and recommend legislative mechanisms for extending the benefits of federal beneficial laws to the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Mi'kmaq Nation, the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation notwithstanding these provisions of the federal Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act. The recommendations may identify particular federal beneficial laws that should not apply within the State or propose a review process to be employed when the application of a particular federal beneficial law within the State would have a specific and substantial disruptive and harmful effect on the State and its citizens. Each of the working group's recommendations must be made by consensus. For the purposes of this resolve, "consensus" means the consent of the members of the working group who are representatives of the tribe or tribes affected by a particular recommendation and a majority of the legislative members of the working group.

Sec. 6. Quorum. Resolved: That a quorum of the working group consists of at least 3 members who are representatives of the tribes and at least 3 members who are members of the Legislature.

Sec. 7. Staffing assistance. Resolved: That the Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the working group, except that Legislative Council staff support is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session.

Sec. 8. Report. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, no later than December 2, 2026, the working group shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters that includes its findings and consensus recommendations, including any suggested legislation. The joint standing committee may report out legislation based on the consensus-based recommenda-

tions of the working group to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 166

H.P. 414 - L.D. 646

Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study Unmanaged Storm Water Pollution

Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved: That the Commission to Study Unmanaged Storm Water Pollution, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established.

Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the commission consists of 13 members appointed as follows:

1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
2. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, including at least one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
3. One representative of an environmental group, appointed by the President of the Senate;
4. One representative who is an engineer with expertise in the design and implementation of storm water planning for development purposes, appointed by the President of the Senate;
5. One representative of municipal government, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
6. One representative of the development industry, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
7. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection or the commissioner's designee;
8. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or the commissioner's designee;
9. The Commissioner of Marine Resources or the commissioner's designee; and
10. The Commissioner of Transportation or the commissioner's designee.

Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the commission.

Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission within 45 days. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the commission to meet and conduct its business.

Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the commission shall meet to review, study and analyze existing scientific literature and data on storm water pollution gathered from stakeholder input and how it has affected or potentially will affect the State's valuable waters, habitats and species along the coast and shall:

1. Compile and review data regarding the actual and potential effects of storm water pollution on public and environmental health;
2. Identify and develop strategies to address knowledge gaps that hinder the State's ability to craft law, policy and other responses to mitigate storm water pollution;
3. Identify pollutants of concern that are not effectively managed through state and federal storm water laws and rules, including, but not limited to, chloride pollution, and recommend strategies to address those identified pollutants;
4. Identify and recommend strategies to address storm water pollution associated with development that is not effectively managed through state and federal storm water laws and rules, including through the municipal separate storm sewer system general permitting process, or through other regulatory tools; and
5. Identify barriers, such as staffing and budget, to adopting the necessary policies and tools to properly address storm water pollution to protect public health, water quality, essential habitats and commercially important species.

Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission, except that Legislative Council staff support is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session.

Sec. 7. Outside funding. Resolved: That the commission may seek financial contributions to fund the costs of the study. All funding is subject to approval by the Legislative Council in accordance with its policies.

Sec. 8. Report. Resolved: That, no later than December 1, 2026, the commission shall submit a re-

port of its findings and recommendations to date, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. The joint standing committee is authorized to submit a bill to the 133rd Legislature in 2027 related to the subject matter of the report.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 167

S.P. 301 - L.D. 760

Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Need to Codify or Recodify Laws Regarding Residential Community Ownership Associations by Adopting the Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act

Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved: That the Commission to Study the Need to Codify or Recodify Laws Regarding Residential Community Ownership Associations by Adopting the Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established.

Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the commission consists of 12 members appointed as follows:

1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
2. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, including at least one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
3. One member of the Maine State Bar Association with a substantial practice in condominium or community ownership association law, appointed by the President of the Senate;
4. One member representing the real estate development community, appointed by the President of the Senate;
5. One member from an association representing municipalities in the State, appointed by the President of the Senate;
6. One member of the Maine State Bar Association with a substantial practice in condominium or community ownership association law who represents the New England Chapter of the Community Associations Institute, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

7. One member representing the State's lending community, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

8. One member representing condominium owners or homeowners in community ownership associations in the State, appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

9. One member of the Commission on Uniform State Laws, as established by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-K, subsection 8, appointed by the Governor.

Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the commission.

Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. If 30 days or more after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the commission to meet and conduct its business. The commission may conduct its meetings through remote participation.

Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the commission shall:

1. Review data on existing condominium and non-condominium community ownership associations in the State;

2. Review state statutes that govern and case law that affects condominium and noncondominium community ownership association developments in the State;

3. Review efforts in other states to address problems with community ownership associations; and

4. Consider whether the adoption of the Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act or other laws may be suitable for the State.

Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission, except that Legislative Council staff support is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session.

Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That, no later than December 1, 2026, the commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, for presentation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing and economic development matters. The joint standing committee of the Legisla-

ture having jurisdiction over housing and economic development matters may submit legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Sec. 8. Outside funding. Resolved: That the commission shall seek funding contributions to fully fund the costs of the study. All funding is subject to approval by the Legislative Council in accordance with its policies. If sufficient contributions to fund the study have not been received within 30 days after the effective date of this resolve, no meetings are authorized and no expenses of any kind may be incurred or reimbursed.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 168

S.P. 740 - L.D. 1870

Resolve, to Assess the Total Cost to the State of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Sec. 1. Department of Environmental Protection; assessment of cost to State of greenhouse gas emissions; report. Resolved: That the Department of Environmental Protection shall conduct an assessment of the costs to the State of the emission of greenhouse gases for the period that began on January 1, 1995 and ended on December 31, 2024. The department may contract with a consultant to conduct the assessment required by this section. The assessment must include:

1. A summary of the various cost-driving effects of greenhouse gas emissions on the State, including effects on public health, natural resources, biodiversity, agriculture, economic development, flood preparedness and safety, and any other effect that the department determines is relevant;

2. A categorized calculation of the costs that have been incurred and are projected to be incurred by the State of each of the effects identified under subsection 1; and

3. A categorized calculation of the costs that have been incurred and are projected to be incurred by the State to abate the effects of greenhouse gas emissions from between January 1, 1995 and December 31, 2024 on the State and residents of the State.

On or before January 1, 2028, the department shall submit a report containing the results of the assessment conducted pursuant to this section to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters, labor matters, judiciary matters and energy, utilities and technology matters. After reviewing the report, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction

over environment and natural resources matters may report out a bill relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,
DEPARTMENT OF**

Maine Environmental Protection Fund 0421

Initiative: Provides a one-time allocation for contracted support services related to the development of an assessment of the costs to the State from greenhouse gas emissions. The department is authorized to accept funds from public and private sources for these purposes.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$600,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$600,000

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 169
S.P. 491 - L.D. 1202**

**Resolve, Requiring the
Department of Education to
Develop Professional
Opportunities for Educators in
African American Studies**

Sec. 1. Professional development in African American studies. Resolved: That the Department of Education shall develop professional development opportunities for educators in African American studies.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

**Office of Workforce Development and Innovative
Pathways Z334**

Initiative: Provides one-time funds for professional development opportunities for educators in African American studies.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$15,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$15,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 170

H.P. 460 - L.D. 721

**Resolve, to Support the Full
Implementation of Certified
Community Behavioral Health
Clinics in the State**

Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
DEPARTMENT OF**

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to support the full implementation of the 5 certified community behavioral health clinics certified by the State as part of the federal Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Medicaid Demonstration Program under the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, including hiring clinical and administrative staff critical to the success of the program. The funding must support enhancement of the Department of Health and Human Services' certified community behavioral health clinics in a manner that enables the department to access the designated enhanced federal match for the program. The department must continue to engage with certified community behavioral health clinic providers regarding how available funding is best leveraged for the program to achieve full implementation.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$500,000
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,671,811
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,671,811
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$39,849
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$39,849

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 171
S.P. 156 - L.D. 364

**Resolve, Directing the Maine
Office of Community Affairs to
Submit Legislation and Take
Other Actions to Effectuate the
Transition of Responsibility for
Regulating Manufactured
Housing Communities and the
Construction and Installation
of Manufactured Homes from
the Manufactured Housing
Board to the Maine Office of
Community Affairs**

Sec. 1. Legislation regarding transfer of rights and obligations of Manufactured Housing Board. Resolved: That the Maine Office of Community Affairs, referred to in this resolve as "the office," shall develop legislation to transition the statutory responsibility for the oversight of manufactured housing manufacturers and manufactured housing communities currently held by the Manufactured Housing Board, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 9003, subsection 1, and administered by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation and to update the law to place the State in a better position to increase the supply of manufactured housing and industrialized housing in the State and to balance and protect the rights and responsibilities of owners and residents of manufactured housing communities. With the assistance of the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis and the Office of the Revisor of Statutes, the office shall review Title 10, chapters 951 and 953 and other applicable statutes governing the oversight of manufactured housing communities and the construction and installation of manufactured housing to:

1. Effectuate the transition of responsibilities from the Manufactured Housing Board to the office;
2. Reduce conflicts and ambiguities in existing law; and
3. Correct any errors and inconsistencies in the law that result from this transition and update.

Sec. 2. Office to consult. Resolved: That, in developing legislation under section 1 to effectuate the transition of responsibility and update and clarify the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, chapters 951 and 953, the office shall consult with representatives of the following groups:

1. Residents of manufactured housing communities;
2. Owners or managers of manufactured housing communities;

3. Businesses that construct manufactured housing;
4. Persons that install manufactured housing;
5. Municipal officers responsible for inspections of manufactured housing communities and newly constructed and installed manufactured housing;
6. Current or former members of the Manufactured Housing Board;
7. Members of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters;
8. The Department of Professional and Financial Regulation; and
9. The Office of Policy Innovation and the Future.

Sec. 3. Public input. Resolved: That the office shall solicit public input on its work under this resolve. The office shall hold at least one meeting to solicit public input and shall post adequate notice of the meeting on its publicly accessible website.

Sec. 4. Transition of authority to act as state administrative agency. Resolved: That the office shall take all action necessary to be authorized by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to act as the state administrative agency under 24 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 3282, Subpart G and 42 United States Code, Sections 5401 to 5426.

Sec. 5. Legislation; report. Resolved: That, by January 1, 2027, the office shall submit legislation developed pursuant to this resolve to the First Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature. The office shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters explaining the legislation submitted and shall include specific information on the authorization by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the office to act as the state administrative agency pursuant to 24 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 3282, Subpart G and 42 United States Code, Sections 5401 to 5426.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 172
S.P. 213 - L.D. 473

**Resolve, Directing the
Department of Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry to
Enter into Rulemaking
Regarding Rule Chapter 30:
Quarantine (Potato)**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until

90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the potato industry is a cornerstone of Maine's agricultural heritage, contributing over \$1,300,000,000 annually to the State's economy, supporting more than 6,500 local jobs and driving agricultural innovation; and

Whereas, an uncontrolled outbreak of dangerous plant disease or invasive insect pests would result in irreparable economic loss, jeopardize food security and undermine the stability of our rural communities, and it is necessary that this resolve take effect immediately to safeguard Maine's agricultural future; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Temporary moratorium. Resolved: That the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may not allow the importation of seed potatoes from the State of Colorado until the department has finally adopted an amended version of rule Chapter 30: Quarantine (Potato), a routine technical rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, in accordance with section 2. This section does not apply to seed potatoes in the form of plantlets or nuclear seed produced under controlled laboratory conditions.

Sec. 2. Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to amend rules. Resolved: That, on or before May 31, 2026, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall initiate rule-making consistent with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to align rule Chapter 30: Quarantine (Potato) with Title 7, chapter 409 and to update rule Chapter 30: Quarantine (Potato) based on the latest science-based data regarding well-known and emerging plant diseases and insect infestations.

Sec. 3. Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to collaborate with potato industry. Resolved: That the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall continue to collaborate with representatives of the potato industry to prevent, to the extent practicable, the introduction of harmful potato pests that may affect the health, yield and marketability of the State's potato crops.

Sec. 4. Report by Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. Resolved: That, no later than February 2, 2027, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters on current standards for certification of seed potatoes in the State, including, but not limited to,

importation requirements, testing requirements and existing quarantines prohibiting or restricting the transportation of seed potatoes capable of carrying plant disease or insect infestation. The joint standing committee may submit legislation to the 133rd Legislature in 2027 based on the subject matter of the report.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 21, 2026.

CHAPTER 173

S.P. 134 - L.D. 350

Resolve, Directing the Landowners and Land Users Relations Advisory Board to Consider Issues Related to All- terrain Vehicles in the State

Sec. 1. Study ATV issues. Resolved: That the Landowners and Land Users Relations Advisory Board, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 10157 and referred to in this resolve as "the advisory board," shall consider issues related to weights, sizes and classifications of all-terrain vehicles, referred to in this resolve as "ATVs," in the State. When considering issues related to ATVs, the advisory board shall consult with the following stakeholders:

1. An individual who registered an oversized ATV and had that registration rescinded by the State;
2. An ATV manufacturer;
3. An ATV dealer; and
4. Any other stakeholders as determined by the advisory board.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That the advisory board shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters with findings and recommendations no later than February 1, 2027. The report must include a summary of the meetings of the advisory board pertaining to the issues described in section 1 and a list of the additional stakeholders included in those meetings as described by section 1. The committee may report out a bill related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 174
H.P. 1102 - L.D. 1661

**Resolve, Requiring a Review
and Assessment of the State's
Invasive Species Management
Efforts**

Sec. 1. Review and assessment of State's invasive species management efforts. Resolved: That, within existing budgeted resources, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, referred to in this resolve as "the departments," shall conduct a review and assessment of the State's invasive species management efforts. The departments shall collaborate with the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Marine Resources, other state agencies and local units of government and nongovernmental organizations in conducting the review and assessment. The review and assessment must include a summary of existing interagency working groups and other collaborative efforts focused on invasive species, including, but not limited to, invasive aquatic species and invasive terrestrial plants. In conducting the review and assessment, the departments shall explore opportunities for increased collaboration and efficiency and funding opportunities for projects related to the control and management of invasive species, education and outreach efforts and projects aimed at early detection and prevention of invasive species.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, by January 31, 2027, the departments shall submit a report detailing the results of the review and assessment under section 1, including any findings and recommendations, to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters; inland fisheries and wildlife matters; marine resources matters; and environment and natural resources matters. Each joint standing committee may submit legislation to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 175
H.P. 482 - L.D. 740

**Resolve, to Study Methods for
Improving Youth Community
Supervision and Increasing
Juvenile Diversion from
Formal Judicial Processing**

Sec. 1. Department of Corrections to convene task force. Resolved: That the Department of Corrections shall convene a task force, referred to in this resolve as "the task force," to study methods for diverting youths safely from formal judicial processing and to

recommend improvements to existing community supervision practices.

Sec. 2. Task force members. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Corrections shall appoint the following 12 members to the task force:

1. One member who is a regional correctional administrator within the Department of Corrections;
2. One member who is a regional correctional manager within the Department of Corrections;
3. One member who is a juvenile community corrections officer within the Department of Corrections;
4. One member with expertise in youth development and children's behavioral health within the Department of Health and Human Services;
5. One member who is an active, active retired or retired judge or justice with experience in the juvenile justice system, recommended by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court;
6. One member who is a prosecutor with experience in the juvenile justice system;
7. One member who is a defense attorney with experience in the juvenile justice system;
8. One member with experience in youth development and juvenile justice data analysis and research within the University of Maine System;
9. One member from a community-based program or organization designed to divert youth from the juvenile justice system;
10. One member with expertise and experience in youth law and policy development;
11. One member who has personal experience with the juvenile justice system; and
12. One member who is related to a youth who has been involved in the juvenile justice system.

Sec. 3. Duties. Resolved: That the task force shall:

1. Identify, describe and collect data on diversion of youth from Department of Corrections supervision prior to formal court involvement, including no further action determinations and informal adjustments;
2. Identify obstacles and improvements to diversions that will help ensure the Department of Corrections is able to divert youths from the formal juvenile court process when appropriate;
3. To the extent possible, establish at least one pilot site to design and implement methods for diverting youths from the juvenile justice system, with a particular focus on increasing diversion from Department of Corrections supervision and court involvement; and

4. To the extent possible and appropriate, develop and implement a family-engaged case planning process for all youth under Department of Corrections supervision.

Sec. 4. Update. Resolved: That, no later than January 1, 2028, the Commissioner of Corrections shall provide an update to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters on the work of the task force. The joint standing committee may report out legislation based on the update to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 176

H.P. 1300 - L.D. 1941

Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Examine the Intersection of Parole and Current Sentencing Practices

Sec. 1. Commission established. Resolved: That the Commission to Examine the Intersection of Parole and Current Sentencing Practices, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is established.

Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved: That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the commission consists of 16 members as follows:

1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
2. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, including at least one member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;
3. The Commissioner of Corrections or the commissioner's designee;
4. The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee;
5. A district attorney, designated by an association representing prosecutors in the State;
6. A representative of an organization advocating for the interests of persons who are incarcerated, appointed by the President of the Senate;
7. A member who is an expert in criminal procedure, appointed by the President of the Senate;
8. A member with experience in the fields of criminal sentencing or criminology or with experience in administering parole, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

9. A representative of an organization advocating for the interests of racial minorities, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

10. A member who is currently incarcerated in a correctional facility in this State, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

11. A member who is a criminal defense attorney, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

12. A member who is a member of Maine Pretrial Services, Inc., appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

13. An active or retired judge or justice, designated by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court.

The membership of the commission must reflect the diversity of the State, including, but not limited to, diversity in geographic location, cultural and ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity and professional experience.

Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved: That the first-named Senate member is the Senate chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the commission.

Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved: That all appointments must be made no later than 120 days following the adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members, the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. If 120 days or more after the adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature a majority of but not all appointments have been made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority for the commission to meet and conduct its business.

Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the commission shall examine parole as it currently operates in this State and in other states and shall consider:

1. How parole fits in with the overall sentencing framework of the Maine Revised Statutes, including the intersection of parole with probation and the supervised community confinement program operated by the Department of Corrections pursuant to Title 34-A, section 3036-A;
2. The consequences of reestablishing retrospective or prospective parole, including an exploration of the laws and experience of any other states that have recently established or reestablished parole; and
3. The decision-making process that should be employed by the State Parole Board, including any training required to ensure parity between sentencing decisions made by the courts and parole decisions made by the board.

Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the commission, except that the Legislative Council staff support is not authorized when the Legislature is in regular or special session.

Sec. 7. Consultants. Resolved: That the commission may request that individuals with specific expertise in parole and the logistics of parole systems, including but not limited to current employees of the Department of Corrections and members of the State Parole Board, serve as consultants to the commission.

Sec. 8. Report. Resolved: That, no later than November 4, 2026, the commission shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters. The joint standing committee may report out legislation based on the recommendations of the commission to 133rd Legislature in 2027.

See title page for effective date.

**CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTIONS OF THE STATE OF MAINE
AS PASSED AT
THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
2025**

(There were none.)

INITIATED BILL OF THE STATE OF MAINE
REFERRED TO THE VOTERS BY
THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
AND APPROVED AT REFERENDUM

CHAPTER 1
I.B. 2 - L.D. 1378

**An Act to Protect Maine
Communities by Enacting the
Extreme Risk Protection Order
Act**

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

Sec. 1. 15 MRSA §393, sub-§1, ¶E-3 is enacted to read:

E-3. Is currently the subject of an extreme risk protection order issued pursuant to Title 25, section 2244 or an emergency extreme risk protection order issued pursuant to Title 25, section 2245, except that the prohibition applies to possession and control, not ownership. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime;

Sec. 2. 15 MRSA §1023, sub-§4, ¶B-2 is enacted to read:

B-2. Set preconviction bail for a defendant alleged to have committed a violation of section 393, subsection 1, paragraph E-3;

Sec. 3. 17-A MRSA §15, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 465, §1, is further amended by amending subparagraph (24) to read:

(24) A Class D or Class E crime committed while released on preconviction or post-conviction bail; ~~or~~

Sec. 4. 17-A MRSA §15, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 465, §1, is further amended by amending subparagraph (25) to read:

(25) A violation of a condition of release from a community confinement monitoring program pursuant to Title 30-A, section 1659-A; ~~and or~~

Sec. 5. 17-A MRSA §15, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 465, §1, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (26) to read:

(26) A violation of an extreme risk protection order issued pursuant to Title 25, section 2244, subsection 3 or an emergency extreme risk protection order pursuant to Title 25, section 2245, subsection 2; and

Sec. 6. 25 MRSA c. 261 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 261

EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER ACT

§2241. Short title

This chapter may be known and cited as "the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act."

§2242. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Court. "Court" means a District Court in this State.

2. Dangerous weapon. "Dangerous weapon" has the same meaning as in Title 17-A, section 2, subsection 9, paragraph C, including a firearm as defined in Title 17-A, section 2, subsection 12-A.

3. Extreme risk protection order. "Extreme risk protection order" means a written order issued pursuant to this chapter that prohibits and enjoins an individual from purchasing, possessing or receiving a dangerous weapon or having or attempting to have custody or control of a dangerous weapon.

4. Family or household member. "Family or household member" means a spouse or domestic partner of the respondent, a former spouse or former domestic partner of the respondent, an individual presently or formerly living with the respondent as a spouse of the respondent, a parent of a child of the respondent, an adult sibling of the respondent, an adult child of the respondent, a parent of the respondent or an adult presently living with the respondent.

5. Law enforcement agency. "Law enforcement agency" means a state, county, tribal, municipal or University of Maine System law enforcement agency. "Law enforcement agency" does not include a federal law enforcement agency.

6. Law enforcement officer. "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as in section 2801-A, subsection 5. "Law enforcement officer" does not include a federal law enforcement officer.

7. Petition. "Petition" means a petition for an extreme risk protection order filed pursuant to this chapter.

8. Petitioner. "Petitioner" means a family or household member, a law enforcement agency or a law enforcement officer who files a petition for an extreme risk protection order pursuant to this chapter.

9. Respondent. "Respondent" means an individual named in a petition for an extreme risk protection order filed pursuant to this chapter whose purchase, possession, receipt, custody or control of a dangerous weapon the petitioner seeks to restrain.

§2243. Jurisdiction and venue

1. Jurisdiction. The court has jurisdiction over proceedings under this chapter.

2. Venue. A proceeding under this chapter must be commenced in the judicial division where the respondent resides or where events that give rise to the petition occurred. If a District Court Judge is not available in the division in which a petition is to be filed requesting an extreme risk protection order under section 2244 or an emergency extreme risk protection order under section 2245, the petition and any accompanying motion may be presented to any other District Court Judge or to any Superior Court Justice who has the same authority as a District Court Judge to grant or deny the order.

§2244. Extreme risk protection orders

1. Petition. A family or household member, a law enforcement agency or a law enforcement officer may file a petition requesting that the court issue an extreme risk protection order in accordance with this subsection.

A. A petition filed pursuant to this subsection must allege that the respondent poses a significant danger of causing physical injury to the respondent or another person by purchasing, possessing or receiving a dangerous weapon or by having or attempting to have custody or control of a dangerous weapon.

B. A significant danger of causing physical injury to another person may be shown by establishing that:

- (1) The respondent has inflicted or attempted to inflict physical injury on another person;
- (2) By the respondent's threats or actions, the respondent has placed another person in reasonable fear of physical injury; or
- (3) By the respondent's actions or inactions, the respondent has presented a danger to another person in the respondent's care.

The court may consider any additional information the court finds to be reliable, including a statement by the respondent, or relevant information from family or household members concerning the respondent, and any other facts that the court finds to be relevant.

C. A significant danger of causing physical injury to the respondent may be shown by establishing that the respondent has threatened or attempted suicide or has threatened or attempted serious bodily injury.

D. The petition must be supported by an affidavit or affidavits that:

- (1) State the specific facts establishing that the requirements in paragraph B or C have been met;
- (2) State whether the petitioner knows of any dangerous weapons in the respondent's possession, custody or control and the identity and location of any such weapons, if known;
- (3) State whether the petitioner knows of an existing order issued with respect to the respondent under Title 5, section 4655 or Title 19-A, chapter 103 or a similar order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction in the United States or another state, territory, commonwealth or federally recognized Indian tribe; and
- (4) Acknowledge that the petitioner is aware that it is a crime to make a false statement under oath in a court document.

E. The court shall provide forms to a petitioner filing a petition or any other necessary documents. The court may not provide assistance in filling out any such forms or in drafting legal documents or provide legal advice to a petitioner. The forms provided by the court under this paragraph must be uniform throughout the State and must include a summons and an affidavit for an extreme risk protection order. The summons must include a section on which the petitioner may list the places where the respondent may be located or may be available to be served.

F. A filing fee may not be required for a petition filed pursuant to this subsection.

2. Hearing. Except as provided in section 2245 with respect to an emergency extreme risk protection order, the court may grant relief only after notice to the respondent and an opportunity for a hearing. The petitioner has the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the respondent poses a significant danger of causing physical injury to the respondent or another person by purchasing, possessing or receiving a dangerous weapon or by having or attempting to have custody or control of a dangerous weapon.

A. The court shall hold a hearing within 14 days after a petition is filed pursuant to this section. Notice of the hearing must be served pursuant to section 2247 concurrently with the petition and any ex parte order issued pursuant to section 2245. This section does not limit the court's discretion to continue the hearing upon the court's own motion or upon motion of either party.

B. The respondent has the right to be represented by counsel at a hearing. The court may, in its discretion, appoint counsel for an indigent party. The

State is responsible for the cost of appointed counsel.

3. Orders. The court shall grant a petition and issue an extreme risk protection order if the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the respondent poses a significant danger of causing physical injury to the respondent or to another person by purchasing, possessing or receiving a dangerous weapon or by having or attempting to have custody or control of a dangerous weapon.

A. The court shall issue an order under this subsection prohibiting the respondent from purchasing, possessing or receiving a dangerous weapon or having or attempting to have custody or control of a dangerous weapon for a period of up to one year. The order must be signed in writing and include the following:

(1) A statement of the grounds for the issuance of the order;

(2) The name and address of the court where any filings must be made, the names of the parties, the date of the petition, the date and time of the order and the date and time the order expires;

(3) A description of how to appeal the order pursuant to section 2251;

(4) A description of the requirements for relinquishment and return of a dangerous weapon under section 2250;

(5) A description of how to request termination of the order under section 2246, including a form for a motion to terminate the order; and

(6) A statement in substantially the following form:

"To the subject of this extreme risk protection order: This order is in effect until the date and time stated above. If you have not done so already, you are required to surrender all dangerous weapons in your possession, control or custody as directed in this order. While this order is in effect, you are not allowed to purchase, possess or receive a dangerous weapon; attempt to purchase, possess or receive a dangerous weapon; or have or attempt to have custody or control of a dangerous weapon. You have the right to request one hearing to terminate this order during the period that this order is in effect, starting from the date of this order. You may seek the advice of an attorney regarding any matter connected with this order."

B. The court shall make either written findings of fact or oral findings of fact on the record. If a court denies a petition filed pursuant to this subsection, the court shall state the reason for the denial.

C. An order issued pursuant to this section must include the following statement: "VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS A CRIME AS PROVIDED BY THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES, TITLE 15, SECTION 393, AND MAY ALSO RESULT IN SANCTIONS FOR CONTEMPT PURSUANT TO THE MAINE RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, RULE 66."

§2245. Emergency extreme risk protection orders

1. Petition. In filing a petition under this chapter, a petitioner may request that the court issue an emergency extreme risk protection order. An emergency extreme risk protection order may be issued ex parte, without prior notice to the respondent.

A. A petitioner seeking an emergency ex parte order shall indicate in the petition and affidavit or affidavits that emergency relief is requested because the respondent poses an immediate and significant danger of causing physical injury to the respondent or to another person by purchasing, possessing or receiving a dangerous weapon or by having or attempting to have custody or control of a dangerous weapon. An affidavit must include specific facts supporting the statement that the respondent poses an immediate and significant danger.

B. A significant danger of causing physical injury to another person may be shown by establishing that:

(1) The respondent has inflicted or attempted to inflict physical injury on another person;

(2) By the respondent's threats or actions, the respondent has placed another person in reasonable fear of physical injury; or

(3) By the respondent's actions or inactions, the respondent has presented a danger to another person in the respondent's care.

The court may consider any additional information the court finds to be reliable, including a statement by the respondent, or relevant information from family or household members concerning the respondent, and any other facts that the court finds to be relevant.

C. A significant danger of causing physical injury to the respondent may be shown by establishing that the respondent has threatened or attempted suicide or has threatened or attempted serious bodily injury.

D. The court may issue an emergency extreme risk protection order if the petition and affidavit or affidavits present good cause that the respondent poses an immediate and significant danger of causing physical injury to the respondent or to another per-

son by purchasing, possessing or receiving a dangerous weapon or by having or attempting to have custody or control of a dangerous weapon.

E. The court shall decide whether to grant or deny the petition and issue the order on the basis of the contents of the petition and the affidavit or affidavits provided. If the petition is granted, the court shall immediately sign the original order, enter on its face the exact date and time it is issued and transmit a copy to the petitioner by reliable electronic means, such as e-mail. Upon issuance of an order, a copy must be served on the respondent pursuant to section 2247.

F. The court may issue an emergency extreme risk protection order by reliable electronic means pursuant to this subsection if requested by the petitioner.

2. Order. An order issued pursuant to this section may prohibit for a period of up to 14 days the respondent from purchasing, possessing or receiving a dangerous weapon or having or attempting to have custody or control of a dangerous weapon. This section does not limit the court's discretion to continue the final hearing and extend the order upon the court's own motion or upon the motion of either party.

A. The order must be in writing and include the following:

(1) A statement of the grounds for the issuance of the order;

(2) The name and address of the court where any filings must be made, the names of the parties, the date of the petition, the date and time of the order and the date and time the order expires;

(3) The date and time of the hearing under subsection 3, paragraph A when the respondent may appear to contest the order before the court. The opportunity to contest the order must be scheduled as soon as reasonably possible, but may not be more than 14 days after the date of the issuance of the order unless extended upon the court's own motion or upon the motion of either party;

(4) A description of the requirements for relinquishment and return of dangerous weapons under section 2250; and

(5) A statement in substantially the following form:

"To the subject of this emergency extreme risk protection order: This order is in effect until the date and time stated above. If you have not done so already, you are required to surrender all dangerous weapons in your possession, control or custody as directed in this order.

While this order is in effect, you are not allowed to purchase, possess or receive a dangerous weapon; attempt to purchase, possess or receive a dangerous weapon; or have or attempt to have custody or control of a dangerous weapon. A hearing will be held on the date and time noted above to determine if an extreme risk protection order should be issued. Failure to appear at that hearing may result in the court making an order against you that is valid for up to one year. You may request an extension of the hearing date. You may seek the advice of an attorney regarding any matter connected with this order. An attorney may be appointed at the discretion of the court to represent you if you cannot afford one."

B. An order issued pursuant to this section must include the following statement: "VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS A CRIME SUBJECT TO A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT OR A FINE, OR BOTH, AS PROVIDED BY THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES, TITLE 15, SECTION 393, AND MAY ALSO RESULT IN SANCTIONS FOR CONTEMPT PURSUANT TO THE MAINE RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, RULE 66."

If a court denies a petition filed pursuant to this subsection, the court shall state the reason for the denial, which may include either written findings of fact or oral findings of fact on the record.

3. Duration. The duration of an emergency extreme risk protection order issued pursuant to this section is as follows.

A. Unless the petition is voluntarily dismissed pursuant to paragraph B, the court shall hold a hearing within 14 days after the issuance of an emergency extreme risk protection order to determine if an extreme risk protection order should be issued. If not voluntarily dismissed, the emergency extreme risk protection order expires when the court grants or denies a petition for an extreme risk protection order in accordance with section 2244, subsection 3.

B. The petitioner may voluntarily dismiss a petition filed pursuant to this section at any time prior to the hearing required under paragraph A if the petitioner determines the respondent no longer poses an immediate and significant danger of causing physical injury to the respondent or to another person by purchasing, possessing or receiving a dangerous weapon or by having or attempting to have custody or control of a dangerous weapon. If the petitioner voluntarily dismisses the petition pursuant to this paragraph, the court shall vacate the emergency extreme risk protection order and direct a law enforcement agency in possession of a dangerous weapon belonging to the respondent to return it to the respondent consistent with section 2250.

§2246. Termination and renewal motions

1. Motion to terminate. A motion to terminate an extreme risk protection order issued pursuant to section 2244 is subject to the provisions of this subsection.

A. The respondent may file a motion to terminate an extreme risk protection order issued pursuant to section 2244 or an order renewed under subsection 2. A motion to terminate may not be filed more than once during the effective period of the order.

B. The motion to terminate an extreme risk protection order and notice of a hearing on the motion must be served on the petitioner pursuant to section 2247.

C. The court shall grant a motion to terminate an extreme risk protection order if it finds by clear and convincing evidence that the respondent no longer poses a significant danger of causing physical injury to the respondent or to another person by purchasing, possessing or receiving a dangerous weapon or by having or attempting to have custody or control of a dangerous weapon.

D. An order on a motion to terminate an extreme risk protection order must state the reason for the denial or granting of the motion.

E. The court shall provide forms to a party filing a motion to terminate an extreme risk protection order. The form provided by the court must be uniform throughout the State.

2. Motion to renew. A motion to renew an extreme risk protection order issued pursuant to section 2244 is subject to the provisions of this subsection.

A. A petitioner may file a motion to renew an extreme risk protection order issued pursuant to section 2244 or renewed pursuant to this subsection for an additional period of up to one year. The motion must be accompanied by an affidavit and must be filed not more than 30 days and not less than 14 days before the expiration date of the order. The motion and affidavit must comply with the requirements of section 2244, subsection 1.

B. The court shall hold a hearing within 14 days after a motion to renew an extreme risk protection order under paragraph A is filed. Notice of the hearing must be served pursuant to section 2247. The court may extend an extreme risk protection order at the time of expiration, upon motion of the petitioner, for additional time as the court determines necessary to hold a hearing on a motion to renew.

C. The court may grant relief only after notice to the respondent and an opportunity for a hearing. The court may grant the motion and renew an extreme risk protection order for an additional period of up to one year if it finds by a preponderance of

the evidence that the respondent continues to pose a significant danger of causing physical injury to the respondent or to another person by purchasing, possessing or receiving a dangerous weapon or by having or attempting to have custody or control of a dangerous weapon. An order on a motion to renew must comply with the requirements of section 2244, subsection 3.

D. The court shall provide forms to a party filing a motion to renew an extreme risk protection order. The form provided by the court must be uniform throughout the State.

§2247. Service

1. Form of service; transmittal. A petition, emergency extreme risk protection order, extreme risk protection order or notice of a hearing issued pursuant to this chapter must be served by a law enforcement officer in accordance with the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure. A court that issues an order under this chapter shall promptly transmit the order electronically or by other means to a law enforcement agency for service and shall deliver a copy to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

2. Service on respondent. A respondent who attends a hearing held under section 2244, 2245 or 2246 at which an emergency extreme risk protection order or extreme risk protection order is issued and who receives notice from the court at the hearing that the order has been issued is deemed to have been served. Regardless of whether the court has previously notified the respondent of the order, the court shall transmit the order for service on the respondent by a law enforcement agency.

3. Performance of service. A petition, emergency extreme risk protection order, extreme risk protection order or notice of a hearing issued pursuant to this chapter must be served in a manner calculated to ensure the safety of the parties. Law enforcement agencies must have a written policy that prioritizes methods of service that do not involve advance notification of a request for an emergency extreme risk protection order to the respondent. The law enforcement agency shall make a good faith effort to serve process expeditiously. Notice of an emergency extreme risk protection order must be served as soon as practicable, but no later than 24 hours after issuance of the order. The law enforcement officer making service shall file a return of service with the court stating the date, time and place at which the order was delivered personally to the respondent.

4. Service of termination and renewal. A motion to terminate or renew an extreme risk protection order must be served by a law enforcement officer in accordance with the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure. A notice of hearing may be provided in accordance with the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure.

§2248. Procedure

1. Fee. A fee may not be charged for forms or for filing a petition, motion or other request for relief under this chapter.

2. Rules; other actions not barred. Proceedings commenced under this chapter must be in accordance with the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure. A proceeding under this chapter is in addition to any other available civil or criminal remedies. This chapter may not be construed to be applicable to actions under Title 19-A, chapter 103.

3. Assistance by law enforcement. Law enforcement agencies shall assist in carrying out the intent of this chapter.

§2249. Enforcement and entering of orders

1. Law enforcement officers and agencies. Law enforcement officers are authorized to enforce orders issued pursuant to this chapter. A law enforcement agency shall adopt a written policy on the enforcement of this chapter and the handling of extreme risk protection orders.

2. Failure to comply with order. A person who knowingly violates an extreme risk protection order issued pursuant to section 2244 or renewed pursuant to section 2246 or an emergency extreme risk protection order issued pursuant to section 2245 is subject to sanctions for contempt pursuant to the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 66 and prosecution pursuant to state law, including, but not limited to, Title 15, section 393.

3. Notice to State Bureau of Identification; national background check. The court clerk shall forward a copy of an extreme risk protection order or emergency extreme risk protection order issued pursuant to this chapter the same day the order is issued to the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police, State Bureau of Identification. Upon receipt of the copy of the order, the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police, State Bureau of Identification shall enter the order into the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Instant Criminal Background Check System, any other federal or state computer-based systems used by law enforcement agencies or others to identify prohibited purchasers of dangerous weapons and any computer-based criminal intelligence information system available in the State used by law enforcement agencies. The order must remain in each system for the duration of time it is in effect, and the law enforcement agency shall promptly remove expired or terminated orders.

4. Penalty for submitting false information. A person who submits materially false information in support of or in opposition to a petition for an extreme risk protection order under this chapter, knowing that material information in the petition or the affidavit is false or that the petition or affidavit is submitted with the intent to harass, is guilty of a Class C crime.

5. Warrantless arrest. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, an arrest for criminal violation of an order issued pursuant to this chapter may be without warrant upon probable cause whether or not the violation is committed in the presence of a law enforcement officer. The law enforcement officer may verify, if necessary, the existence of the order, including by telephone or radio communication with a law enforcement agency with knowledge of the order.

§2250. Relinquishment of dangerous weapon

1. Relinquishment by respondent. A respondent who is required to relinquish a dangerous weapon in the respondent's possession, custody or control under an extreme risk protection order issued pursuant to this chapter, upon service of the order, shall immediately relinquish the dangerous weapon to the law enforcement officer serving the order. A respondent notified by the court at a hearing is required to immediately cooperate with a law enforcement officer to come into compliance with the provisions of the order.

2. Warrant authorizing search and seizure. If a law enforcement agency demonstrates that there is probable cause to believe that the respondent will not relinquish a dangerous weapon, a court may issue a search warrant authorizing a law enforcement agency to seize any dangerous weapon at any location at the time of the issuance of the extreme risk protection order. A court may also issue a search warrant if a law enforcement agency demonstrates that there is probable cause to believe that any dangerous weapon has not been relinquished by the respondent.

3. Treatment of seized dangerous weapon. A law enforcement agency that takes possession of a dangerous weapon shall store the dangerous weapon at the law enforcement agency's facility or a tribal, regional or state public safety facility.

4. Lawful sale of dangerous weapons not affected. This section may not be construed to prohibit the lawful sale of a dangerous weapon by the lawful owner.

5. Release of dangerous weapon within 3 days. A law enforcement agency may release to the respondent a dangerous weapon relinquished pursuant to an extreme risk protection order issued pursuant to this chapter upon expiration of the extreme risk protection order in effect at the time of the request by the respondent and completion of a background check using the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Instant Criminal Background Check System in a manner consistent with federal law. The dangerous weapon must be returned within 3 business days of the request.

6. When return prohibited. Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary:

A. A dangerous weapon may not be returned to the respondent if the respondent's possession of the

dangerous weapon is prohibited by state or federal law; and

B. A dangerous weapon may not be returned pursuant to this section if the dangerous weapon is evidence in a pending criminal matter.

§2251. Appeals

An extreme risk protection order issued pursuant to this chapter is a final order for the purposes of appeal.

§2252. Data and reporting

1. Annual report; submission to Legislature.
The State Court Administrator, acting at the direction of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, shall prepare an annual report on and relating to the application of this chapter by the courts. By January 1, 2027 and annually thereafter, the State Court Administrator shall prepare and submit the report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over civil rights matters.

2. Report requirements. The report required by this section must contain the following:

A. The number of petitions filed for an extreme risk protection order;

B. The number of petitions filed that included a request for an emergency extreme risk protection order;

C. The number of extreme risk protection orders issued and the number denied;

D. The number of emergency extreme risk protection orders issued without notice and the number denied;

E. The number of extreme risk protection orders that have been voluntarily dismissed by the petitioner;

F. The number of emergency extreme risk protection orders entered without notice that have been voluntarily dismissed by the petitioner;

G. The number of motions filed to renew an extreme risk protection order;

H. The number of extreme risk protection orders that have been renewed;

I. The number of motions filed to terminate an extreme risk protection order;

J. The number of motions filed to terminate an extreme risk protection order that resulted in termination of an order prior to the original expiration date;

K. To the extent ascertainable from available state court data, the number of respondents subject to an extreme risk protection order who, within 30 days after entry of the order, have been charged with a criminal offense, including the nature of the criminal offense, whether the offense was a violation of

the extreme risk protection order and the disposition or status of the offense; and

L. Demographic data regarding the individuals who have been petitioners and respondents in actions for extreme risk protection orders.

Sec. 7. Department of Public Safety to obtain federal funding; report. By January 1, 2027, the Department of Public Safety shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over civil rights matters the status of the state-level process currently under way to obtain federal funding for storing dangerous weapons in the custody of state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies.

Effective December 18, 2025.

**JOINT STUDY ORDERS OF THE STATE OF MAINE
AS PASSED AT
THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
2025**

(There were none.)

**REVISOR'S REPORT
2025**

CHAPTER 1

PART A

Sec. A-1. 1 MRSA §150-V, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 81, §1, is reallocated to 1 MRSA §150-X.

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a numbering problem created by Public Law 2025, chapters 24 and 81, which enacted 2 substantively different provisions with the same section number.

Sec. A-2. 1 MRSA §150-W, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 179, §1, is reallocated to 1 MRSA §150-Y.

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a numbering problem created by Public Law 2025, chapters 144 and 179, which enacted 2 substantively different provisions with the same section number.

Sec. A-3. 1 MRSA §232, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 32, §1, is reallocated to 1 MRSA §233.

Sec. A-4. 1 MRSA §232, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 56, §1, is reallocated to 1 MRSA §234.

EXPLANATION

These sections correct a numbering problem created by Public Law 2025, chapters 31, 32 and 56, which enacted 3 substantively different provisions with the same section number.

Sec. A-5. 4 MRSA §1610-R, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 454, §1, is reallocated to 4 MRSA §1610-T.

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a numbering problem created by Public Law 2025, chapters 388 and 454, which enacted 2 substantively different provisions with the same section number.

Sec. A-6. 5 MRSA §3232, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. D, §12, is corrected to read:

4. Encumbered balances at year-end. Notwithstanding ~~Title 5~~, section 1589, at the end of each fiscal year, all encumbered balances accounts for financial assistance and regional planning grants may be carried forward for 2 years beyond the year in which those balances are encumbered.

EXPLANATION

This section makes a technical correction.

Sec. A-7. 5 MRSA §3234, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. D, §12, is corrected to read:

A. A locally designated growth area, as identified in a comprehensive plan adopted pursuant to and consistent with the procedures, goals and guidelines of Title 30-A, chapter 187, subchapter 2 or as identified in a growth management program certified under section 3233-;

EXPLANATION

This section makes a technical correction.

Sec. A-8. 5 MRSA §8053, sub-§3, ¶F, as amended by PL 2025, c. 384, §8, is corrected to read:

F. Indicate where information may be obtained about any adverse economic impact on small businesses that was documented by the agency proposing the rule pursuant to section 8052, subsection 5-A ~~may be obtained~~; and

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a clerical error.

Sec. A-9. 5 MRSA §8053, sub-§6, as amended by PL 2025, c. 384, §13, is corrected to read:

6. Online posting of agency rule-making notices regarding adoption. In addition to the online posting of agency rule-making proposal notices required in subsection 5, the Secretary of State shall post, or cause to be posted, on the Secretary of State's publicly accessible website the weekly notices of agency rule-making adoptions, provisional adoptions and final adoptions. The notices regarding adoption and final adoption must state the effective date of the adopted or finally adopted rules, as well as provide the information specified in ~~section 8053~~, subsection 3, paragraphs A-1, A-2, A-3, C-1, D-1 and G.

EXPLANATION

This section makes a technical correction.

Sec. A-10. 5 MRSA §19203, sub-§8, as amended by PL 2007, c. 539, Pt. N, §6, is corrected to read:

8. Bureau of Health Department of Health and Human Services. To the Department of Health and Human Services, which may disclose results to other persons only if that disclosure is necessary to carry out its duties as provided in Title 22, section 42 and Title 22, chapters 250 and 251;

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a clerical error and makes a technical correction.

Sec. A-11. 7 MRSA c. 10-E, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 65, §5, is reallocated to 7 MRSA c. 10-F.

Sec. A-12. 7 MRSA §341, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 65, §5, is reallocated to 7 MRSA §320-AA.

EXPLANATION

These sections correct a numbering problem created by Public Law 2025, chapters 65 and 183, which enacted 2 substantively different provisions with the same chapter number.

Sec. A-13. 7 MRSA §1808-A, 2nd ¶, as amended by PL 2025, c. 141, §1, is corrected to read:

An animal vaccinated against rabies by a person who is not a licensed veterinarian, a certified rabies vaccinator appointed and certified pursuant to section 3920 or a licensed veterinary technician under the direct supervision or indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian may not be certified as vaccinated against rabies and must be treated as an unvaccinated animal under Title 22, chapter 251, subchapter 5 and rules adopted pursuant to that chapter. For purposes of this section, "direct supervision" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 4853, subsection 4-A; "indirect supervision" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 4853, subsection 4-B; "licensed veterinarian" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 4853, subsection 5; and "licensed veterinary technician" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 4853, subsection 11.

EXPLANATION

This section makes a technical correction.

Sec. A-14. 7 MRSA §3923-B, sub-§2-A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 141, §9, is corrected to read:

2-A. Rabies tags. An owner or keeper shall ensure that a rabies tag obtained from a veterinarian, a licensed veterinary technician under the direct supervision or indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian or a certified rabies vaccinator for immunization against rabies is securely attached to a collar of leather, metal or material of comparable strength and that the collar is worn

at all times by the dog for which the rabies tag was issued, except as provided in subsection 3. For purposes of this section, "direct supervision" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 4853, subsection 4-A; "indirect supervision" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 4853, subsection 4-B; "licensed veterinarian" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 4853, subsection 5; and "licensed veterinary technician" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 4853, subsection 11.

EXPLANATION

This section makes a technical correction.

Sec. A-15. 10 MRSA c. 239, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 294, §1, is reallocated to 10 MRSA c. 241.

Sec. A-16. 10 MRSA §1500-Y, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 294, §1, is reallocated to 10 MRSA §1500-DD.

Sec. A-17. 10 MRSA c. 239, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 209, §1, is reallocated to 10 MRSA c. 243.

Sec. A-18. 10 MRSA §1500-Y, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 209, §1, is reallocated to 10 MRSA §1500-HH.

Sec. A-19. 10 MRSA c. 239, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 350, §1, is reallocated to 10 MRSA c. 245.

Sec. A-20. 10 MRSA §1500-Z, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 350, §1, is reallocated to 10 MRSA §1500-LL.

EXPLANATION

These sections correct a numbering problem created by Public Law 2025, chapters 209, 294, 350 and 404, which enacted 4 substantively different provisions with the same chapter number.

Sec. A-21. 11 MRSA §9-1315, sub-§(4), ¶(a), as enacted by PL 1999, c. 699, Pt. A, §2 and affected by §4, is corrected by correcting subparagraph (iii) to read:

(iii) ~~the~~ The proceeds are not acquired with cash proceeds;

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a clerical error.

Sec. A-22. 11 MRSA §9-1526, sub-§(2), ¶(a), as enacted by PL 1999, c. 699, Pt. A, §2 and affected by §4, is corrected to read:

(a). Consult with filing offices in other jurisdictions that enact substantially this part; ~~and~~

EXPLANATION

This section makes a technical correction.

Sec. A-23. 12 MRSA §6866, sub-§8, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 169, §4, is corrected to read:

8. Review. Prior to the repeal of this section pursuant to subsection 6 Z, the department shall conduct a review of the effectiveness of the green crab only wholesale dealer license and submit a report to the 134th Legislature in 2030. The report must include the department's recommendations concerning possible continuation or modification of the green crab only wholesale dealer license.

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a cross-reference.

Sec. A-24. 12 MRSA §8885, sub-§2-B, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 96, §4, is corrected by correcting the first blocked paragraph to read:

A landowner that enrolled in a forest carbon program or project prior to ~~the effective date of this subsection September 24, 2025~~ must file the report required pursuant to this subsection ~~2-B~~ by July 1, 2026.

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a cross-reference and replaces a general description of an effective date with the actual effective date.

Sec. A-25. 12 MRSA §13068-A, sub-§4, ¶A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 148, §1 and affected by §2, is corrected by correcting subparagraph (2-A) to read:

(2-A) Fails to ensure that a child who has not attained 13 years of age, including the operator, is wearing an appropriate United States Coast Guard approved personal flotation device while the watercraft is underway and used for recreational purposes unless the child who has not attained 13 years of age is below decks or in an enclosed cabin. This subparagraph does not apply to a watercraft with a United States Coast Guard certificate of inspection-;

Sec. A-26. Effective date. That section of this Part that corrects the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 13068-A, subsection 4, paragraph A, subparagraph (2-A) takes effect January 1, 2026.

EXPLANATION

These sections make a technical correction.

Sec. A-27. 20-A MRSA §1001, sub-§23, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 308, §1, is reallocated to 20-A MRSA §1001, sub-§24.

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a numbering problem created by Public Law 2025, chapters 210 and 308, which enacted 2 substantively different provisions with the same subsection number.

Sec. A-28. 22 MRSA §264, sub-§3, ¶H-1, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 127, §2, is corrected to read:

H-1. An advanced practice registered nurse who is licensed under Title 32, chapter 31 or a health care provider who is licensed under Title 32, chapter 36 or 48 and who has experience as a primary care provider-;

EXPLANATION

This section makes a technical correction.

Sec. A-29. 22 MRSA §1812-M, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 237, §4, is reallocated to 22 MRSA §1812-N.

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a numbering problem created by Public Law 2025, chapters 129 and 237, which enacted 2 substantively different provisions with the same section number.

Sec. A-30. 22 MRSA §2660-AA, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2025, c. 425, §2, is corrected to read:

4. Regulated PFAS contaminants. "Regulated PFAS contaminants" means those contaminants regulated under 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 141.61(c)(2), as promulgated on April 26, 2024, and not as superseded by subsequent versions of that federal ~~rule~~ regulation.

EXPLANATION

This section makes a technical change and corrects a clerical error.

Sec. A-31. 23 MRSA §4304, 2nd ¶, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 253, is corrected to read:

The board, in consultation with the Commissioner of Transportation, shall name ferry terminals and ferries constructed for and maintained by the Department of Transportation to operate as part of the Maine State Ferry Service.

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a clerical error.

Sec. A-32. 23 MRSA §4408, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 282, §1, is reallocated to 23 MRSA §4409.

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a numbering problem created by Public Law 2025, chapters 228 and 282, which enacted 2 substantively different provisions with the same section number.

Sec. A-33. 24-A MRSA §1420-Q, sub-§11, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 238, §1, is corrected to read:

11. Rulemaking. The superintendent may issue guidance by rule or otherwise setting forth any additional requirements and limitations for apprentice insurance producer licensing and sponsorship, including eligible and ineligible lines of insurance and limitations or standards for commissions. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, ~~chapter~~ subchapter 2-A.

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a cross-reference.

Sec. A-34. 24-A MRSA §4349-A, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 487, §3, is reallocated to 24-A MRSA §4349-B.

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a numbering problem created by Public Law 2025, chapters 335 and 487, which enacted 2 substantively different provisions with the same section number.

Sec. A-35. 26 MRSA §1191, sub-§4, ¶A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 235, §9, is corrected to read:

A. If a dislocated worker, as defined in section 1196, subsection 1, qualifies for additional benefits under section 1196, subsection 1-A, or exhausts the worker's entitlement to benefits available to the worker under this subsection, the maximum amount under this subsection is the product of the worker's most recent weekly benefit amount multiplied by the number of weeks in which the worker thereafter attends an approved training program. An increase may not be made under this paragraph, with respect to any benefit period, greater than 26 times the individual's weekly benefit amount.

(1) Benefits paid to an individual under this paragraph may not be charged against the experience rating record of any employer, but must be charged to the General Fund.

(2) Benefits may not be paid under this paragraph to an individual:

(b) Until the individual has exhausted benefits for which the individual is eligible under an unemployment insurance benefit program funded in whole or in part by the State or the Federal Government; or

(c) Who is eligible for or who has exhausted, after March 20, 1986, trade adjustment allowances as provided by the United States Trade Act of 1974, 19 United States Code, ~~Section~~ Sections 2291 to 2294, and any amendments or additions thereto, or a similar successor provision of that Act, except that any individual who was eligible for and received less than 26 weeks of benefits under the United States Trade Act of 1974 may receive benefits for the number of weeks by which that individual's benefits under that Act are less than 26 weeks.

EXPLANATION

This section makes a technical correction and corrects a clerical error.

Sec. A-36. 26 MRSA §1192-A, sub-§4, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 235, §11, is corrected by correcting subparagraph (2) to read:

(2) During a period, similar to the period described in subparagraph ~~4~~ (1), between 2 regular, but not successive, terms when provided for by an agreement; or

EXPLANATION

This section makes a technical correction.

Sec. A-37. 28-A MRSA §1057, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 315, §1, is corrected to read:

5. Fee. The permit fee for a liquor ~~liquor~~ judging competition event permit under subsection 2 is \$20.

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a clerical error.

Sec. A-38. 28-A MRSA §1358, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 315, §2, is reallocated to 28-A MRSA §1359.

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a numbering problem created by Public Law 2025, chapters 313 and 315, which enacted 2 substantively different provisions with the same section number.

Sec. A-39. 28-B MRSA §205, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2019, c. 676, §6 and PL 2021, c. 669, §5, is corrected to read:

2. Applications for multiple licenses. An applicant may apply for and be granted multiple licenses of any license type under this chapter, except that:

A. If the applicant has applied for the issuance or renewal of a cultivation facility license, the issuance or renewal of the cultivation facility license may not result in the applicant or a person with a direct or indirect financial interest in that license holding or having a direct or indirect financial interest in:

- (1) More than 3 cultivation facility licenses; or
- (2) Multiple cultivation facility licenses with a combined total licensed amount of plant canopy exceeding 30,000 square feet, except when that exceedance is solely attributable to approved increases in the maximum licensed area of plant canopy authorized under a tier 4 cultivation facility license pursuant to section 304; and

B. If the applicant has applied for the issuance or renewal of a testing facility license or sample collector license, the applicant may not be a caregiver or registered caregiver or have an interest in a registered dispensary, a cultivation facility license, a products manufacturing facility license or a cannabis store license. If the applicant has applied for the issuance or renewal of any license under this chapter that is not a testing facility license or a sample collector license, the applicant may not have an interest in a testing facility license or a sample collector license. An applicant that meets the requirements for the issuance of a testing facility license under this chapter and the requirements of this paragraph may apply for and be issued multiple testing facility licenses. For purposes of this paragraph, "interest" means an equity ownership interest or a partial equity ownership interest or any other type of financial interest, including, but not limited to, being an investor or serving in a management position; and.

EXPLANATION

This section makes technical corrections.

Sec. A-40. 30-A MRSA §3015, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 456, §1, is reallocated to 30-A MRSA §3016.

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a numbering problem created by Public Law 2025, chapters 319 and 456, which enacted 2 substantively different provisions with the same section number.

Sec. A-41. 30-A MRSA §4312, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2025, c. 393, §§14 and 15, is corrected to read:

2. Legislative purpose. The Legislature declares that it is the purpose of this ~~Aet~~ subchapter to:

- A. Establish, in each municipality of the State, local comprehensive planning and land use management;
- B. Encourage municipalities to identify the tools and resources to effectively plan for and manage future development within their jurisdictions with a maximum of local initiative and flexibility;
- C. Encourage local land use ordinances, tools and policies based on local comprehensive plans;
- D. Incorporate regional considerations into local planning and decision making so as to ensure consideration of regional needs and the regional impact of development;
- F. Provide for continued direct state regulation of development proposals that occur in areas of statewide concern, that directly impact natural resources of statewide significance or that by their scale or nature otherwise affect vital state interests;
- G. Encourage the widest possible involvement by the citizens of each municipality in all aspects of the planning and implementation process, in order to ensure that the plans developed by municipalities have had the benefit of citizen input; and
- J. Encourage cooperation and efficiency among municipalities in the development of multimunicipal growth management programs, multimunicipal comprehensive plans, regional inventory and analyses and local and regional policy development.

EXPLANATION

This section makes a technical correction.

Sec. A-42. 30-A MRSA §4364-D, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 364, §2, is reallocated to 30-A MRSA §4364-E.

Sec. A-43. 30-A MRSA §4364-D, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 374, §1, is reallocated to 30-A MRSA §4364-F.

EXPLANATION

These sections correct a numbering problem created by Public Law 2025, chapters 288, 364 and 374,

which enacted 3 substantively different provisions with the same section number.

Sec. A-44. 33 MRSA §580, as enacted by PL 1965, c. 357, is corrected by correcting the section head-note to read:

§580. Lien for common ~~changes~~ charges

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a clerical error.

Sec. A-45. 33 MRSA §2081, first ¶, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is corrected to read:

In this subchapter, the following rules apply:

EXPLANATION

This section makes a technical correction.

Sec. A-46. 34-A MRSA §1402, sub-§15, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 485, §1, is reallocated to 34-A MRSA §1402, sub-§16.

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a numbering problem created by Public Law 2025, chapters 259 and 485, which enacted 2 substantively different provisions with the same subsection number.

Sec. A-47. 34-B MRSA §3012, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 427, §1, is reallocated to 34-B MRSA §3013.

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a numbering problem created by Public Law 2025, chapters 349 and 427, which enacted 2 substantively different provisions with the same section number.

Sec. A-48. 35-A MRSA §10126, sub-§3-A, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 317, §3, is corrected by correcting subparagraph (2) to read:

(2) An authorized licensee of the original equipment manufacturer located outside of the State that meets all the requirements applicable to in-state authorized licensees of the original equipment manufacturer, as determined by the ~~the~~ trust; or

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a clerical error.

Sec. A-49. 35-A MRSA §10313, first ¶, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 476, Pt. A, §16, is corrected to read:

The department is responsible for initiating and conducting procurements for energy, associated environmental attributes or other services from renewable and clean resources. For the purposes of this section, "renewable and clean resources" means generation eligible for any portfolio requirement in section 3210, energy storage, demand management or related transmission. Beginning January 15, 2027, and every 2 years thereafter, the department shall conduct one or more competitive solicitations during the following 2-year period to procure renewable and clean resources, which may include environmental attributes through long-term contracts if the department determines procurement is necessary to achieve the requirements of section 3210 or Title 38, section 576-A or 577 or Title 35-A, section 3210, to meet and manage reasonably expected growth in electricity demand or to meet reliability needs or the department determines is otherwise necessary based on the comprehensive state energy plan prepared pursuant to section 10305, subsection 1. These contracts are not subject to the rules of the Chief Procurement Officer.

EXPLANATION

This section makes a technical correction.

Sec. A-50. 35-A MRSA §10313, sub-§10, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 476, Pt. A, §16, is corrected to read:

10. Commission rules. The commission shall establish a process by rule for the review of requests for proposals under ~~section~~ subsection 2, paragraph C and the review of contracts under subsection 7. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a cross-reference.

Sec. A-51. 36 MRSA §4641-C, sub-§21, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. V, §8 and affected by §10 and amended by c. 484, §4, is corrected to read:

21. Transfers pursuant to transfer on death deed. Any transfer of real property effectuated by a transfer on death deed pursuant to Title 18-C, Article 6, Part 4; ~~and~~

Sec. A-52. 36 MRSA §4641-C, sub-§22, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. V, §9 and affected by §10, is corrected to read:

22. Purchases by first-time home buyers participating in certain mortgage loan programs. Deeds to property to purchasers who receive financial assistance

through the Maine State Housing Authority's first-time home-buyer mortgage loan programs. The exemption under this subsection applies to both the buyer and the seller; and

Sec. A-53. 36 MRSA §4641-C, sub-§22, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 484, §5, is reallocated to 36 MRSA §4641-C, sub-§23.

Sec. A-54. Effective date. That section of this Part that corrects the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 4641-C, subsection 22 as enacted by Public Law 2025, chapter 388, Part V, section 9 takes effect November 1, 2025.

EXPLANATION

These sections correct a numbering problem created by Public Law 2025, chapters 388 and 484, which enacted 2 substantively different provisions with the same subsection number, and make technical corrections.

Sec. A-55. 36 MRSA §5122, sub-§2, ¶M-3, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. H, §1, is corrected to read:

M-3. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, the amount in paragraph M-2, subparagraph (1), division (a) must be reduced by an amount equal to the total amount in paragraph M-2, subparagraph (1), division (a) multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income less the applicable amount, except that the numerator may not be less than zero, and the denominator of which is \$50,000 in the case of a married individual filing a separate return and \$100,000 in all other filing cases. The fraction contained in this paragraph may not produce a result that is more than one. The applicable amount must be adjusted for inflation in accordance with section 5403, subsection ~~40~~ 11.

For purposes of this paragraph, "applicable amount" means:

- (1) For individuals filing as single individuals, \$125,000;
- (2) For individuals filing as heads of households, \$187,500;
- (3) For individuals filing married joint returns or as surviving spouses, \$250,000; or
- (4) For married individuals filing separate returns, 1/2 of the applicable amount under subparagraph (3);

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a cross-reference to a subsection reallocated in this Part.

Sec. A-56. 36 MRSA §5227-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2019, c. 380, §3, is corrected to read:

2. Amended return filed. The amended Maine return must be filed within 180 days from the final determination date of the change or correction or the filing of the ~~federal~~ amended federal return. For purposes of this subsection, "final determination date" means the date on which the earliest of the following events occurs with respect to a federal taxable year:

A. The taxpayer has made payment of an additional income tax liability resulting from a federal audit, the taxpayer has not filed a petition for redetermination or claim for refund for the portions of the audit for which payment was made and the time for filing a petition for redetermination or refund claim has expired;

B. The taxpayer receives a refund from the United States Treasury that resulted from a federal audit;

C. The taxpayer signs Form 870-AD or another Internal Revenue Service form consenting to a deficiency or accepting an overassessment;

D. The taxpayer's time for filing a petition for redetermination with the United States Tax Court expires;

E. The taxpayer and the Internal Revenue Service enter into a closing agreement;

F. A decision from the United States Tax Court, a District Court, a federal court of appeals, the United States Court of Federal Claims or the United States Supreme Court becomes final; and

G. The taxpayer files an amended return or similar report pursuant to the Code, Section 6225(c).

EXPLANATION

This section makes a technical correction.

Sec. A-57. 36 MRSA §5403, sub-§9, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. H, §3 and Pt. Q, §4, is corrected to read:

9. Dependent exemption tax credit amount. Beginning in 2024 and each year thereafter, by the dollar amount of the dependent exemption tax credit under section 5219-SS, except that for the purposes of this subsection, notwithstanding section 5402, subsection 1-B, the "cost-of-living adjustment" is the Chained Consumer Price Index for the 12-month period ending June 30th of the preceding calendar year divided by the Chained Consumer Price Index for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2023. If the credit amount, adjusted by application of the cost-of-living adjustment, is not a multiple of \$5, any increase must be rounded to the next lowest multiple of \$5; ~~and~~

Sec. A-58. 36 MRSA §5403, sub-§10, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. Q, §5, is corrected to read:

10. Dependent exemption phase-out. Beginning in 2025 and each year thereafter, by the dollar amount of the applicable amounts specified in section 5219-SS, subsection 4, paragraphs A, B and C, except that, for the purposes of this subsection, notwithstanding section 5402, subsection 1-B, the "cost-of-living adjustment" is the Chained Consumer Price Index for the 12-month period ending June 30th of the preceding calendar year divided by the Chained Consumer Price Index for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2024-; and

Sec. A-59. 36 MRSA §5403, sub-§10, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. H, §4, is reallocated to 36 MRSA §5403, sub-§11.

EXPLANATION

These sections correct a numbering problem created by Public Law 2025, chapter 388, Parts H and Q, which enacted 2 substantively different provisions with the same subsection number, and make technical corrections.

Sec. A-60. 36 MRSA §6232, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2025, c. 337, §2, is corrected to read:

1. Conditions of program. Except as provided in ~~subsection~~ subsections 1-A and 1-B, a program adopted under this section must:

- A. Require that the claimant has maintained a homestead in the municipality for a certain period of time, as determined by the municipality;
- B. Provide benefits for both owners and renters of homesteads; and
- C. Calculate benefits in a way that provides greater benefits proportionally to claimants with lower incomes in relation to their property taxes accrued or rent constituting property taxes accrued.

A program adopted under this section may impose additional standards of eligibility and procedures, as long as those standards are established by the municipality by ordinance.

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a clerical error.

Sec. A-61. 38 MRSA §480-E, sub-§19, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 329, §1, is reallocated to 38 MRSA §480-E, sub-§20.

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a numbering problem created by Public Law 2025, chapters 122 and 329, which enacted 2 substantively different provisions with the same subsection number.

Sec. A-62. 38 MRSA §490-OO, sub-§2, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 653, §23 and affected by §33, is corrected by correcting subparagraph (12) to read:

- (12) An estimate of costs for reclamation, closure and environmental protection-;

EXPLANATION

This section makes a technical correction.

Sec. A-63. PL 2025, c. 119, §1, amending clause is corrected to read:

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §161, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 419, §1 and reallocated by ~~PL~~ RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. A, §25, is amended by enacting at the end a new paragraph to read:

EXPLANATION

This section corrects an amending clause.

Sec. A-64. PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. A, §25, under the caption "LIBRARY, MAINE STATE" in the 5th occurrence of that part relating to "Maine State Library 0217," is corrected by correcting the initiative paragraph to read:

Initiative: Reallocates 10% of one Librarian-Specialized Services position between Federal Expenditures Fund accounts and provides funding for operational needs in the ~~Read~~ Real World, Real Science project funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

EXPLANATION

This section corrects a clerical error.

PART B

Sec. B-1. 6 MRSA §205, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 467, §4 and amended by PL 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §6, is corrected to read:

6. Liability. ~~No A physician, physician's assistant, physician associate, registered nurse, person certified by the Department of Health and Human Services or hospital or other health care provider in the exercise of due care is not liable in damages or otherwise for any act done or omitted in performing the act of collecting or withdrawing specimens of blood at the request of a law enforcement officer pursuant to this section.~~

Sec. B-2. 20-A MRSA §6359, sub-§1, ¶G-1, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 146, §2, is corrected to read:

G-1. "School health provider" means a physician, ~~physician's assistant~~ physician associate, registered nurse or nurse practitioner licensed to practice by

the State and appointed by the chief administrative officer to provide health care to the student population.

Sec. B-3. 22 MRSA §3477, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 2011, c. 291, §2 and c. 657, Pt. W, §5, is corrected by correcting subparagraph (4) to read:

(4) A ~~physician's assistant~~ physician associate;

Sec. B-4. 22 MRSA §4011-A, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 2009, c. 211, Pt. B, §18 and PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §5, is corrected by correcting subparagraph (4) to read:

(4) A ~~physician's assistant~~ physician associate;

Sec. B-5. 22 MRSA §4018, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 543, §2, is corrected to read:

A. "Medical services provider" means an individual certified, registered or licensed in the healing arts, including, but not limited to, a physician, nurse, podiatrist, optometrist, chiropractor, physical therapist, dentist, psychologist, ~~physician's assistant~~ physician associate or emergency medical services person.

Sec. B-6. 24 MRSA §2502, sub-§1-A, as amended by PL 2011, c. 190, §1, is corrected to read:

1-A. Health care practitioner. "Health care practitioner" means physicians and all others certified, registered or licensed in the healing arts, including, but not limited to, nurses, podiatrists, optometrists, chiropractors, physical therapists, dentists, psychologists, ~~physicians' assistants~~ physician associates and veterinarians.

Sec. B-7. 24-A MRSA §6917, sub-§3, ¶B, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §99, is corrected to read:

B. "Health and medical services" includes, but is not limited to, any services included in the furnishing of medical care, dental care to the extent covered under a medical insurance policy, pharmaceutical benefits or hospitalization, including but not limited to services provided in a hospital or other medical facility; ancillary services, including but not limited to ambulatory services; physician and other practitioner services, including but not limited to services provided by a ~~physician's assistant~~ physician associate, nurse practitioner or midwife; and behavioral health services, including but not limited to mental health and substance use disorder services.

Sec. B-8. 29-A MRSA §2405, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1995, c. 679, §16, is corrected to read:

1. Persons who may report. If, while acting in a professional capacity, a medical or osteopathic physi-

cian, resident, intern, emergency medical services person, medical examiner, ~~physician's assistant~~ physician associate, dentist, dental hygienist, dental assistant or registered or licensed practical nurse knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a person has been operating a motor vehicle, hunting or operating a snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle or watercraft while under the influence of intoxicants and that motor vehicle, snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle or watercraft or a hunter has been involved in an accident, that person may report those facts to a law enforcement official.

Sec. B-9. 32 MRSA §12512, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2007, c. 402, Pt. AA, §7, is corrected by correcting subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) A baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher learning, a license from the State to practice as a registered professional nurse or successful completion of the training program and any competency examination required by the Board of Licensure in Medicine to be qualified as a ~~physician's assistant~~ physician associate;

Sec. B-10. 39-A MRSA §309, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2015, c. 297, §10, is corrected to read:

3. Witnesses; discovery. All witnesses must be sworn. Sworn written evidence may not be admitted unless the author is available for cross-examination or subject to subpoena; except that sworn statements by a medical doctor or osteopathic physician relating to medical questions, by a psychologist relating to psychological questions, by a chiropractor relating to chiropractic questions, by a certified nurse practitioner who qualifies as an advanced practice registered nurse relating to advanced practice registered nursing questions or by a ~~physician's assistant~~ physician associate relating to physician assistance questions are admissible in workers' compensation hearings only if notice of the testimony to be used is given and service of a copy of the letter or report is made on the opposing counsel 14 days before the scheduled hearing.

Depositions or subpoenas of health care practitioners who have submitted sworn written evidence are permitted only if the administrative law judge finds that the testimony is sufficiently important to outweigh the delay in the proceeding.

The board may establish procedures for the prefiling of summaries of the testimony of any witness in written form. In all proceedings before the board or its designee, discovery beyond that specified in this section is available only upon application to the board, which may approve the application in the exercise of its discretion.

EXPLANATION

This Part implements the intent of the revision clause under Public Law 2025, chapter 316, section 3,

changing appearances of or references to the words "physician assistant" to "physician associate," by applying the directed change to appearances of the words "physician's assistant" and "physicians' assistants." This Part also makes a technical change.

PART C

Sec. C-1. 9-A MRSA §1-107, sub-§4, as amended by PL 1987, c. 129, §1, is corrected to read:

4. A settlement in which the consumer waives or agrees to forego rights or benefits under this Act is invalid if the court, as a matter of law, finds the settlement to have been unconscionable at the time it was made. The competence of the consumer, any deception or coercion practiced upon ~~him~~ the consumer, the nature and extent of the legal advice received by ~~him~~ the consumer and the value of the consideration are relevant to the issue of unconscionability. ~~Any~~ A claim of unconscionability must be raised in a judicial action within the earlier of:

- A. Six years after the date of settlement; ~~or~~ and
- B. The limitation period applicable to the original claim ~~which~~ that was the subject of the settlement.

Sec. C-2. 9-A MRSA §1-111, as amended by PL 1987, c. 129, §3, is corrected to read:

§1-111. Record retention

~~Every~~ A person subject to this Act shall maintain records of all consumer credit transactions in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and practices or in a manner that will enable the administrator to determine whether that person or ~~his~~ that person's assignee is complying with the provisions of this Act. The records need not be kept in the place of business where the transaction was entered into, if the administrator is given free access to the records, wherever located. All records pertaining to consumer credit transactions ~~shall~~ must be retained for at least 2 years after making the final entry on the account involved, except that in the case of open-end credit, the 2 years ~~shall~~ must be measured from the date of each account entry.

Sec. C-3. 9-A MRSA §1-201, sub-§6, as amended by PL 1987, c. 129, §7, is corrected to read:

6. For the purposes of this Act, the residence of a consumer is the address given by ~~him~~ the consumer as ~~his~~ the consumer's residence in any writing signed by ~~him~~ the consumer in connection with a credit transaction or open-end credit plan. Until ~~he~~ the consumer notifies the creditor of a new or different address in a writing for that purpose, the given address is presumed to be unchanged.

Sec. C-4. 9-A MRSA §1-201, sub-§7, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

7. Notwithstanding other provisions of this section:

A. Except as provided in subsection 3, this Act does not apply if the consumer is not a resident of this State at the time of a credit transaction and the parties have agreed that the law of ~~his~~ the consumer's residence applies; and

B. This Act applies if the consumer is a resident of this State at the time of a credit transaction and the parties have agreed that the law of ~~his~~ the consumer's residence applies.

Sec. C-5. 9-A MRSA §1-203, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

2. If a creditor is not a resident of this State or is a corporation not authorized to do business in this State and engages in any conduct in this State governed by this Act, or engages in a transaction subject to this Act, ~~he~~ the creditor may designate an agent upon whom service of process may be made in this State. The agent ~~shall~~ must be a resident of this State or a corporation authorized to do business in this State. The designation ~~shall~~ must be in writing and filed with the Secretary of State. If no designation is made and filed or if process cannot be served in this State upon the designated agent, process may be served upon the Secretary of State, but service upon ~~him~~ the Secretary of State is not effective unless the plaintiff or petitioner forthwith mails a copy of the process and pleading by registered or certified mail to the defendant or respondent at ~~his~~ the defendant's or respondent's last reasonably ascertainable address. An affidavit of compliance with this section ~~shall~~ must be filed with the clerk of the court on or before the return day of the process, if any, or within any further time the court allows.

Sec. C-6. 9-A MRSA §1-301, sub-§18, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

18. "Earnings" means compensation paid or payable to an individual or for ~~his~~ an individual's account for personal services rendered or to be rendered by ~~him~~ the individual, whether denominated as wages, salary, commission, bonus or otherwise, and includes periodic payments pursuant to a pension, retirement, or disability program.

Sec. C-7. 9-A MRSA §1-301, sub-§30, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

30. "Person related to" with respect to an individual means (a) the spouse of the individual, (b) a ~~brother, brother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law~~ sibling or sibling-in-law of the individual, (c) an ancestor or lineal descendant of the individual or ~~his~~ the individual's spouse; and (d) any other relative, by blood or marriage, of the individual or ~~his~~ the individual's spouse who shares the same home with the individual. "Person related to" with respect to an organization means (a) a person directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by or under common

control with the organization, (b) an officer or director of the organization or a person performing similar functions with respect to the organization or to a person related to the organization, (c) the spouse of a person related to the organization, and (d) a relative by blood or marriage of a person related to the organization who shares the same home with ~~him~~ the person.

Sec. C-8. 9-A MRSA §1-301, sub-§34, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

34. "Sale of an interest in land" includes, but is not limited to, a lease in which the lessee has an option to purchase the interest and all or a substantial part of the rental or other payments previously made by ~~him~~ the lessee are applied to the purchase price.

Sec. C-9. 9-A MRSA §2-201, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

5. Subject to classifications and differentiations the seller may reasonably establish, ~~he~~ the seller may make the same finance charge on all amounts financed within a specified range. A finance charge so made does not violate subsection 2 if:

A. When applied to the median amount within each range, it does not exceed the maximum permitted by subsection 2; and

B. When applied to the lowest amount within each range, it does not produce a rate of finance charge exceeding the rate calculated according to paragraph A by more than 8% of the rate calculated according to paragraph A.

Sec. C-10. 9-A MRSA §2-201, sub-§7, as amended by PL 1985, c. 819, Pt. B, §§3 and 4, is corrected to read:

7. The finance charge on ~~any~~ a transaction involving the credit sale of goods or services used in the modernization, rehabilitation, repair, alteration or improvement of real property, in which the seller or ~~his~~ the seller's agent installs the goods or provides the services related to the modernization, rehabilitation, repair, alteration or improvement of the real property, may not exceed 18% per year on the unpaid balances of the amount financed.

Sec. C-11. 9-A MRSA §2-502, sub-§4, as amended by PL 1987, c. 129, §47, is corrected to read:

4. If ~~two~~ 2 instalments or parts thereof of a precomputed consumer loan are in default for 15 days or more, the lender may elect to convert the loan from a precomputed loan to one in which the finance charge is based on unpaid balances. In this event ~~he~~ the lender shall make a rebate pursuant to the provisions on rebate upon prepayment, section 2-510, as of the maturity date of the first delinquent instalment, and thereafter may make a finance charge as authorized by the provisions on loan finance charge for consumer loans, section

2-401. The amount of the rebate ~~shall~~ may not be reduced by the amount of any permitted minimum charge, section 2-510. If the creditor proceeds under this subsection, any delinquency or deferral charges made with respect to instalments due at or after the maturity date of the first delinquent instalment ~~shall~~ must be rebated, and ~~no~~ further delinquency or deferral charges ~~shall~~ may not be made.

Sec. C-12. 9-A MRSA §2-506, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1987, c. 129, §52, is corrected to read:

1. If the agreement with respect to a consumer credit transaction contains covenants by the consumer to perform certain duties pertaining to insuring or preserving collateral and the creditor pursuant to the agreement pays for performance of the duties on behalf of the consumer, ~~he~~ the creditor may add the amounts paid to the debt. Within a reasonable time after advancing any sums, ~~he~~ the creditor shall state to the consumer in writing the amount of the sums advanced, any charges with respect to this amount, and any revised payment schedule and, if the duties of the consumer performed by the creditor pertain to insurance, a brief description of the insurance paid for by the creditor including the type and amount of coverages. No further information need be given.

Sec. C-13. 9-A MRSA §2-510, sub-§9, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 433, §1, is corrected to read:

9. Upon prepayment in full of a precomputed consumer credit transaction by the proceeds of consumer credit insurance, section 4-103, the consumer or ~~his~~ the consumer's estate is entitled to the same rebate as though the consumer had prepaid the agreement on the date the proceeds of insurance are paid to the creditor, but no later than 14 days after satisfactory proof of loss is furnished to the creditor.

Sec. C-14. 9-A MRSA §3-203, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

§3-203. Notice of assignment

The consumer is authorized to pay the original creditor until ~~he~~ the consumer receives notification of assignment of rights to payment pursuant to a consumer credit transaction and that payment is to be made to the assignee. A notification ~~which~~ that does not clearly and conspicuously identify the rights assigned is ineffective. If requested by the consumer, the assignee must seasonably furnish reasonable proof that the assignment has been made and unless ~~he~~ the assignee does so the consumer may pay the original creditor.

Sec. C-15. 9-A MRSA §3-204, sub-§3, ¶A, as amended by PL 1983, c. 720, §12, is corrected to read:

A. The consumer, after receiving the notice of the change and ~~his~~ the consumer's rights specified in subsection 2, agrees in writing to the change; or

Sec. C-16. 9-A MRSA §3-204, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

4. The notice provided for in this section is given to the consumer when mailed to ~~him~~ the consumer at the address used by the creditor for sending periodic billing statements.

Sec. C-17. 9-A MRSA §3-206, sub-§2, ¶D, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 264, §1, is corrected to read:

D. The fact that the creditor can take legal action against the person even though ~~he~~ the person has not received any personal benefit in connection with the transaction; and

Sec. C-18. 9-A MRSA §3-206, sub-§2, ¶E, as amended by PL 1981, c. 638, §5, is corrected to read:

E. A statement informing the person of ~~his~~ the person's right to a copy of the agreement that creates ~~his~~ the person's obligation.

Sec. C-19. 9-A MRSA §3-206, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 264, §1, is corrected to read:

3. **Exception.** The notice required by this section need not be given to a seller, lessor or lender who is obligated to an assignee of ~~his~~ the seller's, lessor's or lender's rights.

Sec. C-20. 9-A MRSA §3-206, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 264, §1, is corrected to read:

5. **Priority for collection.** A creditor may not begin a legal action against a person entitled to notice under this section until ~~he~~ the creditor has exercised due diligence to collect the debt from the debtor. This subsection does not apply if the person is jointly and severally liable with respect to the transaction.

Sec. C-21. 9-A MRSA §3-304, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

2. With respect to a supervised loan, a lender uses multiple agreements if, with intent to obtain a higher finance charge than would otherwise be permitted, ~~he~~ the lender allows any person, or ~~husband and wife~~ married couple, to become obligated in any way under more than one loan agreement with the lender or with a person related to the lender.

Sec. C-22. 9-A MRSA §3-305, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

1. A creditor may not take an assignment of earnings of the consumer for payment or as security for payment of a debt arising out of a consumer credit transaction. An assignment of earnings in violation of this section is unenforceable by the assignee of the earnings and revocable by the consumer. This section does not prohibit an employee from authorizing deductions from ~~his~~ the employee's earnings if the authorization is revocable at will.

Sec. C-23. 9-A MRSA §3-305, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

2. A sale of unpaid earnings made in consideration of the payment of money to or for the account of the seller of the earnings is deemed to be a loan to ~~him~~ the seller secured by an assignment of earnings.

Sec. C-24. 9-A MRSA §3-309, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

§3-309. Referral sales

With respect to a consumer credit sale or consumer lease, the seller or lessor may not give or offer to give a rebate or discount or otherwise pay or offer to pay value to the buyer or lessee as an inducement for a sale or lease in consideration of ~~his~~ the buyer's or lessee's giving to the seller or lessor the names of prospective purchasers or lessees, or otherwise aiding the seller or lessor in making a sale or lease to another person, if the earning of the rebate, discount or other value is contingent upon the occurrence of an event subsequent to the time the buyer or lessee agrees to buy or lease. An agreement containing a violation of this section is unenforceable by the seller or lessor; and the buyer or lessee, at ~~his~~ the buyer's or lessee's option, may rescind the agreement or retain the goods delivered and the benefit of any services performed, without any obligation to pay for them.

Sec. C-25. 9-A MRSA §3-311, as repealed and replaced by PL 1985, c. 311, §1, is corrected to read:

§3-311. Consumer's choice of attorney in residential mortgage transaction

~~Every~~ A supervised lender ~~which~~ that accepts an application for a residential mortgage loan for one to 4 residential units and ~~which~~ that requires that an attorney search the title of the subject real estate shall permit the prospective mortgagor to select a qualified attorney of ~~his~~ the prospective mortgagor's own choice to search the title of the subject real estate and certify that title to the lender or land title insurance company, ~~provided except~~ provided that the lender may require the prospective mortgagor's attorney to provide it with evidence of adequate liability insurance or land title insurance or such other written policy requirements as the lender may ~~deem~~ consider necessary to protect its interests, ~~provided except~~ provided that if all such requirements are met by the attorney chosen by the mortgagor, ~~no~~ no additional legal costs may ~~not~~ not be assessed by the lender against the mortgagor for review of the title search or any other relevant title documents by the lender, its title company or attorney.

~~Every~~ A supervised lender subject to this section shall provide written notice to the prospective mortgagor that ~~he~~ the prospective mortgagor has the right to select a qualified attorney of ~~his~~ the prospective mortgagor's own choice for the performance of title work. The notice ~~shall~~ must inform the prospective mortgagor that if the attorney chosen by the mortgagor meets the

lender's requirements, then ~~no~~ additional fees may not be charged to the mortgagor for title work. If the prospective mortgagor indicates on the written notice that ~~he~~ the prospective mortgagor does not wish to exercise ~~his~~ the prospective mortgagor's right to select an attorney, then the lender may recommend an attorney.

~~Nothing in this~~ This section may not be construed to require certification of title to a supervised lender if that lender does not so require, or to a land title insurance company if that company does not so require.

Sec. C-26. 9-A MRSA §3-501, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

§3-501. Definition: "Home solicitation sale"

"Home solicitation sale" means a consumer credit sale of goods, other than farm equipment, or services in which the seller or a person acting for ~~him~~ the seller engages in a personal solicitation of the sale at a residence of the buyer and the buyer's agreement or offer to purchase is there given to the seller or a person acting for ~~him~~ the seller. It includes a sale in which the seller allows the buyer to purchase goods or services pursuant to a lender credit card. It does not include a sale made pursuant to a preexisting open-end credit account, a sale made pursuant to prior negotiations between the parties at a business establishment at a fixed location where goods or services are offered or exhibited for sale, or a sale ~~which that~~ is subject to the provisions on the consumer's right to rescind certain transactions of the Federal Truth in Lending Act. A sale ~~which that~~ would be a home solicitation sale if credit were extended by the seller is a home solicitation sale although the goods or services are paid for in whole or in part by a consumer loan in which the lender is subject to defenses arising from the sale, section 3-404.

Sec. C-27. 9-A MRSA §3-503, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

1. In a home solicitation sale, the seller must present to the buyer and obtain ~~his~~ the buyer's signature to a written agreement or offer to purchase ~~which that~~ designates as the date of the transaction the date on which the buyer actually signs, contains a statement of the buyer's rights ~~which that~~ complies with subsection 2, and contains the terms of the sale. A completely executed copy of the agreement ~~shall~~ must be furnished by the seller to the buyer immediately after the buyer signs the agreement.

Sec. C-28. 9-A MRSA §3-503, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

3. A home solicitation sales contract ~~which that~~ contains the notice of cancellation forms and content required by the Federal Trade Commission's trade regulation rule providing for a time period within which a home solicitation sale may be cancelled ~~shall be~~ is deemed as complying with the requirements of this Part, so long as the Federal Trade Commission rule provides

at least equal information to the consumer concerning ~~his~~ the consumer's right to cancel as is required by this Part.

Sec. C-29. 9-A MRSA §3-503, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

4. Until the seller has complied with this section, the buyer may cancel the home solicitation sale by notifying the seller in any manner and by any means of ~~his~~ the buyer's intention to cancel.

Sec. C-30. 9-A MRSA §3-504, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

3. Until the seller has complied with the obligations imposed by this section, the buyer may retain possession of goods delivered to ~~him~~ the buyer by the seller and has a lien on the goods in ~~his~~ the buyer's possession or control for any recovery to which ~~he~~ the buyer is entitled.

Sec. C-31. 9-A MRSA §3-505, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

§3-505. Duty of buyer; no compensation for services prior to cancellation

1. Except as provided by the provisions on retention of goods by the buyer, subsection 3 of section 3-504, within a reasonable time after a home solicitation sale has been cancelled or an offer to purchase revoked, the buyer upon demand must tender to the seller any goods delivered by the seller pursuant to the sale but ~~he~~ the buyer is not obligated to tender at any place other than ~~his~~ the buyer's residence. If the seller fails to demand possession of goods within a reasonable time after cancellation or revocation, the goods become the property of the buyer without obligation to pay for them. For the purpose of this section, 40 days is presumed to be a reasonable time.

2. The buyer has a duty to take reasonable care of the goods in ~~his~~ the buyer's possession before cancellation or revocation and for a reasonable time thereafter, during which time the goods are otherwise at the seller's risk.

3. If the seller has performed any services pursuant to a home solicitation sale prior to its cancellation, the seller is not entitled to ~~no~~ compensation.

Sec. C-32. 9-A MRSA §4-106, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

A. Potential benefits to the consumer including the satisfaction of ~~his~~ the consumer's obligations;

Sec. C-33. 9-A MRSA §4-204, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 336, §7, is corrected to read:

§4-204. Notice of right to cancel credit insurance in open-end transactions

A creditor who provides consumer credit insurance in relation to open-end credit shall, at least annually, inform the consumer of the voluntary nature of the insurance and of ~~his~~ the consumer's right to cancel that insurance at will.

Sec. C-34. 9-A MRSA §4-304, as amended by PL 1975, c. 316, is corrected to read:

§4-304. Cancellation by creditor

A creditor ~~shall~~ may not request cancellation of a policy of property or liability insurance except after the consumer's default or in accordance with a written authorization by the consumer and until written notice is delivered to the consumer or mailed to ~~him~~ the consumer at ~~his~~ the consumer's address as stated by ~~him~~ the consumer. The notice ~~shall~~ must state that the policy may be cancelled on a date not less than 10 days after the notice is delivered; or, if the notice is mailed, not less than 13 days after it is mailed.

Sec. C-35. 9-A MRSA §5-103, sub-§5, as amended by PL 1975, c. 288, §3, is corrected to read:

5. If the creditor elects to bring an action against the consumer for a debt arising from a consumer loan or consumer credit sale of goods or services, when under this section ~~he~~ the creditor would not be entitled to a deficiency judgment if ~~he~~ the creditor repossessed the collateral and obtains judgment:

A. ~~He~~ The creditor may not repossess the collateral; and

B. The collateral is not subject to levy or sale on execution or similar proceedings pursuant to the judgment.

Sec. C-36. 9-A MRSA §5-109, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 486, is corrected to read:

4. The consumer fails to make a payment as required by agreement if ~~he~~ the consumer fails to pay when due an amount equal to or greater than the amount of the average installment under a schedule of payments, other than any down payment or balloon payment permitted under section 3-308, ~~which that~~ conforms both as to amounts and intervals to the average of all installments and intervals under the agreement. The unpaid amount due may consist of any unpaid installment or accumulation of partially unpaid installments, delinquency or deferral charges, or any combination thereof.

Sec. C-37. 9-A MRSA §5-110, sub-§3, ¶B, as repealed and replaced by PL 1975, c. 429, §2, is corrected to read:

B. In lieu of the statement in the form of notice specified in subsection 2 that the creditor may exercise ~~his~~ the creditor's rights under the law, the statement that each policy or contract identified in the notice may be cancelled; and

Sec. C-38. 9-A MRSA §5-111, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1985, c. 763, Pt. A, §43, is corrected to read:

1. With respect to a consumer credit transaction, except as provided in subsection 2, after a default consisting only of the consumer's failure to make a required payment, a creditor, because of that default, may neither accelerate maturity of the unpaid balance of the obligation, nor take possession of or otherwise enforce a security interest in goods that are collateral until 14 days after a notice of the consumer's right to cure, as provided in section 5-110, is given, nor with respect to an insurance premium loan, give notice of cancellation as provided in subsection 4 until 10 days after a notice of the consumer's right to cure, as provided in section 5-110, is given. For purposes of this section, goods that are collateral ~~shall~~ include any right of set-off that the creditor may have. Until expiration of the minimum applicable period after the notice is given, the consumer may cure all defaults consisting of a failure to make the required payment by tendering the amount of all unpaid sums due at the time of the tender, without acceleration, plus any unpaid delinquency or deferral charges. Cure restores the consumer to ~~his~~ the consumer's rights under the agreement as though the defaults had not occurred.

Sec. C-39. 9-A MRSA §5-111, sub-§3, as amended by PL 1975, c. 180, is corrected to read:

3. This section and the provisions on waiver, agreements to forego rights and settlement of claims, as provided in section 1-107, do not prohibit a consumer from voluntarily surrendering possession of goods ~~which that~~ are collateral and the creditor from thereafter accelerating maturity of the obligation and enforcing the obligation and ~~his~~ the creditor's security interest in the goods at any time after default.

Sec. C-40. 9-A MRSA §5-111, sub-§4, as amended by PL 1985, c. 763, Pt. A, §45, is corrected to read:

4. If a default on an insurance premium loan is not cured, the lender may give notice of cancellation of each insurance policy or contract to be cancelled. If given, the notice of cancellation ~~shall~~ must be in writing and given to the insurer who issued the policy or contract and to the insured. The insurer, within 2 business days after receipt of the notice of cancellation together with a copy of the insurance premium loan agreement if not previously given to ~~him~~ the insurer, shall give any notice of cancellation required by the policy, contract or law and, within 10 business days after the effective date of the cancellation, pay to the lender any premium unearned on the policy or contract as of that effective date. Within 10 business days after receipt of the unearned premium, the lender shall pay to the consumer indebted upon the insurance premium loan agreement any excess of the unearned premium received over the amount owing by the consumer upon the insurance premium loan.

Sec. C-41. 9-A MRSA §5-115, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

§5-115. Misrepresentation

A creditor or a person acting for ~~him~~ a creditor may not induce a consumer to enter into a consumer credit transaction by misrepresentation of a material fact with respect to the terms and conditions of the extension of credit. A consumer so induced may rescind the sale, lease or loan or recover actual damages, or both.

Sec. C-42. 9-A MRSA §5-116, sub-§1, ¶E, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

E. Disclose or threaten to disclose to a person other than the debtor or ~~his~~ the debtor's spouse information affecting the debtor's reputation, whether or not for credit worthiness, with knowledge or reason to know that the other person does not have a legitimate business need for the information, but this subsection does not prohibit the disclosure to another person of information permitted to be disclosed to ~~him~~ that person by statute;

Sec. C-43. 9-A MRSA §5-201, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

3. A debtor is not obligated to pay a charge in excess of that allowed by this Act, and if ~~he~~ a debtor has paid an excess charge ~~he~~ the debtor has a right to a refund. A refund may be made by reducing the debtor's obligation by the amount of the excess charge. If the debtor has paid an amount in excess of the lawful obligation under the agreement, the debtor may recover the excess amount from the person who made the excess charge or from an assignee of that person's rights who undertakes direct collection of payments from or enforcement of rights against debtors arising from the debt.

Sec. C-44. 9-A MRSA §6-104, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 763, Pt. A, §49, is corrected to read:

4. In addition to other rule-making requirements imposed by law, the administrator shall:

A. Adopt as a rule a description of the organization of ~~his~~ the administrator's office, stating the general course and method of the operations of ~~his~~ the administrator's office and the methods whereby the public may obtain information or make submissions or requests;

B. Adopt rules of practice setting forth the nature and requirements of all formal and informal procedures available, including a description of all forms and instructions used by the administrator or ~~his~~ the administrator's office;

C. Make available for public inspection all rules and all other written statements of policy or inter-

pretations formulated, adopted or used by the administrator in the discharge of ~~his~~ the administrator's functions; and

D. Make available for public inspection all final orders, decisions and opinions.

Sec. C-45. 9-A MRSA §6-106, sub-§1, as repealed and replaced by PL 1987, c. 129, §67, is corrected to read:

1. The administrator may, at any time, but not more frequently than once every 3 months, conduct an examination or make an investigation of any person ~~he~~ the administrator believes has engaged in conduct governed by this Act. For these purposes, the administrator ~~shall~~ must have free and reasonable access to the offices, places of business and records of the person and may make and procure copies of those records, books, documents or other tangible things without employing the subpoena powers provided by subsection 2.

Sec. C-46. 9-A MRSA §6-106, sub-§2, as repealed and replaced by PL 1987, c. 129, §67, is corrected to read:

2. For the purposes of this section, the administrator may administer oaths or affirmations and, upon ~~his~~ the administrator's own motion or upon request of any party, may subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance, adduce evidence and require the production of any matter ~~which~~ that is relevant to an examination or investigation, including the existence, description, nature, custody, condition and location of any books, documents or other tangible things and the identity and location of persons having knowledge of relevant facts, or any other matter reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.

Sec. C-47. 9-A MRSA §6-106, sub-§3, as repealed and replaced by PL 1987, c. 129, §67, is corrected to read:

3. If the person's records are located outside this State, that person, at the administrator's option, either shall make the records available to the administrator at a convenient location within the State or allow the administrator or ~~his~~ the administrator's representatives to examine them at the place where they are maintained. The administrator may designate representatives, including comparable officials of the state in which the records are located, to inspect them on the administrator's behalf.

Sec. C-48. 9-A MRSA §6-106, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 129, §67, is corrected to read:

4. If the administrator finds a violation of this Act, ~~he~~ the administrator may notify any party to the transaction involved.

Sec. C-49. 9-A MRSA §6-106, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 129, §67, is corrected to read:

5. If ~~any~~ an individual without lawful excuse fails to obey a subpoena or to give testimony when directed to do so by the administrator or obstructs the proceedings by any means, whether or not in the presence of the administrator, that individual is guilty of contempt. The administrator, through the Attorney General, may file a complaint in the Superior Court setting forth the facts constituting the contempt and requesting an order returnable in not less than 2 days nor more than 5 days, directing the alleged contemner to show cause before the court why ~~he~~ the alleged contemner should not be punished for contempt. If the court determines that the respondent has committed any alleged contempt, the court shall punish the offender for contempt.

Sec. C-50. 9-A MRSA §6-110, as amended by PL 1983, c. 212, §11, is corrected to read:

§6-110. Injunctions against violations of ~~aet~~ Act

The administrator, through the Attorney General, may bring a civil action to restrain any person from violating this Act.

In such an action, the court may make such orders or judgments as may be necessary to prevent the use or employment by a person of any practices prohibited by this Act, to reform contracts to conform to this Act or to rescind contracts in which a violation has tended to induce the debtor to contract with the creditor, even though the debtors are not parties to the action. In such an action, the court may, in its discretion, award the administrator ~~his~~ the administrator's reasonable costs of investigation and reasonable ~~attorneys'~~ attorney's fees incurred in bringing the action. An action under this section and an action under section 6-113 may be brought jointly using a single complaint.

Sec. C-51. 9-A MRSA §6-111, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

1. The administrator, through the Attorney General, may bring a civil action to restrain a creditor or a person acting ~~in his~~ on a creditor's behalf from engaging in a course of:

- A. Making or enforcing unconscionable terms or provisions of consumer credit transactions;
- B. Fraudulent or unconscionable conduct in inducing consumers to enter into consumer credit transactions; or
- C. Fraudulent or unconscionable conduct in the collection of debts arising from consumer credit transactions.

Sec. C-52. 9-A MRSA §6-111, sub-§3, ¶E, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

E. The fact that the respondent has knowingly taken advantage of the inability of the consumer reasonably to protect ~~his~~ the consumer's interests

by reason of physical or mental infirmities, ignorance, illiteracy or inability to understand the language of the agreement, or similar factors.

Sec. C-53. 9-A MRSA §6-113, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 762, §1, is corrected to read:

2. The administrator, through the Attorney General, may bring a civil action against a creditor or a person acting ~~in his~~ on a creditor's behalf to recover a civil penalty for willfully violating this Act or violating an assurance of discontinuance, and if the court finds that the defendant has engaged in repeated violations, a willful violation of this Act or a violation of an assurance of discontinuance, it may assess a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000.

If the creditor establishes by a preponderance of evidence that repeated violations were the result of a bona fide error notwithstanding the maintenance of procedures reasonably adapted to avoid any such violation or error, ~~no~~ liability is not imposed under this subsection.

~~No~~ A civil penalty pursuant to this subsection may not be imposed for violations of this Act occurring more than 2 years before the action is brought.

Sec. C-54. 9-A MRSA §6-203, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1981, c. 460, is corrected to read:

1. A person required to file notification shall at the time ~~he~~ the person files such notification pay to the administrator an annual fee of \$20 for that year and an annual fee of \$10 for each branch thereof.

Sec. C-55. 9-A MRSA §9-302, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 396, §12 and amended by PL 2001, c. 44, §11 and affected by §14, is corrected to read:

1. In addition to other ~~rule-making~~ rule-making authority that the administrator may have, ~~he~~ the administrator may adopt reasonable rules in accordance with this section governing agreements ~~which~~ that are alternative mortgage transactions as defined in the Alternative Mortgage Transaction Parity Act of 1982, the United States Code, Title 12, Section 3802, subsection 1. In adopting any rule, the administrator shall take into consideration the terms of any similar rules adopted by the Superintendent of Financial Institutions for supervised financial organizations chartered under the laws of this State.

Sec. C-56. 9-A MRSA §9-303, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 396, §12, is corrected to read:

1. ~~Every~~ A creditor, ~~which~~ that accepts an application for consumer credit transaction involving one to 4 residential units and ~~which~~ that requires that an attorney search the title of the subject real estate; shall permit the prospective mortgagor to select a qualified attorney of ~~his~~ the prospective mortgagor's own choice to search the title of the subject real estate and certify that title to the creditor or land title insurance company, ~~provided~~ except that the creditor may require the prospective

mortgagor's attorney to provide it with evidence of adequate liability insurance or land title insurance or such other written policy requirements as the creditor may ~~deem~~ consider necessary to protect its interests, ~~provided except~~ that if all such requirements are met by the attorney chosen by the mortgagor, ~~no~~ additional legal costs may not be assessed by the creditor against the mortgagor for review of the title search or any other relevant title documents by the creditor, its title company or attorney.

Sec. C-57. 9-A MRSA §9-303, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 396, §12, is corrected to read:

2. ~~Every~~ A creditor subject to this section shall provide written notice to the prospective mortgagor that ~~he the prospective mortgagor~~ has the right to select a qualified attorney of ~~his the prospective mortgagor's~~ own choice for the performance of title work. The notice ~~shall must~~ inform the prospective mortgagor that if the attorney chosen by the mortgagor meets the creditor's requirements, then ~~no~~ additional fees may not be charged to the mortgagor for title work. If the prospective mortgagor indicates on the written notice that ~~he the prospective mortgagor~~ does not wish to exercise ~~his the prospective mortgagor's~~ right to select an attorney, then the creditor may recommend an attorney.

Sec. C-58. 9-A MRSA §9-306, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 396, §12, is corrected to read:

§9-306. Notice of assignment

A consumer is not obligated to make payments on a consumer credit transaction to any creditor, other than the original creditor, until ~~he the consumer~~ receives notification of assignment of rights to payment and that payment is to be made to the assignee. A notification ~~which that~~ does not clearly and conspicuously identify the rights assigned is ineffective. If requested by the consumer, the assignee must seasonably furnish reasonable proof that the assignment has been made and unless ~~he the assignee~~ does so the consumer may pay the original creditor.

Sec. C-59. 9-A MRSA §9-401, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 396, §12, is corrected to read:

§9-401. Misrepresentation

A creditor or a person acting for ~~him~~ a creditor may not induce a consumer to enter into a consumer credit transaction by misrepresentation of a material fact with respect to the terms and conditions of the extension of credit. A consumer so induced may rescind the sale, lease or loan or recover actual damages, or both.

Sec. C-60. 9-A MRSA §9-403, sub-§1, ¶E, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 396, §12, is corrected to read:

E. Disclose or threaten to disclose to a person other than the debtor or ~~his the debtor's~~ spouse, information affecting the debtor's reputation, whether or not for credit worthiness, with knowledge or reason

to know that the other person does not have a legitimate business need for the information, but this subsection does not prohibit the disclosure to another person of information permitted to be disclosed to ~~him~~ that person by law;

Sec. C-61. 9-A MRSA §9-405, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 396, §12, is corrected to read:

2. A debtor is not obligated to pay a charge in excess of that allowed by this article and if ~~he a debtor~~ has paid an excess charge ~~he the debtor~~ has a right to a refund. A refund may be made by reducing the debtor's obligation by the amount of the excess charge. If the debtor has paid an amount in excess of the lawful obligation under the agreement, the debtor may recover the excess amount from the person who made the excess charge or from an assignee of that person's rights who undertakes direct collection of payments from or enforcement of rights against debtors arising from the debt.

EXPLANATION

This Part corrects gender-specific references within statutory units in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 9-A pursuant to Public Law 2019, chapter 475, section 52, and, as authorized by Title 1, section 93, this Part also incorporates certain administrative changes and corrections to those statutory units.

PART D

Sec. D-1. 9-B MRSA §131, sub-§11, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

11. Credit card. "Credit card" means a credit device by which a cardholder obtains loans or otherwise obtains credit from the card issuer or other persons authorized to extend such credit by the card issuer or ~~his the card issuer's~~ agent.

Sec. D-2. 9-B MRSA §131, sub-§44, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

44. Time certificate of deposit. "Time certificate of deposit" means a deposit evidenced by a negotiable or nonnegotiable instrument ~~which that~~ provides on its face that the amount of ~~such the~~ deposit is payable to bearer or to any specified person or to ~~his the person's~~ order:

A. On a certain date, specified in the instrument, not less than 30 days after the date of the deposit; or

B. At the expiration of a certain specified time not less than 30 days after the date of the instrument; or

C. Upon notice in writing ~~which that~~ is actually required to be given not less than 30 days before the date of repayment; and

D. In all cases only upon presentation and surrender of the instrument.

Sec. D-3. 9-B MRSA §151, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

§151. Declaration of emergency by Governor

Whenever it ~~shall appear~~ appears to the Governor that the welfare and security of financial institutions and credit unions under the supervision of the superintendent, or their depositors, shareholders, staffs or customers, require, or that the welfare of the State, any section ~~thereof of the State~~, the inhabitants ~~thereof of the State~~, financial institutions, credit unions, their depositors, shareholders or staffs have been or may be adversely affected by actual or threatened national emergency, forces of the natural elements, fires, explosions, strikes, epidemics, civil strife or commotion, or any other circumstances hazardous or dangerous to life, limb or property, the Governor may proclaim that a banking emergency exists. The Governor may declare such banking holidays as in ~~his the Governor's~~ judgment such emergency conditions may require and that any financial institution or institutions and credit union or credit unions ~~shall be~~ are subject to special regulation as provided until the Governor, by a like proclamation, declares the period of ~~such the~~ emergency to have terminated if ~~he the Governor~~ has not defined ~~such the~~ period in the original proclamation.

Sec. D-4. 9-B MRSA §152, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

1. Restrict banking transactions. During the period of any banking emergency declared, the superintendent, in addition to all other powers conferred upon ~~him the superintendent~~, ~~shall have~~ has authority to order one or more financial institutions or credit unions to restrict all or any part of their business and to limit or postpone for any length of time the payment of any amount or proportion of deposits or shares in any of the departments ~~thereof of the financial institutions or credit unions~~ as ~~he may deem the superintendent considers~~ necessary or expedient and may regulate further payments ~~therefrom from those financial institutions or credit unions~~ as to time and amount as the interest of the public or of such financial institutions or credit unions or depositors or shareholders thereof may require, and any order or orders made by ~~him the superintendent~~ may be amended, changed, extended or revoked, in whole or in part, whenever in ~~his the superintendent's~~ judgment circumstances warrant or require. After the termination of any such banking emergency, any such order may be continued in effect as to any particular financial institution or credit union if in the judgment of the superintendent circumstances warrant or require and the Governor approves.

Sec. D-5. 9-B MRSA §152, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

3. Establish fair value of assets. In determining the action to be taken under this section, the superintendent may place such fair value on the assets of any financial institution or credit union as in ~~his the superintendent's~~ discretion seems proper under the conditions prevailing and circumstances relating thereto.

Sec. D-6. 9-B MRSA §213, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

A. ~~Neither the The superintendent nor any or an~~ employee of the bureau ~~shall may not~~, during ~~his the superintendent's~~ term of office or while employed by the bureau, be an officer, director, incorporator, employee, attorney or stockholder in any financial institution or financial institution holding company subject to supervision or regulation by the bureau.

Sec. D-7. 9-B MRSA §213, sub-§2, ¶A, as amended by PL 2017, c. 288, Pt. A, §13, is corrected to read:

A. If the superintendent, a deputy superintendent, an examiner or other professional personnel of the bureau or such person's spouse or such person's ~~son or daughter~~ child residing at such person's home obtains a loan from any financial institution subject to supervision or regulation by the bureau, the fact of ~~such the loan~~, together with the terms and conditions ~~thereof of the loan~~, must be disclosed immediately to the superintendent in writing by the person obtaining the loan and by the institution making ~~such the~~ loan. If the superintendent is the borrower, ~~such the~~ written disclosure must be made to the commissioner.

Sec. D-8. 9-B MRSA §226, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

2. Disclosure to Governor; Attorney General. The superintendent may disclose such information to the Governor or to the Attorney General of this State at such times and under such circumstances as the superintendent ~~deems~~ determines necessary and appropriate to the proper discharge of ~~his the superintendent's~~ duties and responsibilities under this Title; and the superintendent shall disclose such information upon written request of the Governor or the Attorney General.

Sec. D-9. 9-B MRSA §232, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

4. Stay of suspension or prohibition. ~~Any An~~ officer or director adversely affected by a suspension or prohibition contained in a written notice pursuant to subsection 3 may apply to the Superior Court in the county where the financial institution of which ~~he the individual~~ is an officer or director has its main office or in the Superior Court of Kennebec County for a stay of ~~such the~~ suspension or prohibition pending completion

of administrative proceedings required under this section, and ~~such that court shall have~~ has jurisdiction to stay ~~such the~~ suspension or prohibition.

Sec. D-10. 9-B MRSA §232, sub-§5, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

B. Unless the officer or director affected ~~shall appear~~ appears at ~~such the~~ hearing under paragraph A, ~~he shall be the officer or director is~~ deemed to have consented to the issuance of an order for ~~such the~~ removal or prohibition.

Sec. D-11. 9-B MRSA §241, sub-§1, ¶D, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 302 and amended by PL 2001, c. 44, §11 and affected by §14, is corrected to read:

D. Whenever the superintendent has reason to believe that ~~any~~ a financial institution authorized to do business in this State or ~~any~~ a credit union authorized to do business in this State is using or is about to use any method, act or practice in violation of section 231 and that proceedings would be in the public interest, ~~he the superintendent~~ may bring an action in the name of the State against ~~such the~~ entity to restrain by temporary or permanent injunction the use of ~~such the~~ method, act or practice and the court may make such other orders or judgments as may be necessary to restore to any person who has suffered any ascertainable loss by reason of the use or employment of ~~such the~~ unlawful method, act or practice, any moneys or property, real or personal, ~~which that~~ may have been acquired by means of ~~such the~~ method, act or practice. At least 10 days prior to commencement of any action under this section, the superintendent shall notify the entity of ~~his the superintendent's~~ intended action, and give the entity the opportunity to confer with the superintendent in person or by counsel or other representative as to the proposed action. Notice ~~shall must~~ be given the entity by mail, postage prepaid, sent to ~~their the entity's~~ usual place of business. The superintendent may proceed without notice as required by this section upon a showing of facts by affidavit of immediate irreparable harm to the consumers of the State. The action may be brought in the Superior Court of the county in which ~~such the~~ entity is located or has its principal place of business or may be brought in the Superior Court of Kennebec County. The courts are authorized to issue temporary or permanent injunctions to restrain and prevent violations of this section. ~~Any A~~ district attorney or law enforcement officer receiving notice of ~~any an~~ alleged violation of this section shall immediately forward written notice of ~~same the alleged violation~~ with any other information that ~~he the district attorney or law enforcement officer~~ may have to the office of the superintendent. ~~Any A~~ person or entity, ~~who that~~ violates the terms of an injunction issued under this section, shall forfeit and pay to the State to be applied to the General

Fund a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000 for each violation. For the purposes of this section, the court issuing ~~such the~~ injunction ~~shall retain~~ retains jurisdiction, and the cause ~~shall must~~ be continued, and in such cases the superintendent, acting in the name of the State, may petition for recovery of ~~such the~~ civil penalty. In ~~any an~~ action under this section ~~where in which~~ a permanent injunction is issued, the court may order the person or entity against whom the permanent injunction has been issued to pay to the State the costs of the investigation of that person or entity by the superintendent and the costs of suit, which fund ~~shall must~~ be applied in the carrying out of the duties of the ~~Bureau of Financial Institutions~~ bureau.

Sec. D-12. 9-B MRSA §242, sub-§2, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

B. If an entity has already issued or published ~~such an~~ advertisement or representation under paragraph A, the superintendent may order the entity to take such affirmative corrective action as ~~he deems the~~ superintendent determines necessary and appropriate under the circumstances for the purpose of informing and protecting the public and other interested parties.

Sec. D-13. 9-B MRSA §243, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

2. Exceptions. The superintendent may, pursuant to ~~regulations~~ rules issued in accordance with section 251, permit such exceptions to the prohibitions in subsection 1 as ~~he the superintendent~~ considers will not be contrary to the public interest and the purposes of this section.

Sec. D-14. 9-B MRSA §252, sub-§2, ¶B, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 694, §159, is corrected to read:

B. As soon as the superintendent determines that the application is complete, ~~he the superintendent~~ shall instruct the applicant to provide notice of the application in the manner and form prescribed in Title 5, section 9052.

Sec. D-15. 9-B MRSA §253, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

A. The superintendent ~~shall may~~ not approve an application unless ~~he the superintendent~~ determines that the proposed transaction contributes to the financial strength and success of the financial institution or institutions concerned, and promotes the convenience and advantage of the public.

Sec. D-16. 9-B MRSA §255, sub-§2, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 694, §164, is corrected to read:

2. Request for ~~rule-making~~ rulemaking. ~~Any A~~ person may petition the superintendent to hold a rule-

making proceeding for the purpose of ~~promulgating~~ adopting such rules, regulations or amendments as may be proposed in ~~his~~ the person's petition and may petition for a hearing on the proposed rule, regulation or amendment.

Sec. D-17. 9-B MRSA §255, sub-§4, as repealed and replaced by PL 1977, c. 694, §164, is corrected to read:

4. Grant or denial of request. Unless the superintendent ~~shall deem~~ determines a petition filed pursuant to subsection 1 frivolous or not bona fide, ~~he~~ the superintendent shall designate the petitioner or petitioners as an interested party and hold a hearing for the purpose set forth in the petition. If the request is a petition for ~~rule-making~~ rulemaking, within 60 days after receipt of the petition, the superintendent shall either notify the petitioner in writing of its denial and the reasons ~~therefor~~, for the denial or initiate appropriate rule-making proceedings.

Sec. D-18. 9-B MRSA §322, sub-§4, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

B. In determining whether public convenience and advantage will be promoted by granting permission to organize the type of institution requested, the superintendent shall make ~~his~~ a decision in accordance with section 253 pursuant to the procedures set forth in section 252.

Sec. D-19. 9-B MRSA §323, sub-§5, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

A. Upon receipt of the statement required in subsection 4, the superintendent shall cause an examination to be made to determine if the minimum capital deposits have been credited to the account of the institution as ~~he~~ the superintendent may determine and that all requirements of this section and other provisions of law have been complied with.

Sec. D-20. 9-B MRSA §323, sub-§5, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

B. Upon completion of ~~his~~ the superintendent's examination, and if the requirements of paragraph A are met, the superintendent shall issue a certificate authorizing the financial institution to begin transacting the business of a financial institution of the type as set forth in its articles of incorporation. ~~Such~~ The certificate ~~shall be~~ is conclusive of the facts stated ~~therein~~ in the certificate, and it ~~shall be~~ is unlawful for any such mutual financial institution to begin transacting business until ~~such a~~ the certificate has been granted.

Sec. D-21. 9-B MRSA §324, sub-§2, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

C. Upon release and return, the contributor's proportionate share of the amount to be returned ~~shall~~ must be credited in ~~his~~ the contributor's name to a

share account or deposit in ~~such~~ the institution, and the contributor ~~shall~~ is then be entitled to all rights and privileges, and ~~shall be~~ is subject to all duties and liabilities, connected with ~~such~~ that share account or deposit;

Sec. D-22. 9-B MRSA §325, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

4. Articles of incorporation. The incorporators or members ~~shall~~ have the right to amend the institution's articles of incorporation in any manner not inconsistent with this Title; ~~provided that such,~~ as long as the amendments are submitted to the superintendent for ~~his~~ the superintendent's written approval prior to their taking effect.

Sec. D-23. 9-B MRSA §327, sub-§3, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

A. The ~~chairman~~ chair of the board shall preside at all meetings of the incorporators or members and the board of directors, unless otherwise provided in the bylaws.

Sec. D-24. 9-B MRSA §327, sub-§3, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

B. The president shall preside; in the absence of a ~~chairman~~ chair of the board of directors; at all meetings of the incorporators or members and the board of directors, unless otherwise provided in the bylaws.

Sec. D-25. 9-B MRSA §357, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

3. Creditor's rights. The resulting institution in a merger, consolidation, conversion or acquisition ~~shall be~~ is liable for all obligations of the participating or converting institution ~~which~~ that existed prior to such action, and the action taken ~~shall~~ does not prejudice the right of a creditor of the participating or converting institution to have ~~his~~ the creditor's debts paid out of the assets thereof, ~~nor shall~~ and such creditor ~~may not~~ be deprived of, or prejudiced in, any action against the officers, directors, incorporators or members of a participating or converting institution for any neglect or misconduct.

Sec. D-26. 9-B MRSA §358, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

4. Divestiture. The superintendent may, as a condition to such merger, consolidation, conversion or acquisition, require a nonconforming activity to be divested in accordance with such additional requirements as ~~he may deem~~ the superintendent considers appropriate under the circumstances.

Sec. D-27. 9-B MRSA §422-A, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 155, §2, is corrected to read:

5. Reports. The superintendent may require ~~any~~ a financial institution or credit union to furnish such reports as ~~he deems~~ the superintendent considers appropriate to properly supervise compliance with the requirements of this section.

Sec. D-28. 9-B MRSA §427, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by PL 1979, c. 540, §8, is corrected to read:

B. Whenever a deposit is made by a person designated on the records of a financial institution as a fiduciary, it ~~shall~~ must be conclusively presumed, in all dealings between the institution and the fiduciary or any other persons with respect to such deposit, that ~~such the~~ fiduciary has power to invest money in the institution, and to withdraw the ~~same money~~ or any part thereof of that money, and to transfer ~~his the~~ the fiduciary's deposit to any other person. The receipt or acquittance of ~~such the~~ fiduciary ~~shall~~ fully exonerate exonerates and discharge discharges the institution from all liability to any person having any interest in such deposit, and the institution ~~shall~~ is not be under any duty to see to the proper application of the trust property.

Sec. D-29. 9-B MRSA §427, sub-§3, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

A. If a check drawn or endorsed by a fiduciary is received by a drawee financial institution, including a check for payment in cash or for the personal credit of ~~such the~~ fiduciary, ~~such the~~ institution may assume, without inquiry, that the fiduciary has acted within the scope of ~~his the~~ the fiduciary's authority.

Sec. D-30. 9-B MRSA §427, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

6. Power of attorney over deposits or accounts. ~~Any A~~ financial institution may continue to recognize the authority of an attorney authorized in writing to manage or to make withdrawals either in whole or in part from the account of a depositor until it receives written notice of the revocation of ~~his the~~ the attorney's authority. For the purposes of this subsection, written notice of the death or adjudication of incompetency of ~~such the~~ depositor ~~shall constitute~~ constitutes written notice of revocation of the authority of ~~his the~~ the depositor's attorney. ~~No An~~ institution ~~shall be~~ is not liable for damages by reason of any payment made pursuant to this subsection.

Sec. D-31. 9-B MRSA §427, sub-§8, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 540, §12, is corrected to read:

A. Except as provided in paragraph B, if ~~any a~~ depositor ~~shall die~~ dies leaving in a financial institution a deposit or account on which the balance due ~~him~~ the depositor does not exceed \$1,000, and ~~no a~~ personal representative ~~shall be~~ is not appointed, the institution may pay the balance of ~~such the~~ deposit or account to the surviving spouse, next

of kin, funeral director or other preferred creditor or creditors who may appear to be entitled ~~thereto~~ to the deposit or account. For any payments so made, the institution ~~shall may~~ may not be held liable to the decedent's personal representative thereafter appointed unless the payment ~~shall have~~ has been made within 6 months after the decedent's death and an action to recover the amount ~~shall have~~ has been commenced within one year after the date of payment.

Sec. D-32. 9-B MRSA §427, sub-§9, ¶A, as amended by PL 1979, c. 663, §41, is corrected by correcting subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) If the evidence of deposit or account was issued to a single depositor, then by ~~him that~~ the depositor, by an officer in the event of a corporation, or by a guardian, conservator, trustee, executor or administrator; or

Sec. D-33. 9-B MRSA §427, sub-§9, ¶A, as amended by PL 1979, c. 663, §41, is corrected by correcting subparagraph (2) to read:

(2) If the evidence of deposit or account was issued to 2 or more depositors, then by all such depositors then surviving, or by the last survivor of such depositors; ~~provided except~~ that a guardian or conservator shall sign for any of the foregoing persons respecting whom ~~he the~~ the guardian or conservator has been appointed.

Sec. D-34. 9-B MRSA §436, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

A. The mortgagor or ~~his the~~ the mortgagor's successor in title is authorized to file for record, and the same ~~shall must~~ be recorded in the same recording office as the original mortgage, a notice limiting the amount of optional future advances secured by such mortgage to not less than the amount actually advanced at the time of ~~such the~~ filing; ~~provided that, as long as~~ a copy of ~~such the~~ filing is filed with the mortgagee; and

Sec. D-35. 9-B MRSA §445, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

3. Records. The books and accounts of a service corporation involving ~~any a~~ financial institution ~~shall must~~ be kept in such manner and form as the superintendent may prescribe; and any agreement between a financial institution and such corporation ~~shall must~~ provide that ~~such the~~ books and accounts may be examined by the superintendent or ~~his the~~ the superintendent's designee.

Sec. D-36. 9-B MRSA §453, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

2. Duties of the auditor. The accountant or auditor selected in subsection 1 shall analyze the books, ac-

counts, notes, mortgages, securities and operating systems of the institution in such manner as in ~~his~~ the accountant's or auditor's judgment will result in an audit ~~which that~~, together with the internal auditing and accounting procedures of the institution, comports with generally accepted accounting standards for the protection of depositors, members or stockholders and the efficient operation of the institution. The accountant or auditor shall make a written report of the condition of the institution to the president and ~~chairman~~ chair of the board, for the board, in such manner and to such extent as ~~said the~~ accountant or auditor may ~~deem~~ consider necessary or proper, and ~~said the~~ accountant or auditor shall supply such additional information obtained from ~~his~~ the audit as the board may direct.

Sec. D-37. 9-B MRSA §453, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

3. Superintendent's comment on audit. The superintendent shall, in the course of ~~his~~ the superintendent's regular official examination of the institution and at such other times as ~~he deems~~ the superintendent determines advisable, investigate the work of ~~such the~~ accountant or auditor to determine its adequacy for the purposes set forth in subsection 2. In determining the adequacy of such an audit, the superintendent shall take into account the internal auditing and accounting procedures established by ~~such the~~ institution. If the superintendent determines that the audit is inadequate, ~~he the~~ superintendent shall report forthwith ~~his the superintendent's~~ findings, with instructions, in writing to the directors, who shall, within 30 days ~~thereafter~~ after the findings and instructions are reported, comply ~~therewith~~ with the instructions.

Sec. D-38. 9-B MRSA §813, sub-§4, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

B. Upon completion of ~~his the superintendent's~~ examination, and if all requirements of paragraph A are met, including approval of the bylaws, the superintendent shall issue a certificate authorizing the credit union to receive payments on account of shares, make loans, and otherwise commence business. ~~Such The~~ The certificate ~~shall be~~ is conclusive of the facts stated ~~therein in the certificate~~; and it ~~shall be~~ is unlawful for any credit union to begin transacting business until such a certificate has been granted. A copy of the certificate ~~shall must~~ must be filed with the Secretary of State by the superintendent.

Sec. D-39. 9-B MRSA §842, sub-§1, ¶F, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

F. If a director ceases to be a member of the credit union, ~~his the director's~~ office ~~shall thereupon become~~ becomes vacant.

Sec. D-40. 9-B MRSA §842, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

3. Compensation. ~~No A~~ A member of the board of directors ~~shall may not~~ receive any compensation for ~~his the member's~~ services as a member of ~~said the~~ board, or as a member of any committees of the credit union.

Sec. D-41. 9-B MRSA §862, sub-§2-A, ¶F, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 405, §33, is corrected to read:

F. The superintendent may by rule, issued pursuant to section 251, raise or lower the limitations as to percentage of securities prescribed under this section or prescribe such additional limitations as in ~~his the superintendent's~~ judgment conditions warrant.

Sec. D-42. 9-B MRSA §1012, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

1. Requirements. ~~Any A~~ A company that controls one or more Maine financial institutions shall register with the superintendent in accordance with procedures established by ~~him the~~ the superintendent.

Sec. D-43. 9-B MRSA §1022, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

§1022. Authority to incorporate

Any 5 or more state banks with trust powers, trust companies and national banks with trust powers located in this State are authorized to cause a mutual trust investment company to be organized and incorporated, subject to the approval of the superintendent and subject to such regulations as ~~he the superintendent~~ may prescribe.

Sec. D-44. 9-B MRSA §1026, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 500, §1, is corrected to read:

3. Power and authority. In the enforcement of this chapter and the fulfillment of ~~his the superintendent's~~ responsibilities ~~hereunder~~ under this chapter, the superintendent ~~shall have~~ has the same power and authority over and with respect to mutual trust investment companies and their directors, officers and employees, including the power to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, records, documents and testimony, the power to require the submission to ~~him the superintendent~~ of reports and information in such form and at such times as ~~he may prescribe~~, the superintendent prescribes and the power to direct the discontinuation of any practice ~~which he may consider~~ that the superintendent considers illegal, unauthorized or unsafe; and all other powers and authorities, whether or not specifically mentioned ~~herein in this subsection~~, as are given the superintendent by the laws of this State with respect to financial institutions in the same manner and with like effect as if mutual trust investment companies were expressly named ~~therein in those laws~~.

EXPLANATION

This Part corrects gender-specific references within statutory units in the Maine Revised Statutes, Ti-

tle 9-B pursuant to Public Law 2019, chapter 475, section 52, and, as authorized by Title 1, section 93, this Part also incorporates certain administrative changes and corrections to those statutory units.

PART E

Sec. E-1. 13 MRSA §334 is corrected to read:

§334. Information for process server

~~Every~~ An agent or person having charge of corporate property shall on request furnish to any officer, having a writ or execution against the corporation for service, the names of the directors and clerk and a schedule of all property, including debts known by ~~him~~ the agent or person having charge of corporate property to belong to the corporation. ~~Any~~ An officer of a judgment debtor corporation may be cited to disclose the affairs of the corporation in the same manner as provided for the disclosure of other judgment debtors.

Sec. E-2. 13 MRSA §335 is corrected to read:

§335. Execution satisfied from debts due; proceedings

An officer, having an execution against a manufacturing corporation and unable to find property liable to seizure, or the creditor may elect to satisfy it in whole or in part by a debt due to the corporation not exceeding the amount due to the creditor. The person having custody of the evidence of such debt shall deliver it to ~~such~~ the officer with a written transfer thereof of the evidence to him the officer for the use of the creditor, which ~~shall constitute~~ constitutes an assignment ~~thereof of the debt~~, and the creditor, in the name of the corporation, may sue for and collect it, subject to any equitable counterclaim by the debtor.

Sec. E-3. 13 MRSA §932, first ¶, as amended by PL 1981, c. 698, §82, is corrected to read:

~~Every~~ A corporation organized under sections 901 and 903 to 931 may take and hold, by purchase, gift, devise or bequest, tangible or intangible personal property or real estate, and may use and dispose thereof only for the purposes for which the corporation was organized. ~~Any~~ A corporation organized under this chapter for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a hospital, a free public library or a school or academy accredited by the State Board of Education and conducted on a nonprofit basis, ~~or~~ a laboratory exclusively engaged in research for the benefit of ~~mankind~~ humankind, ~~or~~ an educational television or radio station operated on a nonprofit basis, or a private vocational school conducted on a nonprofit basis may receive and hold real and personal estate to any amount, ~~which that~~ may from time to time be given, granted, bequeathed or devised to it and accepted by the corporation for the uses and purposes of the hospital, free public library, school or acad-

emy, laboratory, or educational television or radio station ~~provided always as long as~~ both the principal and income thereof shall be appropriated according to the terms of the donation, devise or bequest.

Sec. E-4. 13 MRSA §981 is corrected to read:

§981. Charitable corporations, suits by or against

~~No~~ A corporation, organized for charitable or benevolent purposes, ~~shall~~ may not sue any of its members for dues or contributions of any kind, or be sued by any member for any benefit or sum due ~~him to that member~~, but all such rights and benefits, dues and liabilities ~~shall~~ may be regulated and enforced only in accordance with its bylaws.

Sec. E-5. 13 MRSA §984 is corrected to read:

§984. Use of badges, emblems or names without authority

~~No~~ A person ~~shall~~ may not wear or exhibit the badge, button, emblem, decoration, insignia or charm, or ~~shall~~ assume or use the name of any benevolent, humane, fraternal or charitable corporation incorporated under the laws of this State, or any other state, or of the United States, or holding its charter or warrant under some recognized supreme grand body having authority to issue the same, or ~~shall~~ assume or claim to be a member thereof, or of a benevolent, humane, fraternal or charitable corporation or organization, the name of which ~~shall~~ so nearly resemble resembles the name of any other corporation or organization existing prior to the organization of the corporation, organization or association of which ~~such the~~ the person may claim to be a member, the name whereof may be calculated to deceive the people with respect to any such prior corporation or organization, unless ~~he shall be~~ the person is authorized under the laws, statutes, rules, regulations and bylaws of such former corporation or organization to wear such badge, button, emblem, decoration, insignia or charm, or to use and assume such name as a member thereof. ~~Nothing in this~~ This chapter shall ~~may not~~ be construed to forbid the use of such a badge as a measure of protection by the ~~wife, mother, sister or daughter~~ spouse, parent, sibling or child of any ~~man~~ person entitled to wear the same.

Sec. E-6. 13 MRSA §1384, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 579, is corrected to read:

§1384. Service of notice

The person, association, corporation or municipality having ownership or management of a cemetery shall choose that method of notice most reasonably anticipated to be effective. Personal service on the record owner in the same way service of process is made in accordance with Maine Rules of Civil Procedure ~~shall~~ be the preferred method. If that is not reasonably possible, personal service in the same manner ~~shall~~ must be considered on the heirs or devisees. If that is not rea-

sonably possible, the notice ~~shall~~ must be served by delivery by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the record owner at the owner's last known address. If the record owner is deceased or ~~his~~ the record owner's whereabouts are unknown, the notice ~~shall~~ must be served by delivery by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the heirs or devisees of the record owner, to their last known address. If the address of the record owner or heirs or devisees of the record owner cannot be ascertained, ~~then~~ notice of the forfeiture ~~shall~~ must be given by one publication in the official newspaper of the county in which the cemetery is located. In addition, the notice ~~shall~~ must be recorded in the registry of deeds in the county where the cemetery lot is located.

Sec. E-7. 13 MRSA §1643 is corrected to read:

§1643. Liability of members

Members ~~shall~~ are not be jointly or severally liable for any debts of the association, nor ~~shall~~ may a subscriber be so liable except to the extent of the unpaid amount on the shares or membership certificates subscribed by ~~him~~ the subscriber. ~~No~~ A subscriber ~~shall~~ may not be released from such liability by reason of ~~any~~ an assignment of ~~his~~ the subscriber's interest in the shares or membership certificate, but ~~shall remain~~ remains jointly and severally liable with the assignee until the shares or certificates are fully ~~paid-up~~ paid.

Sec. E-8. 13 MRSA §1645, sub-§4 is corrected to read:

4. Patronage. The remainder ~~shall~~ must be allocated at the same uniform rate to all patrons of the association in proportion to their individual patronage:

A. In the case of a member patron, ~~his~~ the patron's proportionate amount of savings returns ~~shall~~ must be distributed to ~~him~~ the patron unless ~~he~~ the patron agrees that the association should credit the amount to ~~his~~ the patron's account toward the purchase of an additional share or shares or additional membership capital;

B. In the case of a subscriber patron, ~~his~~ the patron's proportionate amount of savings returns may, as the articles or bylaws provide, be distributed to ~~him~~ the patron or credited to ~~his~~ the patron's account until the amount of capital subscribed for has been fully paid;

C. In the case of a nonmember patron, ~~his~~ the patron's proportionate amount of savings returns ~~shall~~ must be set aside in a general fund for such patrons and ~~shall~~ must be allocated to individual nonmember patrons only upon request and presentation of evidence of the amount of their patronage. Any savings returns so allocated ~~shall~~ must be credited to ~~such~~ the patron toward payment of the minimum amount of share or membership capital necessary for membership; or may be paid to ~~such~~ the patron. When a sum equal to this amount has

been accumulated and so credited at any time within a period of time specified in the bylaws, ~~such a patron shall~~ must be ~~deemed~~ considered and become a member of the association if ~~he~~ the patron so agrees or requests and complies with any provisions in the bylaws for admission to membership. The certificates of shares or membership to which ~~he~~ the patron is entitled ~~shall~~ must then be issued to ~~him~~ the patron; and

D. If within any periods of time specified in the articles or bylaws:

- (1) ~~Any~~ A subscriber has not accumulated and paid in the amount of capital subscribed for; ~~or~~
- (2) ~~Any~~ A nonmember patron has not accumulated in ~~his~~ the patron's individual account the sum necessary for membership; or
- (3) ~~Any~~ A nonmember patron has accumulated the sum necessary for membership, but neither requests nor agrees to become a member or fails to comply with the provisions of the bylaws, if any, for admission to membership;

then the amounts so accumulated or paid in ~~shall~~ must go to the educational fund, and thereafter ~~no~~ the member or other patron shall does not have any rights in ~~said~~ the paid-in capital or accumulated savings returns as such. ~~Nothing in this~~ This section ~~shall does not~~ shall does not prevent an association operating under this subchapter, ~~which that~~ which that is engaged in rendering services; from disposing of the net savings from the rendering of such services in such manner as to lower the fees charged for services or otherwise to further the common benefit of the members. ~~Nothing in this~~ This section ~~shall does not~~ shall does not prevent an association from adopting a system whereby the payment of savings returns, ~~which that~~ which that would otherwise be distributed, ~~shall~~ must be deferred for a fixed period of months or years; nor from adopting a system whereby the savings returns distributed ~~shall~~ must be partly in cash; and partly in shares, such shares to be retired at a fixed future date in the order of the serial number or date of issue.

Sec. E-9. 13 MRSA §1692 is corrected to read:

§1692. Transfer of shares and membership; withdrawal

If a member desires to withdraw from the association or dispose of any or all of ~~his~~ the member's holdings, the directors ~~shall have the power to~~ may purchase such holdings by paying ~~him~~ the member the par value of any or all of the holdings offered. The directors shall then reissue or cancel the same. A vote of the majority of the members voting at a regular or special meeting may order the directors to exercise this power to purchase.

If the association fails, within 60 days of the original offer, to purchase all or any part of the holdings offered, the member may dispose of the unpurchased interest elsewhere, subject to the approval of the transferee by a majority vote of the directors. ~~Any A~~ would-be transferee not approved by the directors may appeal to the members at their first regular or special meeting thereafter, and the action of the meeting ~~shall be~~ is final. If ~~such a~~ transferee is not approved, the directors shall exercise their power to purchase, if and when such a purchase can be made without jeopardizing the solvency of the association.

Sec. E-10. 13 MRSA §1825, sub-§1 is corrected to read:

1. Procedure. An association may amend its articles of incorporation by the affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members voting ~~thereon on the proposed amendment~~ at any regular meeting, or at a special meeting called for the purpose; or, if the association permits its members to vote on the basis of patronage, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members representing 2/3 of the membership patronage voting ~~thereon on the proposed amendment~~. A written or printed notice of the proposed amendment and of the time and place of holding such meetings ~~shall must~~ be delivered to each member, or mailed to ~~his~~ the member's last known address as shown by the books of the association, at least 30 days prior to any such meetings. ~~No An~~ amendment affecting the preferential rights of any outstanding stock ~~shall may not~~ be adopted until the written consent of the holders of 2/3 of the outstanding preference shares has been obtained.

Sec. E-11. 13 MRSA §1872 is corrected to read:

§1872. —~~removal~~ Removal of a director

~~Any A~~ member may ask for the removal of a director by filing charges with the secretary or president of the association, together with a petition signed by 5% of the members requesting the removal of the director ~~in question~~. The removal ~~shall must~~ be voted upon at the next meeting of the members, and by 2/3 of the voting power voting ~~thereon on the removal~~ the association may remove the director. The director whose removal is requested ~~shall must~~ be served with a copy of the charges not less than 10 days prior to the meeting and ~~shall must~~ have an opportunity at the meeting to be heard in person and by counsel and to present evidence. The persons requesting the removal ~~shall must~~ have the same opportunity. In case the bylaws provide for election of directors by districts, then the petition for removal of a director must be signed by 20% of the members residing in the district from which ~~he~~ the director was elected. The board must call a special meeting of the members residing in that district to consider the removal of the director, and by 2/3 of the voting power of

the members of that district voting ~~thereon on the removal~~ the director ~~in question~~ may be removed from office.

Sec. E-12. 13 MRSA §1874 is corrected to read:

§1874. —~~removal~~ Removal of an officer

~~Any A~~ member may bring charges of misconduct or incompetency against an officer by filing them with the secretary or president of the association, together with a petition signed by 10% of the members requesting the removal of the officer ~~in question~~. The directors shall vote upon the removal of the officer at the first meeting of the board held after the hearing on the charges, and the officer may be removed by a majority vote, notwithstanding any contract the officer may have with the association, which ~~shall terminate~~ terminates upon ~~his~~ the officer's removal, anything in the contract to the contrary notwithstanding. The officer against whom such charges are made ~~shall must~~ be served with a copy of the charges not less than 10 days prior to the meeting, and ~~shall must~~ have an opportunity at the meeting to be heard in person and by counsel, and to present evidence, and the persons making the charges ~~shall must~~ have the same opportunity.

Sec. E-13. 13 MRSA §1911, sub-§3 is corrected to read:

3. Vote; liability. Under the terms and conditions prescribed in the bylaws, a member ~~shall lose his~~ loses the member's vote if ~~he the member~~ ceases to belong to the class eligible to membership under this section, but ~~he shall remain the member remains~~ subject to any liability incurred by ~~him~~ the member while a member of the association.

Sec. E-14. 13 MRSA §1912 is corrected to read:

§1912. Certificates; transfers; dividends; preferred stock

1. Certificate for membership or stock. ~~No A~~ certificate for membership or stock ~~shall may not~~ be issued until fully paid for, but bylaws may provide that a member may vote and hold office prior to payment in full for ~~his~~ the member's membership or stock.

2. Dividends. Dividends in excess of 8% on the actual cash value of the consideration received by the association ~~shall may~~ not be paid on common or preferred stock or membership capital, but dividends may be cumulative.

3. Net income distributed. Net income in excess of dividends and additions to reserves ~~shall must~~ be distributed on the basis of patronage, and the books of the association ~~shall must~~ show the interest of patrons in the reserves. The bylaws may provide that any distribution to a nonmember, eligible for membership, may be credited to ~~such the~~ nonmember until the amount ~~thereof~~ of

the distribution equals the value of a membership certificate or a share of the association's common stock. The distribution credited to the account of a nonmember may be transferred to the reserve fund at the option of the board if, after 6 years, the amount is less than the value of the membership certificate or a share of common stock.

4. Value of member's interest after withdrawal or termination. The bylaws may fix a time within which a member ~~shall~~ must receive from the association, after ~~he~~ the member has notified the association of ~~his~~ the member's withdrawal, or after the adoption of a resolution by the board terminating ~~his~~ the member's membership, the value in money of ~~his~~ the member's membership interest in the association as appraised by the board of directors. If the board of directors approves the member's designation of a transferee of ~~his~~ the member's membership interest, the association ~~shall be under no obligation~~ is not obligated to pay ~~him~~ the member the value of ~~his~~ the member's interest.

5. Preferred stock. An association may issue preferred stock to members and nonmembers. Preferred stock may be redeemed or retired by the association on such terms and conditions as may be provided in the articles and printed on the stock certificate. Preferred stockholders ~~shall~~ are not be entitled to vote, but ~~no~~ a change in their priority or preference rights ~~shall~~ may not be effective until the written consent of the holders of 2/3 of the preferred stock has been obtained. Payment for preferred stock may be made in cash, services or property on the basis of the fair value of the stock, services and property as determined by the board.

Sec. E-15. 13 MRSA §1951, as amended by PL 1977, c. 522, §10, is corrected to read:

§1951. Consolidation procedure

~~Any 2~~ Two or more associations organized with or without capital stock and existing under this subchapter may consolidate into a single association, which may be either one or any one of ~~said~~ the associations, or a new association under this subchapter to be formed by means of ~~such~~ the consolidation. Such a consolidation may be effected by a vote of the directors, trustees or managing board, however designated, of each of ~~said~~ the associations at a legal meeting thereof ratifying a proposed agreement of consolidation and approved by the affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members of each of ~~said~~ the associations voting ~~thereon~~ on the proposed agreement of consolidation at any regular meeting or at a special meeting called for the purpose, ~~which~~. The agreement ~~shall~~ must then be submitted to the Secretary of State for ~~his~~ certification as conformable to the laws of this State, and when certified by ~~him~~ shall the Secretary of State, the agreement must then be recorded in the registry of deeds in the county where the consolidated association is located and in the county or counties where each of the constituent associations is located

and a copy ~~thereof~~ of the agreement certified by the register of deeds ~~shall~~ must be filed in the office of the Secretary of State. When ~~said~~ the agreement is so certified, recorded and filed, the separate existence of all of the constituent associations, or all of ~~such~~ the constituent associations except the one into which ~~such~~ the constituent associations ~~shall~~ have been consolidated, shall ~~cease~~ ceases, and the constituent associations, whether consolidated into a new association or merged into one of ~~such~~ the constituent associations, as the case may be, ~~shall~~ become the consolidated association by the name provided in ~~said~~ the agreement, possessing all the rights, privileges, powers, franchises and immunities as well of a public as of a private nature, and being subject to all the liabilities, restrictions and duties of each of ~~such~~ the associations so consolidated, and all and singular the rights, privileges, powers, franchises and immunities of each of ~~said~~ the associations, and all property, real, personal and mixed, and all debts due to any of ~~said~~ the constituent associations on whatever account, and all other things in action of or belonging to each of ~~said~~ the associations ~~shall be~~ are vested in the consolidated association. All property, rights, privileges, powers, franchises and immunities, and all and every other interest ~~shall be~~ are thereafter as effectually the property of the consolidated association as they were of the several and respective constituent associations, and the title to any real estate, whether by deed or otherwise, under the laws of this State, vested in any of ~~such~~ the constituent associations, ~~shall~~ may not revert or be in any way impaired by reason ~~thereof~~ of the consolidation. All rights of creditors and all liens upon the property of any of ~~said~~ the constituent associations ~~shall~~ must be preserved unimpaired, limited to the property affected by such liens at the time of the consolidation, and all debts, liabilities and duties of the respective constituent associations ~~shall~~ must henceforth attach to ~~said~~ the consolidated association and may be enforced against it to the same extent as if ~~said~~ the debts, liabilities and duties had been incurred or contracted by it.

Sec. E-16. 13 MRSA §1958, as amended by PL 1987, c. 155, §§10 to 13, is corrected to read:

§1958. Bargaining

1. Definition. As used in this article, "bargaining" is the mutual obligation of a handler and a qualified association to meet at reasonable times and negotiate in good faith with respect to the price, terms of sale, compensation for commodities produced or sold, or both, under contract and other contract provisions relative to the commodities that ~~such~~ the qualified association represents and the execution of a written contract incorporating any agreement reached if requested by either party. ~~Such~~ This obligation on the part of any handler ~~shall extend~~ extends only to a qualified association that represents producers with whom ~~such~~ the handler has had a prior course of dealing. ~~Such~~ This obligation does not require either party to agree to a proposal or to make a concession. The obligation to bargain continues until

the commencement of required mediation, as provided in section 1958-B, subsection 2.

2. Prior course of dealing. A handler ~~shall be~~ is deemed to have had a prior course of dealing with a producer if ~~such the~~ handler has purchased commodities produced by ~~such the~~ producer in any 2 of the preceding 3 years, ~~provided that as long as~~ the sale by a handler of ~~his the handler's~~ business ~~shall does~~ not negate any prior course of dealing that producers have had with this business.

3. Contracts. ~~Nothing in this Article shall be deemed to~~ This article does not prohibit a qualified bargaining association from entering into contracts with handlers to supply the full agricultural production requirements of such handlers.

5. Further limitation. It ~~shall be~~ is unlawful for a handler to purchase a product from other persons under terms more favorable to ~~such those~~ persons than those terms negotiated with a qualified bargaining association for ~~such the~~ product, unless ~~such the~~ handler has first offered to purchase ~~said the~~ product under ~~said those~~ more favorable terms from the members of the qualified association of producers and ~~said the~~ members have failed to supply the required product within a reasonable time according to ~~said the~~ more favorable terms.

6. Notice; opportunity for hearing. Whenever it is charged that a qualified association or handler refuses to bargain, as that term is defined in subsection 1, the board shall provide that person with notice and opportunity to be heard, in a manner consistent with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, ~~Title 5, chapter 375,~~ as to adjudicatory hearings.

7. Hearing. Hearings held pursuant to subsection 6 ~~shall must~~ be held in a manner consistent with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act as to adjudicatory hearings. The board shall request that the Attorney General, or any attorney in ~~his department~~ the Department of the Attorney General designated by ~~him the Attorney General,~~ be present at these hearings and ~~shall~~ advise the board on procedure and on the admissibility of any evidence.

8. Findings. If, upon a preponderance of the evidence, the board determines that the person complained of has refused to bargain, in violation of this article, it shall state its findings of fact and shall issue an order requiring ~~him the person~~ to bargain as that term is defined in subsection 1 and shall order such further affirmative action, excluding an award of damages, as will effectuate the policies of this article. Failure to comply with such an order is a violation of this article. If the board determines that the person complained of has not refused to bargain, it shall state its findings of fact and shall issue an order dismissing the charges.

10. Modification. Until the record in a case has been filed in a court, as provided in section 1959, the

board may at any time, upon reasonable notice and in such manner as it ~~deems~~ determines proper, modify or set aside, in a whole or in part, any finding or order made or issued by it.

Sec. E-17. 13 MRSA §1965, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1987, c. 155, §23, is corrected to read:

1. Producers of agricultural commodities are free to join together voluntarily in associations as authorized by law without interference by handlers. A handler ~~shall may~~ not engage nor permit an employee or agent to engage in any of the following practices, defined as unfair practices:

A. To coerce a producer in the exercise of ~~his the~~ producer's right to join and belong to or to refrain from joining or belonging to an association or to refuse to deal with a producer because of the exercise of ~~his the producer's~~ right to join and belong to an association except as provided in section 1958, subsection 5;

B. To discriminate against a producer with respect to price, quantity, quality or other terms of purchase, acquisition or other handling of agricultural products because of ~~his the producer's~~ membership in or contract with an association;

C. To coerce or intimidate a producer to breach, cancel or terminate a membership agreement or marketing contract with an association or a contract with a handler;

D. To pay or loan money, give anything of value or offer any other inducement or regard to a producer for refusing or ceasing to belong to an association;

E. To make or circulate unsubstantiated reports about the finances, management or activities of associations or handlers;

F. To conspire, combine, agree or arrange with any other person to do or aid or abet the doing of any practice ~~which that~~ is in violation of this Act;

G. To refuse to bargain with an accredited association with whom the handler has had prior dealings or with an accredited association whose producers in the bargaining units have had substantial dealing with the handler prior to the accreditation of the association; or

H. To negotiate with a producer included in the bargaining unit after an association is accredited.

Sec. E-18. 13 MRSA §1965, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 155, §24, is corrected to read:

4. Hearing. Hearings held pursuant to subsection 3 ~~shall must~~ be held in a manner consistent with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, ~~Title 5, chapter 375,~~ as to adjudicatory hearings. The board shall request that the Attorney General or any attorney in ~~his~~

~~department~~ the Department of the Attorney General designated by the Attorney General, be present at these hearings and ~~shall~~ advise the board on procedure and on the admissibility of any evidence.

Sec. E-19. 13 MRSA §2061, sub-§2 is corrected to read:

2. Members' payments. The amount ~~which that~~ each member ~~shall be~~ is required to pay annually, or from time to time, if at all, to carry on the business of the association; the charge, if any, to be paid by each member for services rendered by the association to ~~him~~ the member and the time of payment and the manner of collection; and the marketing contract between the association and its members, which every member may be required to sign;

Sec. E-20. 13 MRSA §2062, sub-§5 is corrected to read:

5. Suspension. For the automatic suspension of the rights of a member when ~~he~~ the member ceases to be eligible ~~to~~ for membership in the association; and the mode, manner and effect of the expulsion of a member; and

Sec. E-21. 13 MRSA §2062, sub-§6 is corrected to read:

6. Valuation of interest. The manner of determining the value of a member's interest and provision for its purchase by the association upon the death or withdrawal of a member or upon the expulsion of a member or forfeiture of ~~his~~ a member's membership, or at the option of the association, the purchase at a price fixed by conclusive appraisal by the board of directors; and the conditions and terms for the repurchase by the corporation from its stockholders of their stock upon their disqualification as stockholders.

Sec. E-22. 13 MRSA §2107 is corrected to read:

§2107. —~~notice~~ Notice; hearing

The director or officer, against whom such charges have been brought, ~~shall must~~ be informed in writing of the charges previous to the meeting and ~~shall~~ have an opportunity at the meeting to be heard in person or by counsel and to present witnesses; and the person or persons bringing the charges against ~~him shall~~ the director or officer must have the same opportunity.

Sec. E-23. 13 MRSA §2109 is corrected to read:

§2109. District directors; petition; vote of district membership

If the bylaws provide for election of directors by districts with primary elections in each district, the petition for removal of a director ~~shall must~~ be signed by 20% of the members residing in the district from which ~~he~~ the director was elected. The board of directors shall

call a special meeting of the members residing in that district to consider the removal of the director; ~~and by a vote of the~~. If a majority of the members of that district ~~vote to remove the director~~, the director ~~in question~~ shall must be removed from office.

Sec. E-24. 13 MRSA §2152 is corrected to read:

§2152. Certificate

When a member of an association established without shares of stock has paid ~~his~~ the member's membership fee in full, ~~he shall~~ the member must receive a certificate of membership.

Sec. E-25. 13 MRSA §2153 is corrected to read:

§2153. Liability for debts

~~No~~ A member ~~shall be~~ is not liable for the debts of the association to an amount exceeding the sum remaining unpaid on ~~his~~ the member's membership fee or ~~his~~ subscription to the capital stock, including any unpaid balance on any promissory note given in payment thereof.

Sec. E-26. 13 MRSA §2155 is corrected to read:

§2155. Expulsion; payment for interest

In case of the expulsion of a member, and ~~where~~ when the bylaws do not provide ~~any~~ a procedure or penalty, the board of directors shall equitably and conclusively appraise ~~his~~ the member's property interest in the association and shall fix the amount ~~thereof~~ of the member's property interest in money, which ~~shall must~~ be paid to ~~him~~ the member within one year after ~~such~~ the expulsion.

Sec. E-27. 13 MRSA §2284 is corrected to read:

§2284. Breach of contract; liquidated damages; costs

The marketing contract may fix, as liquidated damages, specific sums to be paid by the member to the association upon the breach by ~~him~~ the member of any provision of the marketing contract regarding the sale or delivery or withholding of fishery products; and may further provide that the member will pay all costs, premiums for bonds, expenses and fees, in case ~~any~~ an action is brought upon the contract by the association; and any such provisions ~~shall be~~ are valid and enforceable in the courts of this State; and such clauses providing for liquidated damages ~~shall be~~ are enforceable as such and ~~shall may~~ not be regarded as penalties.

Sec. E-28. 13 MRSA §2286 is corrected to read:

§2286. Landlord or lessor; presumptions; remedies against

In ~~any~~ an action upon such marketing agreements, it ~~shall be~~ is conclusively presumed that a landlord or lessor is able to control the delivery of fishery products produced by ~~his the landlord's or lessor's~~ equipment by tenants, or others, whose tenancy or possession or work on such equipment or the terms of whose tenancy or possession or labor thereon were created or changed after execution by the landlord or lessor; of such a marketing agreement; and in such actions, the foregoing remedies for nondelivery or breach ~~shall lie and be~~ are enforceable against ~~such the~~ landlord or lessor.

Sec. E-29. 13 MRSA §2691, as amended by PL 1987, c. 736, §8, is corrected to read:

§2691. Warrant for calling meetings

When any 5 or a majority of the proprietors of lands or wharves held in common desire a meeting of the proprietors for the purpose of forming a corporation or for any other purpose, they may make written application signed by them or their agents to ~~any~~ a justice of the peace residing in the county in which the lands or wharves are situated. The justice of the peace shall ~~thereupon~~ issue ~~his~~ a warrant calling a meeting at the time and place and for the purposes distinctly stated in the application, directed to one of the proprietors, requiring ~~him the proprietor~~ to give notice thereof of the meeting.

Sec. E-30. 13 MRSA §2733 is corrected to read:

§2733. Treasurer's powers and duties

The treasurer may sue for and collect all debts due to the proprietors and shall render ~~his the treasurer's~~ account of all moneys received and paid; and he the treasurer shall hold ~~his the~~ office during their pleasure.

Sec. E-31. 13 MRSA §2771 is corrected to read:

§2771. Deposit with town clerk

After a final division of their common property, the proprietors shall cause their records to be deposited in the office of the clerk of the town in which some part of such land lies. ~~He The clerk~~ may record votes and certify copies of ~~such the~~ records as the proprietors' clerk might have done. The last clerk chosen shall continue in office until the records are so deposited.

Sec. E-32. 13 MRSA §2812 is corrected to read:

§2812. Assessment collected by forced sale

If ~~any~~ a proprietor neglects to pay ~~his the proprietor's~~ assessment to the treasurer, collector or committee for 6 months; if ~~he the proprietor~~ resides in the State, otherwise for 12 months, then the committee may, from time to time, sell at auction so as much of his the proprietor's right in the common lands as is sufficient to pay his the proprietor's tax and the reasonable charges

of sale, after notice thereof posted as provided and published in 2 of the newspapers before named, 5 weeks successively next before the time of sale; and may give deeds thereof in fee to the purchaser.

Sec. E-33. 13 MRSA §2861, as amended by PL 1981, c. 456, Pt. A, §42, is corrected to read:

§2861. Meeting to form parish

~~Any~~ A person ~~of age~~ 18 years of age or older, desirous of becoming an incorporated parish or religious society, may apply to a notary public, who shall issue ~~his a~~ a warrant to one of them, directing ~~him that applicant~~ to notify the other applicants to meet at some proper place expressed in the warrant. He The applicant shall give notice of the meeting 7 days at least before holding the ~~same, meeting~~ by posting a notification thereof of the meeting on the outer door of the meeting-house or place of public worship of the society, if any, otherwise at such place as the notary appoints.

Sec. E-34. 13 MRSA §2866 is corrected to read:

§2866. Persons deemed members; dissolution

~~Any~~ A person described in section 2865, residing in a local parish holding funds derived from this State or Massachusetts, ~~shall be~~ is deemed a member of it until ~~he the person~~ the person dissolves the connection. Such a person having resided in ~~such~~ a parish one year, after ~~he the person~~ the person has arrived at majority, without either giving written notice to ~~its the parish's~~ the parish's clerk of ~~his the person's~~ the person's consent to be a member ~~thereof of the parish,~~ or paying a tax or subscription according to the mode that said the parish has adopted to raise money, shall be is deemed to have thereby dissolved ~~his the person's~~ the person's connection ~~therewith with the parish. Said The connection shall remain~~ remains dissolved, and ~~said the person shall~~ is not be taxable until ~~he the person~~ the person renews the connection by giving written notice to ~~its the parish's~~ the parish's clerk of ~~his the person's~~ the person's consent to be a member of ~~said the~~ the parish. ~~Any~~ A person residing in a local parish may become a member of such parish not deriving funds from the State; by giving written notice to ~~its the parish's~~ the parish's clerk of ~~his the person's~~ the person's intention to do so within one year after ~~he the person~~ the person is of age or removes thereto.

Sec. E-35. 13 MRSA §2867 is corrected to read:

§2867. No compulsion; withdrawals

~~No~~ A person described in section 2866 ~~shall may~~ not be a member of a parish or religious society without ~~his the person's~~ the person's consent. ~~Any~~ A person may dissolve ~~his that person's~~ the person's connection ~~therewith with a parish or religious society~~ by leaving with its clerk a certificate of his the person's intention to do so, and all his the person's liability for future expenses shall thereby cease ceases; but ~~he the person~~ the person may be taxed for money previously raised, except in case of removal from a local parish.

Sec. E-36. 13 MRSA §2904, as amended by PL 1987, c. 736, §10, is corrected to read:

§2904. Refusal of assessors

If the assessors unreasonably refuse, ~~any~~ a justice of the peace on like application may issue ~~his~~ a warrant to one of the applicants, who shall notify such meeting as prescribed in section 2861 or as agreed on by parish vote.

Sec. E-37. 13 MRSA §2944 is corrected to read:

§2944. Notice of nonoccupancy by pew owner; rights

Whenever a parish or church raises its current expenses by assessment on its pews, ~~any~~ a pew owner who ~~shall does~~ not occupy ~~his~~ the owner's pew, either by ~~himself alone~~ or ~~with~~ family, or rent the same, may give a written notice to the clerk of the parish or church, or to the parish committee or assessors, of ~~his~~ the owner's intention not to occupy ~~said the~~ the pew for one year following the next annual meeting of ~~said the~~ the parish or church, in which case ~~said the~~ the pew owner ~~shall is~~ not be liable for any tax assessed on ~~said the~~ the pew during ~~said that~~ that year, neither ~~shall he~~ may the owner act and vote at ~~said the~~ the annual meeting unless ~~he~~ the owner retains a pew for the occupancy of ~~himself the owner~~ and the owner's family, and the parish or church may let ~~said the~~ the pew during ~~said that~~ that year and appropriate the rent to the current expenses of the parish or church, and ~~said the~~ the parish or church ~~shall may~~ not sell ~~said the~~ the pew for taxes assessed during that year.

Sec. E-38. 13 MRSA §2982, as amended by PL 1975, c. 244, is corrected to read:

§2982. Officers as corporations; organization and powers

The church wardens of Episcopal churches, the stewards or trustees of the United Methodist church and the deacons of all other Protestant churches are ~~so far considered~~ corporations as to take, in succession, all grants and gifts of real and personal estate made to their churches or to them and their successors. If the ministers, elders or ~~vestrymen~~ vestry members are joined with them in such grants or gifts, the 2 classes of officers ~~shall be~~ are considered corporations for that purpose. For the purpose of organizing any such corporation, one or more members of ~~said the~~ the corporation may call a meeting thereof by a notice posted upon the outer door of the meetinghouse or place of public worship of their parish or society at least 7 days before the time of holding such meeting; or, if there is no such meetinghouse or place of public worship, by a notice posted in 2 public and conspicuous places in the town wherein ~~said the~~ the parish or society is located. At such meeting the corporation may organize, adopt a corporate name and elect such officers as its bylaws ~~shall~~ prescribe. Said corporations are authorized to take by gift, purchase,

bequest, demise or otherwise, real and personal property for religious purposes, and may make such contracts in relation to such estate, its improvements, disposal, investment or reinvestment, as they may be authorized under the rules of their church or instructed by the church for which they hold estate in trust to make, ~~which and the~~ the contracts may be enforced by or against them as in other cases. ~~No A~~ disposal of ~~such the~~ the estate ~~shall may not~~ be made, inconsistent with the terms of the grant by which it is held. Trustees of the local United Methodist churches are created a corporation with all the rights and privileges of corporations, subject to the restrictions contained in the book of discipline of the United Methodist church.

Sec. E-39. 13 MRSA §2983 is corrected to read:

§2983. Ministers and officers of religious societies; powers

The ministers of a parish or religious society and the deacons, elders, trustees, stewards and other presiding officers of a religious society or church, having by its usages no settled minister, may take, in succession, any estate granted to the minister and ~~his~~ the minister's successors, or for the use of the ministry or poor of the church; and may prosecute and defend all civil actions respecting it; but they ~~shall may~~ not so take, while the clear annual income of prior grants is \$3,000.

Sec. E-40. 13 MRSA §2984 is corrected to read:

§2984. Conveyance of land

~~No A~~ conveyance of an estate as set forth in section 2983 by a minister ~~shall may not~~ be valid ~~for~~ longer than ~~he~~ the minister is in the ministry; or by such deacons or other officers, ~~for~~ longer than they are in office, if made by them without consent of the church or by church wardens without the consent of the vestry.

Sec. E-41. 13 MRSA §3022, as amended by PL 1981, c. 456, Pt. A, §44, is corrected to read:

§3022. Notice of meeting

When 3 or more members of the church who are voters according to section 3023 ~~shall~~ apply in writing to ~~any~~ a notary public in the county for the purpose of incorporating the church, the notary shall issue ~~his~~ a warrant addressed to one of the applicants, stating the time, place and purposes of the meeting and directing ~~him~~ the applicant to notify the members of the church by posting a certified copy of the warrant in a conspicuous place near the main entrance to the usual place of meeting of the church and in one other public and conspicuous place in the same town, for 7 days, at least, prior to the meeting.

Sec. E-42. 13 MRSA §3102 is corrected to read:

§3102. Dissenting pew owners; proceedings

~~Any~~ An owner or occupant of a pew in ~~such~~ a meetinghouse who expresses ~~his~~ dissent from ~~such~~ a vote pursuant to section 3101 in writing to the clerk of the parish or incorporated church within one month from the time of holding ~~such~~ a meeting ~~shall must~~ have ~~his~~ the owner's or occupant's pew appraised, as provided in section 3105, and the appraised value ~~shall must~~ be tendered to ~~him~~ the owner or occupant in satisfaction of ~~his~~ the owner's or occupant's claim for compensation and ~~he~~ the owner or occupant shall then deliver a deed of ~~such~~ the pew to the parish or incorporated church. If such dissent is not so expressed, ~~such~~ the pew ~~shall must~~ be forever forfeited to the parish or incorporated church.

Sec. E-43. 13 MRSA §3106 is corrected to read:

§3106. Dissenting proprietors; value of interest; limitation and forfeiture

When it is decided to repair, remodel or rebuild a meetinghouse, any owner or proprietor dissenting from the action of the majority and declining to take an interest in the house as altered may demand and receive of ~~such~~ the majority the appraised value of ~~his~~ that owner's or proprietor's interest after deducting ~~his~~ the owner's or proprietor's proportion of debts against the property, to be recovered in a civil action, which ~~shall may~~ not be commenced until 30 days after ~~such~~ the demand, nor after the lapse of a year after notice is posted for 3 successive weeks on the meetinghouse door and some other conspicuous place in its precinct, stating the persons to whom the money is to be paid, the amount payable to each and the time limited for payment. If ~~said~~ the sums are not demanded within ~~said~~ that time, they are forfeited to the majority for parish uses. This section does not apply to any case ~~where in which~~ the repairs decided upon are only such as are necessary to keep ~~such~~ the meetinghouse in a tenantable condition.

Sec. E-44. 13 MRSA §3107, as amended by PL 1981, c. 456, Pt. A, §45, is corrected to read:

§3107. Owners may incorporate

The owners of a meetinghouse or building for public worship and the pew owners may be incorporated, when any 3 or more of them apply ~~therefor to be incorporated~~ to a notary public, who shall issue ~~his~~ a warrant to one of them, stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting, and directing ~~him~~ that person to notify the owners by posting a certified copy of it for 14 days on the principal outer door of the building and in one or more public places in the same town.

Sec. E-45. 13 MRSA §3110, as amended by PL 1981, c. 456, Pt. A, §46, is corrected to read:

§3110. Meetings of owners

When there has ~~not~~ been ~~no~~ a meeting of the incorporated pew owners; or proprietors or owners of a meetinghouse or building for public worship for 3 years, a meeting may be called on application of 3 or more

members thereof to a notary public, who shall issue ~~his~~ a warrant to one of them stating the time, place and purposes of the meeting, directing ~~him~~ the member to notify the meeting by posting a certified copy of the warrant, 3 weeks before the time of meeting, on the principal outer door of the building; and in one or more public places in the same town and publishing it in a newspaper published in the county, if any, otherwise in an adjoining county or in the state paper.

Sec. E-46. 13 MRSA §3111, as amended by PL 1987, c. 736, §11, is corrected to read:

§3111. Different denomination; division of time

When a house of public worship is owned by persons of different denominations and when an organized society, or its members, own 5 pews therein, one or more of the minority owning not less than 5 pews may apply to a justice of the peace to obtain a division of the time of occupying the house. ~~He~~ The justice of the peace shall call a meeting of the owners by posting a notice in a public place in or about the house, 30 days at least before the meeting, stating the time, place and object ~~thereof of the meeting~~.

Sec. E-47. 13 MRSA §3163 is corrected to read:

§3163. Officers

The corporation shall annually elect a president, clerk and treasurer. The treasurer shall give bond with sureties sufficient in the opinion of the trustees for the faithful discharge of ~~his~~ the treasurer's duty. The clerk ~~shall must~~ be sworn.

EXPLANATION

This Part corrects gender-specific references within statutory units in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 13 pursuant to Public Law 2019, chapter 475, section 52, and, as authorized by Title 1, section 93, this Part also incorporates certain administrative changes and corrections to those statutory units.

PART F

Sec. F-1. 36 MRSA §192, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 364, §19, is corrected to read:

1. Expenses. The reasonable and necessary traveling expenses of the State Tax Assessor and of ~~his~~ the State Tax Assessor's employees while actually engaged in the performance of their duties, certified upon vouchers approved by the State Tax Assessor, ~~shall must~~ be paid by the Treasurer of State upon warrant of the State Controller.

Sec. F-2. 36 MRSA §501, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2021, c. 275, §54, is corrected to read:

4. Municipal officers. "Municipal officers" means the mayor, councillors and ~~aldermen~~ municipal

officers of cities, the members of the select board of towns and the assessors of plantations.

Sec. F-3. 36 MRSA §1760, sub-§7-A, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. GGG, §2, is corrected to read:

7-A. Products used in aquacultural production and bait. Sales of feed, hormones, pesticides, antibiotics and medicine for use in aquacultural production and sales of bait to commercial fishermen a person who fishes commercially.

Sec. F-4. 36 MRSA §3202, sub-§8, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 94, Pt. D, §6, is corrected to read:

8. Use. "Use" means, in addition to its original meaning, the receipt of special fuel by any person into a motor vehicle or into a receptacle from which special fuel is supplied by that person to his that person's own or other motor vehicles.

Sec. F-5. 36 MRSA §3914, as amended by PL 1983, c. 480, Pt. A, §59, is corrected to read:

§3914. Arbitration agreement

When the State Tax Assessor assessor claims that a decedent was domiciled in this State at the time of his the decedent's death and the taxing authorities of another state or states make a like claim on behalf of their state or states, the State Tax Assessor assessor may with the approval of the Attorney General make a written agreement with the other taxing authorities and with the personal representative to submit the controversy to the decision of a board consisting of one or any uneven number of arbitrators. The personal representative may make the agreement. The parties to the agreement shall select the arbitrator or arbitrators.

Sec. F-6. 36 MRSA §3917 is corrected to read:

§3917. Determination of domicile

The board shall, by majority vote, determine the domicile of the decedent at the time of his the decedent's death. This determination shall be is final for purposes of imposing and collecting death taxes but for no other purpose.

Sec. F-7. 36 MRSA §3984, as amended by PL 1983, c. 480, Pt. A, §62, is corrected to read:

§3984. Filing of compromise agreement; interest or penalty for nonpayment

When the State Tax Assessor assessor claims that a decedent was domiciled in this State at the time of his the decedent's death and the taxing authorities of another state or states make a like claim on behalf of their state or states, the State Tax Assessor assessor may, with the approval of the Attorney General, make a written agreement of compromise with the other taxing authorities and the personal representative that a certain sum shall must be accepted in full satisfaction of any and all death taxes imposed by this State, including any

interest or penalties to the date of filing the agreement. The agreement shall must fix the amount to be accepted by the other states in full satisfaction of death taxes. The personal representative may make that agreement. Either the State Tax Assessor assessor or the personal representative shall file the agreement or a duplicate with the authority that would be empowered to assess death taxes for this State if there had been no agreement, and thereupon upon such filing the tax shall be is deemed conclusively fixed as therein provided in the agreement. Unless the tax is paid within 30 days after filing the agreement, interest shall must thereafter accrue upon the amount fixed in the agreement, but the time between the decedent's death and the filing shall may not be included in computing the interest.

Sec. F-8. 36 MRSA §4043, first ¶, as amended by PL 1983, c. 480, Pt. A, §64, is corrected to read:

The proof required by section 4042 may be in the form of a certificate issued by the official charged with the administration of the death tax laws of the state of domicile. If proof is not filed as therein provided in section 4042, the register of probate shall forthwith notify by mail the official of the state of domicile so far as is known to him the register of probate:

Sec. F-9. 36 MRSA §4043, 2nd ¶, as amended by PL 1983, c. 480, Pt. A, §64, is corrected to read:

The register shall attach to that notice a plain copy of the will and codicils of the decedent, if he the decedent died testate, or if he the decedent died intestate, a list of his the decedent's heirs and next of kin so far as is known to the register. Within 60 days after the mailing of the notice, the official of the state of domicile may file with the Probate Court in this State a petition for an accounting in the estate. The official shall must, for the purposes of this chapter, be a party interested for the purpose of petitioning for the accounting. If a petition is filed within the period of 60 days, the Probate Court shall decree an accounting; and upon that accounting being filed and approved shall decree the remission to the fiduciary appointed by the Probate Court of the state of domicile of the balance of the intangible personalty after the payment of creditors and expenses of administration in this State.

Sec. F-10. 36 MRSA §4045 is corrected to read:

§4045. Reciprocity

This chapter shall apply applies to the estate of any nonresident decedent if the laws of the state of his that nonresident decedent's domicile contain a provision, of any nature or however expressed, whereby this State is given reasonable assurance of the collection of its death taxes, interest and penalties from the estates of decedents dying domiciled in this State in cases where when the estates of such decedents are being administered in such the other state. This chapter shall must be liberally

construed in order to ~~insure~~ ensure that the state of domicile of any decedent ~~shall receive~~ receives any death taxes, together with interest and penalties ~~thereon~~, due to it.

Sec. F-11. 36 MRSA §4065, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 451, §7, is corrected to read:

1. Payment of tax. The tax imposed by this chapter ~~shall must~~ be paid by the personal representative to the extent of assets subject to ~~his the personal representative's~~ the personal representative's control. The ~~State Tax Assessor~~ assessor may accept payment of estate taxes in works of art in accordance with Title 27, chapter 2, subchapter ~~H~~ 2.

Sec. F-12. 36 MRSA §4071, sub-§2, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 451, §7, is corrected to read:

B. A final disposition by the United States Secretary of the Treasury or ~~his the Secretary of the Treasury's~~ the Secretary of the Treasury's delegate of a claim for a refund. The disposition ~~shall be~~ is deemed to have occurred:

(1) As to items of the claim ~~which that~~ are allowed, upon allowance of refund or upon disallowance of the claim by reason of offsetting items; and

(2) As to items of the claim ~~which that~~ are disallowed, or as to items applied by the United States Secretary of the Treasury or ~~his the Secretary of the Treasury's~~ the Secretary of the Treasury's delegate as an offset against the claim, upon expiration of the time for instituting suit for refund with respect to those items, unless suit is instituted before the expiration of such time, or upon filing with the ~~State Tax Assessor~~ assessor, a written statement that suit will not be instituted;

Sec. F-13. 36 MRSA §4071, sub-§2, ¶D, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 451, §7, is corrected to read:

D. An assessment pursuant to a waiver of restrictions on assessment, or a notification in writing issued by the United States Secretary of the Treasury or ~~his the Secretary of the Treasury's~~ the Secretary of the Treasury's delegate that the federal estate tax return has been accepted as filed, unless the personal representative notifies the ~~State Tax Assessor~~ assessor that a claim for refund of federal estate taxes has been or will be filed; or

Sec. F-14. 36 MRSA §4071, sub-§2, ¶E, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 451, §7, is corrected to read:

E. ~~Any~~ An assessment pursuant to a compromise entered into by the personal representative and the United States Secretary of the Treasury or ~~his the Secretary of the Treasury's~~ the Secretary of the Treasury's delegate.

Sec. F-15. 36 MRSA §4078, 2nd ¶, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 451, §7, is corrected to read:

If the tax or any part of the tax is paid or collected out of that part of the estate passing to or in possession

of any person other than the personal representative in ~~his the personal representative's~~ the personal representative's capacity as such, that person is entitled to a reimbursement out of any part of the estate still undistributed or by a just and equitable contribution by the person whose interest in the estate of the decedent would have been reduced if the tax had been paid before the distribution of the estate or whose interest in the estate is subject to an equal or prior liability for the payment of tax, debts or other charges against the estate.

Sec. F-16. 36 MRSA §4605, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 753, §§14 and 15, is corrected to read:

4. Application; certificate. Every A shipper of potatoes shall file an application with the ~~State Tax Assessor~~ assessor, on forms prescribed and furnished by ~~him the assessor, which shall contain that contains~~ the name or names under which the shipper is transacting business within the State, the place or places of business and location or locations of loading and shipping places and agents of the shipper, the names and addresses of the several persons constituting a firm or partnership of the shipper and, if a corporation, the corporate name and the names and addresses of its principal officers and agents within the State. Upon receipt of a complete and valid application, the ~~State Tax Assessor will~~ assessor shall issue a certificate to the shipper. ~~No A person may not act as a shipper until that certificate is issued to him that person.~~ The certificate shall may not be deemed considered a license within the meaning of that term in the ~~Maine Administrative Procedure Act~~, Title 5, chapter 375.

Sec. F-17. 36 MRSA §4605, sub-§7, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 753, §§14 and 15 and amended by PL 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §6, is corrected to read:

7. Inspections. The ~~State Tax Assessor~~ assessor or ~~his the assessor's~~ the assessor's duly authorized agent may enter any place of business of any shipper or any car, boat, truck or other conveyance in which potatoes are to be transported and to inspect books and records of any shipper for the purpose of determining what potatoes are taxable under this chapter and for the purpose of verifying any statement or return made by any shipper. The ~~State Tax Assessor~~ assessor may delegate all or part of that authority to agents of the board or of the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

Sec. F-18. 36 MRSA §5102, sub-§1-C, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 783, §17, is corrected to read:

B. "Maine adjusted gross income" means, for a nonresident individual, that part of ~~his the nonresident individual's~~ the nonresident individual's federal adjusted gross income derived from sources within this State, as determined under section 5142.

Sec. F-19. 36 MRSA §5102, sub-§4, ¶A, as enacted by P&SL 1969, c. 154, §F, §1, is corrected to read:

A. The estate of a decedent who at ~~his~~ the decedent's death was domiciled in this State;

Sec. F-20. 36 MRSA §5192, sub-§1, as enacted by P&SL 1969, c. 154, §F, §1, is corrected to read:

1. General. In determining the adjusted gross income of a nonresident partner of any partnership, there ~~shall~~ must be included only that part derived from or connected with sources in this State of the partner's distributive share of items of partnership income, gain, loss and deduction entering into ~~his that nonresident partner's~~ the nonresident partner's federal adjusted gross income, as ~~such that~~ that part is determined under regulations prescribed by the assessor in accordance with the general rules in section 5142.

Sec. F-21. 36 MRSA §5192, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1985, c. 783, §32, is corrected to read:

2. Itemized deductions. If a nonresident partner of any partnership elects to itemize ~~his~~ the nonresident partner's deductions in determining ~~his that nonresident partner's~~ the nonresident partner's tax liability to this State, ~~there shall be attributed to him his~~ the distributive share of partnership items of deduction from federal adjusted gross income for that nonresident partner must be attributed to that nonresident partner.

Sec. F-22. 36 MRSA §5192, sub-§3, as enacted by P&SL 1969, c. 154, §F, §1, is corrected to read:

3. Special rules as to sources in this State. In determining the sources of a nonresident partner's income, ~~no effect shall~~ may not be given to a provision in the partnership agreement ~~which that~~ that:

A. Characterizes payments to the partner as being for services or for the use of capital, or allocated to the partner, as income or gain from sources outside this State, a greater proportion of ~~his that partner's~~ the partner's distributive share of partnership income or gain than the ratio of partnership income or gain from sources outside this State to partnership income or gain from all sources except as authorized in subsection 5; or

B. Allocates to the partner a greater proportion of a partnership item of loss or deduction connected with sources in this State than ~~his that partner's~~ the partner's proportionate share, for federal income tax purposes, of partnership loss or deduction generally, except as authorized in subsection 5.

Sec. F-23. 36 MRSA §5192, sub-§5, as enacted by P&SL 1969, c. 154, §F, §1, is corrected to read:

5. Alternate methods. The assessor may, on application, authorize or may require the use of such other methods of determining a nonresident partner's portion of partnership items derived from or connected with sources in this State, and the modifications related ~~thereto to those partnership items~~, as may be appropriate and equitable, on such terms and conditions as ~~he~~ the assessor may require.

Sec. F-24. 36 MRSA §5211, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1987, c. 841, §10, is corrected to read:

1. Apportionment. ~~Any~~ A taxpayer, other than a resident individual, estate, or trust, having income from business activity ~~which that~~ that is taxable both within and without this State, other than the rendering of purely personal services by an individual, shall apportion ~~his that taxpayer's~~ the taxpayer's net income as provided in this section. ~~Any~~ A taxpayer having income solely from business activity taxable within this State shall apportion ~~his that~~ the taxpayer's entire net income to this State.

Sec. F-25. 36 MRSA §5211, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1987, c. 841, §10, is corrected to read:

2. Taxpayer taxable in another state. For purposes of apportionment of income under this section, a taxpayer is taxable in another state if in that state ~~he that taxpayer~~ the taxpayer is subject to a net income tax, a franchise tax measured by net income, a franchise tax for the privilege of doing business, or a corporate stock tax, or that state has jurisdiction to subject the taxpayer to a net income tax regardless of whether in fact, the state does or does not.

Sec. F-26. 36 MRSA §5214-A, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 783, §36, is corrected to read:

2. Limitation on credit. The credit under this section ~~shall~~ may not reduce the tax otherwise due from the beneficiary under this Part to an amount less than would have been due if the accumulation distribution or ~~his that beneficiary's~~ the beneficiary's part of the accumulation distribution were excluded from ~~his that beneficiary's~~ the beneficiary's adjusted gross income.

Sec. F-27. 36 MRSA §5222, sub-§1, as enacted by P&SL 1969, c. 154, §F, §1, is corrected to read:

1. Decedents. An income tax return for ~~any~~ a deceased individual ~~shall~~ must be made and filed by ~~his the deceased individual's~~ the deceased individual's executor, administrator, or other person charged with the care of ~~his that deceased individual's~~ the deceased individual's property. A final return of a decedent ~~shall~~ is due when it would have been due if the decedent had not died.

Sec. F-28. 36 MRSA §5222, sub-§2, as enacted by P&SL 1969, c. 154, §F, §1, is corrected to read:

2. Individuals under a disability. An income tax return for an individual who is unable to make a return by reason of minority or other disability ~~shall~~ must be made and filed by ~~his that individual's~~ the individual's duly authorized agent, ~~his~~ the committee, guardian, conservator, or fiduciary or ~~other~~ another person charged with the care of ~~his person that individual or that individual's~~ the individual's property other than a receiver in possession of only a part of the individual's property.

Sec. F-29. 36 MRSA §5257, as enacted by P&SL 1969, c. 154, §F, §1, is corrected to read:

§5257. Methods of accounting

1. Same as federal. For purposes of the tax imposed by this Part, a taxpayer's method of accounting ~~shall must~~ be the same as ~~his that taxpayer's~~ method of accounting for federal income tax purposes. If no method of accounting has been regularly used by the taxpayer, taxable income for purposes of this Part ~~shall must~~ be computed under ~~such a~~ method that in the opinion of the assessor fairly reflects income.

2. Change of accounting methods. If a taxpayer's method of accounting is changed for federal income tax purposes, ~~his that taxpayer's~~ method of accounting for purposes of this Part ~~shall must~~ similarly be changed.

Sec. F-30. 36 MRSA §5311, sub-§1, as enacted by P&SL 1969, c. 154, §F, §1, is corrected to read:

1. General. The tax imposed by this Part ~~shall must~~ be collected by the assessor ~~and he, who~~ may establish the mode or time for the collection of any amount due under this Part if not otherwise specified. The assessor shall, on request, give a receipt for any amount collected under this Part. The assessor may authorize incorporated banks or trust companies ~~which that~~ are depositaries or fiscal agents of this State to receive and give a receipt for any tax imposed under this Part, in such manner, at such times, and under such conditions as ~~he the assessor~~ may prescribe; and the assessor shall prescribe the manner, times and conditions under which the receipt of tax by such banks and trust companies is to be treated as payment of tax to the assessor.

Sec. F-31. 36 MRSA §6214, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 516, §§3 and 6, is corrected to read:

§6214. Disallowance of certain claims

A claim ~~shall must~~ be disallowed, if the ~~State Tax Assessor~~ assessor finds that the claimant received title to ~~his the claimant's~~ homestead primarily for the purpose of receiving benefits under this chapter.

EXPLANATION

This Part corrects gender-specific references within statutory units in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36 pursuant to Public Law 2019, chapter 475, section 52, and, as authorized by Title 1, section 93, this Part also incorporates certain administrative changes and corrections to those statutory units.

SELECTED MEMORIALS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

**JOINT RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING THE LIFE
AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF THE LATE UNITED
STATES SENATOR
MARGARET CHASE SMITH**

H.P. 1464

WHEREAS, in 1940, Margaret Chase Smith won a special election to the United States House of Representatives following the death of her husband, Representative Clyde Smith. She went on to win the general election in her own right just 3 months later and was re-elected for 3 additional terms over the next 8 years; and

WHEREAS, in 1947, Representative Smith played a key role in getting the Nurse Corps Bill passed through Congress, granting women the opportunity to have permanent status in the United States military for the first time; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Chase Smith was sworn into the United States Senate on January 3, 1949, becoming the first woman to be elected to both houses of Congress; and

WHEREAS, in her Declaration of Conscience speech made on June 1, 1950, Senator Smith spoke out against the cruelty of McCarthyism and the "national feeling of fear and frustration" and called on her fellow Legislators to avoid hatred and character assassination and to honor the right to criticize, the right to hold unpopular beliefs, the right to protest and the right of independent thought; and

WHEREAS, in 1954 and 1955, Senator Smith took a world tour at her own expense and not as a representative of the United States government, visiting numerous European, African and Asian countries and interviewing over 20 world leaders. Many of the interviews were recorded and sent back to the United States to be broadcast on Edward R. Murrow's program "See It Now" on CBS. The Overseas Press Club of America later honored the "See It Now" segments with the Best Presentation on Foreign Affairs award. Senator Smith accepted the award on behalf of CBS and officially became an award-winning foreign correspondent; and

WHEREAS, Senator Smith debated former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt on "Face the Nation" in 1956, a few days before the 1956 Presidential election. They were the first female guests on this news show and debated the 1956 Israeli-Egyptian war over the Suez Canal, the Soviet invasion of Hungary and civil rights; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, after being told that the White House was not ready for a female chief executive, Margaret Chase Smith became the first woman to

be placed in nomination for the presidency by a major political party, ultimately losing the nomination to Barry Goldwater; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Margaret Chase Smith opened the library that houses her papers for researchers of all ages. Upon her death in 1995, her Skowhegan home was turned into a museum open to the public so that we might continue to learn from the example of civility and leadership her life evinced; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize the life of Margaret Chase Smith, her accomplishments in Congress, her fight against injustice and her extensive contributions to the civil rights and equal rights movements.

**Read and adopted by the House of Representatives
January 27, 2026 and the Senate February 3, 2026.**

**JOINT RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY
2026 AS 211 MAINE MONTH**

H.P. 1490

WHEREAS, 211 Maine is a Maine-based health and human services and emergency preparedness and response helpline that provides Maine people free and confidential referrals to needed resources; and

WHEREAS, 211 Maine provides around-the-clock service statewide, offering efficient and effective responses from people employed in Maine to questions arising from the growing complexities in health, financial and human services and the needs of Maine people, and offers interpreter services to those whose first language is not English; and

WHEREAS, since 2006, 211 Maine has been a trusted lifeline for people across the State, helping individuals and families to find local services such as utility assistance, housing or shelter and transportation by answering over 62,000 calls, texts and emails amounting to over 187,000 minutes in 2025; and

WHEREAS, 211 Maine provides emergency operations support during times of natural and other disasters, including assisting the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency, fielding calls from those impacted by windstorms and floods, collecting critical data and helping people find winter warming shelters or cooling centers; and

SELECTED MEMORIALS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, this past year, 211 Maine directly distributed over \$236,000 in emergency heating assistance, helping residents to avoid spending winter nights in the cold or their utilities from being shut off; and

WHEREAS, 211 Maine handles a number of specialized services and partnerships, including the opiate helpline and the gambling helpline and serving as the centralized access point for the Help Me Grow Maine program and is also a resource for finding information about needs such as tax preparation and browntail moth caterpillar prevention, mitigation and treatment; and

WHEREAS, 211 Maine provides a powerful example of how the government and nonprofit and private sectors can work together to improve the quality of life of the people of Maine; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize February 2026 as 211 Maine Month.

**Read and adopted by the House of Representatives
February 10, 2026 and the Senate February 12,
2026.**

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

S.P. 913

WHEREAS, the 100th Congress of the United States passed a Joint Resolution on March 12, 1987 to designate the month of March as Women's History Month; and

WHEREAS, Maine women of every race, class and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our State in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, Maine women of every race, class and ethnic background have served and continue to serve as leaders in the establishment of charitable, philanthropic, commercial and cultural institutions in our State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have played and continue to play critical economic, cultural and social roles in every sphere of the life of our State, whether in the workforce and as the majority of the State's volunteer workforce; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have protected and defended our collective rights, responsibilities and freedoms in myriad spheres, including serving our country courageously in the military; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and increased opportunity, but also in expanding the rights of all who experience oppression as leaders in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement and the peace and justice movement, among others, all of which work to create a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, despite these contributions, the role of Maine women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in the body of American history; and

WHEREAS, Congress sent the Equal Rights Amendment to the states for ratification more than 50 years ago, and it is long past time that the principle of women's equality be enshrined in the federal and state constitutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to designate March 2026 as Women's History Month, a time to celebrate and honor the contributions of all Maine women and girls, and to recognize March 8, 2026 as International Women's Day.

**Read and adopted by the Senate March 12, 2026
and the House of Representatives March 17, 2026.**

STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS
OF
GOVERNOR JANET T. MILLS
JANUARY 27, 2026

(The text of the speech of the Governor appears here as published online by the Office of the Governor)

Governor Janet Mills State of the State Address

PREAMBLE

Madam President, Mr Speaker, Madam Chief Justice, Mr. Attorney General, Mr. Treasurer, Mr. Auditor, Chief Nicholas, Chief McCormack, and Chief Bassett, members of my cabinet, members of the 132nd Legislature, friends and members of my extended and beloved family, Maine people watching and listening at home.

On July 4, 1976, shortly after 4:30 a.m., some five hundred farmers stood in the darkness before dawn. When the first rays of the rising sun shone on Mars Hill, Maine, they cheered and raised the flag as the first Americans to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the founding of this nation.

A celebration that began in Mars Hill soon stretched from coast to coast as millions of people expressed their love for our country after years of division and difficulties. Shootings at Kent State had rocked the nation. The Vietnam war finally came to an end, and Americans looked forward to peace in our time. Our country had survived the national scandal of 'Watergate,' and had put behind us the crimes and cover-ups of those who valued political loyalty over their duty to the courts and to the Constitution. One observer watching the crowds that July 4th day in 1976 said proudly, "the backbone of America is out there."

As the Wabanaki people know, *our* backbone here in Maine is the mountains, from which we draw our common strength and fortitude.

We are the product of many hills, the irregular glacial terrain, the eskers, erratics and roaming boulders that form the character of our people and the destiny of our state.

This very Capitol building towers over the grounds of Capitol Park where Governor Israel Washburn in 1861 mustered "the boys of Maine" to preserve the Union and

end the horrible practice of slavery. From this place we too can see, as did those courageous men, the quiet prominence of Howard Hill, which looks down on us today and which forms the rugged skyline of this Capital city.

Every part of Maine dares us ever to climb, to be discontent with flat spaces and plains and to seek higher ground at every turn, and to be tireless in the defense of our people, our state, our nation.

It is an instinct, an attribute and mark of our character; a reflection of our natural strength that is as enduring and deep as the granite bedrock of Mt. Katahdin. It is what compels us to stand fast against injustice, to rise against tyranny and defend those who cannot defend themselves.

It is an instinct that is as important as ever in this very moment, as people in this state speak with moral clarity to protect their neighbors and their communities against Federal agents who seek to intimidate and to silence us.

Tonight, I say to the people of Maine: We will not be intimidated. We will not be silenced.

And to anyone outside these halls, including any Federal officials, I say: if you seek to harm Maine people, you will have to go through me first.

We will climb *this* hill together, you and I, just as we have over the past seven years, confronting dangerous terrains and stepping out of treacherous places in order to secure a foothold for Maine people in the upward climb of progress.

We enter this, the 250th year of our nation's birth, with continued respect for our founding principles and a commitment to democracy, with an unequalled determination to preserve the future of our country and our Constitution.

Tonight marks my eighth, and final time, addressing a Joint Session of the Legislature.

In every moment that we have gathered in this chamber, it has been my profound honor and privilege to serve

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the people of Maine -- you, who are the very backbone of our state -- as your Governor.

I sought this office with one goal in mind. It was not to break a glass ceiling by becoming the first woman governor, though I am proud to help show others -- particularly young girls -- that that is possible.

It was also not to become the first governor from Franklin County, though I am proud to claim it as my home, along with legendary Maine guide Fly Rod Crosby and earmuff inventor Chester Greenwood and others.

It is the people of Maine who are, and have always been, my North Star, and I sought this office because I believed they deserved better from their government.

It would have been easy for me, and it would have been easy for all of you, to sit back and allow others to carry the burdens of leadership.

But, as Senator Robert F. Kennedy, Sr., once said, "It is more comfortable to sit content in the easy approval of friends and of neighbors than to risk the friction and the controversy that comes with public affairs."

And so, we have assumed the mantle of controversy that comes with public affairs.

But surely no one could have predicted seven years ago the friction and controversies we would encounter, the dangers we would confront, the crises, tragedies, and heartbreaks we would endure, climbing mountains to overcome obstacles and to keep Maine people safe.

Ultimately, history will judge how well we met these moments, but tonight I want to tell you what these moments have meant to me.

I am convinced that history will show that when we faced emergencies, we were steady and strong, and that when we found ways to make life better for Maine people, we were bold and brave and we climbed those hills together.

Beginning in the first year of my administration, we restored nursing and other critical public health staff to respond to emergencies after years of cuts to state government by the previous administration. And thank God those nurses were there -- along with our National Guard soldiers and our health care workforce, active and

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retired, -- to answer the call when a worldwide pandemic struck. Thanks to them, and to scientists who developed the vaccines, and to all the people who rolled up their sleeves, our state achieved one of the lowest COVID death rates in the nation. Very simply, we saved lives.

A few years later, when a horrific act of violence in Lewiston robbed us of eighteen loved ones and caused our state immeasurable pain, we stood together -- with one another, with the families of victims, the Deaf community, the survivors, the wounded, and the heroic members of law enforcement and first responders. And we did not let the vitriol and heated rhetoric surrounding the issue of gun violence immobilize us. Instead, we took meaningful steps to prevent violence, to protect public safety, and expand mental health services.

Later, when deadly storms devastated communities across Maine, we responded with the largest investment in storm relief in state history, revitalizing our working waterfronts, reinforcing infrastructure, and rebuilding local businesses to better withstand extreme weather. We came together to enact bipartisan legislation, sponsored by every legislative leader, to protect homeowners and businesses and prepare for the storms we know are to come.

The backbone of this state -- Maine people -- met these emergencies with strength and courage, in some cases risking their own lives to save others and then offering their help with quiet kindness and selfless acts of grace.

As we reflect upon those moments, let us also remember those we lost this year, including our beloved "Lobster Lady," Ginny Oliver of Rockland; Penobscot tribal elder and decorated veteran Charles Norman Shay; lawmakers such as Kathy Javner, Denise Harlow, Stan Gerzofsky, Linda McKee, Dick Gould, Carol McElwee, Bill Diamond, Karl Turner, Ruth Foster; along with Maine DOT workers James Brown and Dwayne Campbell who tragically lost their lives recently while serving the people of Maine. And let us pause to remember two young children -- Brayden Callahan of Rockland and Simon Gonzalez of Standish -- who lost their lives in the everyday act of just getting on or off a school bus.

Thank you.

As is tradition, tonight I am proud to stand before you – one final time – and say that, despite our challenges, I believe the state of our state is strong.

ECONOMY

Let me talk about the economy.

Under my administration, Maine's economy has grown at a faster rate than many other states. In fact, we experienced more economic growth in my first six years in office than we did in the entire fourteen years before.

I am proud to say we've seen an increase of 16,200 private sector jobs in our state. Last year, nearly 15,000 new businesses filed to operate in Maine. And many other businesses, like Taste of Maine potato chip in Limestone, are significantly expanding their workforce and their footprint.

Through my Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan, more than 20,000 men and women enrolled in our job training programs, many of them earning a new license or credential in a higher-paying job in health care, electrical, welding, plumbing, construction and other occupations.

Maine's unemployment rate has been below four percent for nearly four years – one of the longest stretches ever – and it is consistently below both the New England and the national rate.

Our state's credit ratings have been upgraded to the second highest possible rating, after being downgraded during the previous administration — an upgrade which the credit agencies say is due to our "strong fiscal governance."

At the same time, we have also focused on the infrastructure you rely on every day to go to work, to go to school, and just to get around. We've repaired nearly 200 bridges, repaved nearly 8,000 miles of roads, and, working with hundreds of communities and internet service providers, we've connected more than a quarter million homes and businesses to the internet.

As a matter of fact, right now every person who wants an internet connection has access to one, thanks to the good work of the Maine Connectivity Authority, fulfilling the promise I made to you in 2022. We are making it easier for people to live, work and do business everywhere in Maine.

People like Rob and Alice. They wanted to move to a small town but they needed high-speed internet for work. Seven years ago, there was no way they could move to a place like Bremen, Maine, and have fast enough internet. But thanks to our investments in broadband, that's exactly what they did. Now Alice and Rob are deeply involved in their community and, just this past fall, they welcomed a baby boy to their family.

I am proud of this economic progress. But, like every other state, we have our fair share of hills still to climb.

COST OF LIVING

One of the biggest obstacles for many people today – whether a new college graduate, a young parent, or an older person on fixed income – is the high cost of living.

From health care, housing and utilities to the price of a pickup truck, groceries and life-saving medications, costs are too high – and Maine people, like millions of people across the country, are feeling it.

Tonight, I propose that we do something about it.

AFFORDABILITY CHECKS

Over the past seven years, on several occasions, we have put money back into the pockets of Maine people to help them get through difficult times.

With bipartisan support, in 2021, during the pandemic, we sent over half a million Maine people a Disaster Relief Payment of \$285.

In 2022, again with bipartisan support, we sent Inflation Relief checks of \$850 to 880,000 people.

And in 2023, with bipartisan support, we sent 880,000 Maine people an Energy Relief Check of \$450.

That's a total of nearly \$1.3 billion in relief we've delivered to help Maine people deal with high costs.

We did this in recognition of tough times and in recognition that each family, each person, has different needs. Giving money directly back to them allowed them to decide how best to address those needs.

For 80-year-old Peg in Pembroke, who lives on Social Security, her \$850 relief check meant a tank of heating oil to help keep her warm through the winter. Or, for

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Terri in Hampden, her relief check paid for food and gas and much-needed car repairs. She said, "Please know that all of you have helped at least one person breathe easier."

That's what this is about – helping Maine people breathe easier.

Over the past several months, as my administration put together the supplemental budget that will come before you soon, we asked ourselves again how can we help people in the fastest, most direct, and most meaningful way.

And we thought: why reinvent the wheel, why create a new process, new forms and new hoops to jump through?

So, tonight, I propose that we help Maine people breathe a little easier with what we can, where we can; by sending them an Affordability Relief check, for \$300 each, drawn from our record high Rainy Day Fund to offset in some small way the cost of goods and groceries that are increasing because of tariffs and other circumstances beyond our state's control.

An estimated 725,000 Maine people will be eligible for the Affordability Relief check, and, as in the past, we would cap this at an income of \$75,000 for a single filer [*\$112,500 for head of household*] and \$150,000 for a married couple filing jointly.

We're putting tax dollars back in your pockets, and you will have the freedom to decide what to do with it.

Our Rainy Day Fund – thanks to good bipartisan work of the Legislature – stands at its legal maximum of more than one billion dollars, a balance that is nearly five times greater than when I took office. The fund is in a strong position, sufficient for us to draw upon it to meet some of the immediate needs of Maine people.

I ask that you promptly approve this measure.

HOUSING

And, while we are at it, let us continue to tackle one of the most significant issues facing Maine people – the high cost of housing.

The prospect of home ownership has always been the cornerstone of the American dream, a pathway to

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financial stability, but today, that dream is out of reach for many. The median price for a home in Maine is at \$405,000, a record high that is only slightly lower than the national price of \$414,400.

The national news is filled with stories about the difficulties in renting or buying a house, from California to Connecticut. Almost 30 percent of all Americans are "house poor," that is, they spend 30 percent or more of their incomes on housing. The entire nation is short millions of units of housing, for rent or for sale.

High interest rates, supply chain constraints and labor shortages have made the situation even worse. And the President's tariffs on aluminum, steel and other building materials have driven up costs and slowed new construction at a time when we need it most.

Since I took office, my administration has authorized almost \$315 million to help with housing – nearly five times more than the State of Maine spent on housing production from 2000 to 2018.

In the past year alone, my administration and MaineHousing have financed more than 1,000 affordable homes, mostly new construction. One of those developments is Wilbur's Woods in Brunswick — 21 new single-family homes which have sold for well below the median home price in Cumberland County.

Kathy Amsden has lived and worked in Maine all her life. But when she was getting ready to retire and downsize, she couldn't find a smaller place that was within her budget. When Wilbur's Woods became available, she was one of the first people to move in.

Another new housing development built with state funding is Congress Square Apartments, a 48-unit apartment building in Belfast. One young woman named Linda who works at a local business said she was really relieved to find a place to rent that was within her budget.

Those affordable apartments will keep more young people living and working in Maine.

Together we enacted historic legislation to knock down barriers to housing in Maine, and we created the Mobile Home Preservation fund, helping mobile home residents purchase their own parks before wealthy out-of-

state corporations could swoop in, buy them out from under them, and evict them.

So far, residents have purchased thirteen mobile home parks in Maine, creating long-term stability for these people.

More will follow. In fact, just yesterday, residents of a mobile home park in Jay became the first to sign an agreement to purchase their park under our new Right of First Refusal Law.

A member of the Blueberry Fields Cooperative in Brunswick was afraid that his rent was going to go up by \$400 to \$500 a month when his mobile home park went up for sale. As someone on a very low fixed income, he couldn't pay that; neither could his neighbors.

With state support, the Blueberry Fields Cooperative purchased their mobile home park, protecting it as affordable housing for years to come. As that resident put it, "We are in charge of our own destinies here."

It has been said that "a life is measured not by what you build, but by who you lift." Here in Maine, we're both building and lifting lives up, so that people can be in charge of their destinies.

We can't give up on the American dream, not when young families can't find a house that fits their budget. Not when retirees want to downsize but can't find a smaller place at a reasonable cost. Not when businesses are losing new workers because they can't find housing close by.

So tonight, I am announcing a \$70 million "American Dream" proposal to further expand housing:

First, I propose two new pilot programs, backed by \$17.5 million in one-time funds from our Rainy Day Fund, administered by MaineHousing, to build 530 new homes and apartments for middle-class families.

Second, with another one-time infusion from the Rainy Day Fund, I propose that we increase our investments in our very successful housing programs by \$52.5 million which will in turn trigger at least \$15 million in Federal matching funds.

In total, my "American Dream" proposal will result in 825 new homes all across Maine.

HIGHER EDUCATION & FREE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Now let's talk about education, which represents about 41 percent of the entire state budget.

In the last seven years, we've built a strong pipeline from classroom to career for young people across Maine, from pre-K to post-grad.

We've increased research and development funding for the University of Maine, which in turn has earned a prestigious R-1 designation, placing it among our nation's top research universities.

During that period, the University of Maine system has conferred 42,416 degrees and credentials, including a record number of degrees in high-demand fields like engineering and computing, healthcare, business, teaching, and new technologies. As a result of our investments and UMaine's good work, the System is realizing its seventh straight semester of increased enrollment. Chancellor Malloy, President Ferrini-Mundy, and Board of Trustees Chair, Trish Riley, are here with us tonight, and I want to thank them for their great work.

And I want to congratulate the University of Maine and the University of Maine Graduate Workers Union UAW for recently negotiating their first ever collective bargaining contract.

Similarly, we have increased funding for Maine Maritime Academy for campus improvements and operations over the past seven years, making it an attractive institution for an increasing number of students. Graduates will go on to good-paying careers in the maritime industries. The President of Maine Maritime, Craig Johnson is here with us tonight.

And, finally, we made two years of Community College free.

More than 23,000 students have taken advantage of our free Community College program to date, with many more scheduled to achieve a degree or certificate over the next two years. Nearly two thousand of those students have transferred to the University of Maine or another four-year college.

Free community college graduates have gone on to work in Maine – graduates like Tori Wile. Tori grew up

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in Gray, building things with her grandfather in his woodworking shop and she knew that someday she wanted to be a builder herself.

She couldn't afford to go to college, but our free community college program allowed her to get a degree in building construction technology.

Tori recently helped build a new electrical lab at Central Maine Community College in Auburn. Tori, and Vice President of the Maine Community College System, Dr. Betsy Libby, are here with us tonight, and I want to acknowledge them.

The free community college program has made a life changing difference for thousands of Maine young people. That's why, as part of my budget last year I proposed making it permanent. The Legislature, in balancing many considerations, agreed to continue it through the class of 2025.

Education opens doors of opportunity – and so, tonight, I am taking another swing at it.

Let's make community college free in Maine permanently!

These three proposals – distributing relief checks, building more homes, and making free community college permanent – will provide both immediate and long-term cost relief.

Now, I want to talk about other ways that Maine people can save money – especially as we head into tax filing season.

OTHER TAX SAVINGS IN BUDGET

As many of you know, there is significant tax relief in our current budget to keep costs down for Maine families.

When I took office in 2019, there was \$388 million in direct tax relief for Maine families in the biennial budget.

We've increased it to nearly \$1.1 billion dollars.

What does that mean for the people of Maine?

It means more money back into your pocket.

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In Maine, if you are working and raising a child, you may very well qualify for \$650 through the state's Earned Income Tax Credit.

That's \$650 directly back into your pocket.

What's more, you may also qualify for Maine's \$305 Dependent Exemption Tax Credit for your child – and, this year, if your child is under the age of six, that credit doubles to \$610, thanks to Senate President Mattie Daughtry.

That's another \$610 back in your pocket.

Or, if you are a graduate who is paying off your student loans, you probably qualify for our Student Loan Tax Credit, once known as "Opportunity Maine," which gives you a refundable tax credit of up to \$2,500 a year.

Or, if you are a senior citizen, you might qualify for property tax relief of up to \$2,000 through our Property Tax Fairness Credit, and your pension itself might well be exempt from income taxes.

This is real money back in your pocket. I want every Maine person to take advantage of it.

EDUCATION FUNDING AND REVENUE SHARING

Another way we are fighting to hold down costs is by fully funding the State's share of education.

In 2022, we met the state's obligation to pay 55 percent of the cost of education for the first time in history.

Then, in 2023, we also met the state's obligation to fund revenue sharing at 5 percent, after the previous administration slashed it to 2 percent. That means more money goes back to the towns and cities to pay police, firefighters, road crews, and local services so that less of that cost is borne by the property taxpayers.

My administration prioritized education and revenue sharing because the voters and taxpayers demanded it.

Property taxes are still too high for too many, and we've got a commission – created by the Legislature and signed into law by me – working on that very issue.

But I know that the State of Maine has got to do whatever it can to hold down property taxes, which is why I

am including another \$46 million in my supplemental budget to maintain our commitment to pay 55 percent of the costs of education. I don't want to see those costs passed onto your property taxes.

EDUCATION

But let's also talk about the other things we've done for our schools and public education.

- First, we are providing free school meals for all public school students statewide and we've helped more than 120 school districts provide healthy, locally-grown food from Maine farms.
- We're also repairing crumbling school infrastructure across our state.
- We've expanded early childhood education, with more children enrolled in pre-kindergarten than ever before.
- We raised the minimum teacher salary and added 1,000 teachers to the workforce.
- We upgraded equipment at Career and Technical Education Centers for the first time in decades, and enrollment at the CTEs is at its highest level ever.
- We expanded early college programs to serve 65,000 kids and counting.
- And, Maine's high school graduation rate is the best it's ever been.

Surveys show that Maine students are healthier and happier than they were just two years ago, with a significant number of kids reporting an improvement in their mental health and a decrease in the need to drink, smoke or use other substances to cope.

Still, like many people across Maine, I was concerned when the National Assessment of Educational Progress showed declining test scores from a sampling of 1,800 Maine students in the 4th and 8th grades back in January of 2024.

As the daughter of a long-time public school teacher and as someone who raised five daughters who went to public schools in Maine, it is important to me that every

child acquires math and reading skills to set themselves up for success.

Happily, Maine's own achievement exams, which test *all* 4th and 8th grade students twice a year, actually show better results, with scores that track and even surpass the national norms.

While that broader data is encouraging, we want to do more to make sure our students have a world-class education.

And so I directed the Maine Department of Education to strengthen students' reading and math skills.

Out of that directive, the department created the Maine State Reading and Math Action Plans to bring more evidence-based instruction, educator training, and academic partnerships into Maine classrooms and improve student skills.

This effort builds on a \$10 million investment we made in 2024 to encourage schools to adopt the highly successful "Science of Reading" approach to teaching kids how to read. It has turned around poor literacy rates for kids across the country, and it is doing the same here in Maine.

The Department of Education has also worked closely with individual schools to improve their student scores.

Indian Township School Principal Molly Newell in Washington County thanked us, noting that what she's seen is not just better test scores but increased student confidence, deeper understanding of scientific concepts, and stronger preparation for future academic success.

CELL PHONE BAN

And while I'm talking about educational attainment, there is something else that stands in the way of student success; something that has been top of mind for many teachers across Maine, and that is cellphones in the classroom.

We know that social media can be disruptive to the school day and to the mental health of young people.

So it's time to get cellphones out of our classrooms.

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Tonight, I propose that we enact a statewide ban on cell-phone use during the school day – from bell to bell – to reduce distraction and disruption and to keep children's attention on learning.

When cell phones are removed from classrooms, research shows that student performance improves, test scores improve, behavior improves, attendance improves, and social dynamics improve.

Now, some students may be upset with the idea of a ban on cellphone use at school, and it will be a significant change for some. But I was encouraged by one senior at Morse High School in Bath who told a news station that when his school implemented a cellphone ban, he was not fond of it at first, but he later realized it actually gave him more time to talk with his friends in person, including during lunch, instead of everybody looking down at their phones.

Change isn't always easy, but if the past seven years have taught us anything, it's that we have to be able to adapt to new challenges.

This past weekend brought another reminder of our need to adapt when dangerously cold temperatures and wind chills tested our electric grid, just as other extreme weather events have done the past few years.

ELECTRICITY

While the average price of electricity in Maine is typically among the lowest in New England – that's of no comfort to Maine people who are suffering under the weight of high energy bills. I get my CMP bill in Farmington and, like a lot of folks, it's not fun to open.

It's exactly why my administration opposed a massive rate hike request from CMP that the PUC rejected out of hand.

But the high price of electricity is not, as my Republican friends say, driven predominantly by renewable energy policies. Instead, it is driven by our significant overreliance on fossil fuels, primarily natural gas, to generate electricity, especially during peak periods such as cold spells. In fact, more than half of the electricity produced in New England is generated by burning natural gas.

What Maine needs to do is to keep diversifying our energy sources by welcoming more clean energy onto the

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grid in order to offset natural gas. That is why we are procuring more cost-effective clean energy, like wind and solar here in Maine, and hydro from Canada, while pursuing energy storage as well.

At the same time, Efficiency Maine Trust and my energy department will be making available millions of dollars in rebates for high efficiency water heaters as well as heat pumps, and for weatherization and other energy upgrades -- because, after all, the best dollar saved on electricity is the one not spent.

Take the Lovewell family in Caribou, for example. Their 100-year-old family home just wouldn't stay warm in the winter. Snow blew through the old, cracked windows and electric heating bills were in the thousands. With weatherization funds from the state, the Lovewell's replaced 14 outdated windows, insulated their home and made other upgrades which have made their home warm and comfortable and saved them a lot on home heating bills. "Not only did it give new life to an old home," they said, "it gave comfort, safety, and enjoyment to our family."

Their story is not unique. Maine has one of the oldest housing stocks in the country, and while we love these old houses (like I love my own), they are a real bear to heat, especially with oil.

I'm proud that, since I took office, we have cut our reliance on heating oil down from 62 percent to 50 percent of Maine homes, still with a ways to go.

Let's lower energy costs by lowering our reliance on fossil fuels and make all our homes safer and more weather proof.

Another major driver of high costs for Maine people is health care – especially right now.

HEALTH CARE

Here in Maine we've worked hard to expand health care to more people, to small businesses, to the self-employed, and to families across Maine, and we have fought to make coverage more affordable.

On my first day in office, I expanded Medicaid, ending my predecessor's adamant opposition to following the will of the people. And thanks to that move, nearly

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230,000 people, all told, have gotten access to health care, including preventative care like cancer screenings.

In 2020 and 2021 alone, Medicaid expansion reduced the cost of uncompensated care for Maine hospitals by \$126 million.

One primary care doctor in Machias wrote to me about a patient whose life was changed because of Medicaid expansion. A young woman with significant mental health issues was able to restart medications because she now had health insurance. Now she is finishing her GED and going on to nursing school.

"Our state needs more workers desperately," her doctor wrote, "but people need good health to work and MaineCare expansion has made this reality possible."

Besides expanding Medicaid, we've also expanded access to private health insurance through the Affordable Care Act.

Together we enacted the 'Made for Maine Health Coverage Act' which established the state-based health insurance marketplace, CoverME.gov, and which made many preventative care visits free or less costly.

And we codified the protections of the ACA, for instance, barring an insurance company from refusing to cover you on account of a "pre-existing condition." I mean, life is a pre-existing condition, isn't it!?

And while the U.S. Supreme Court and the Federal government have rolled back the right to reproductive health care, we here in Maine fought to protect and expand that right.

We also expanded health coverage for postpartum care and we increased funding for family planning services provided by organizations like Planned Parenthood and Maine Family Planning on which so many people rely for primary and preventive care.

Earlier today I was proud to announce that, once again, where the Federal government has fallen down, Maine will stand tall. I propose in my supplemental budget a one-time appropriation of \$2.25 million in General Funds to replace the money the President and Congress cruelly cut from Planned Parenthood and Maine Family Planning's primary care services.

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The progress Maine has made in health care at the state level is in jeopardy though because of the President and Congress.

As you know, Congress passed and the President signed legislation that I will call the "Big Bad Bill" – a bill that cut billions of dollars in health care funding over the next decade in order to finance tax breaks primarily for billionaires who don't need them.

What a backward policy.

And while Maine will receive \$190 million through the Rural Health Transformation Program, and we will put those funds to use, those funds pale in comparison to the estimated \$5 billion in health care funds Maine will lose over the next ten years.

Because of the Federal government's action, upwards of 33,000 people across Maine are likely to lose access to health care. That means missing out on basic preventive care, such as cancer screenings, and treatment for addiction, and the fundamental, basic care that every person in this state and this nation deserves.

The loss of health care for those folks will lead to increased uncompensated care that will be absorbed first by our hospitals, which are already in a difficult financial position. They will be forced to pass those costs onto consumers – onto Maine people – who will pay more for health insurance or out of pocket care as a result.

And I haven't even mentioned Congress' failure to extend the enhanced ACA subsidies, which has already caused 8,500 Maine people to abandon their health insurance altogether and which is driving up the cost for tens of thousands more who are insured through the Marketplace. And the number of people forced to drop their health coverage because they cannot afford to pay their premiums is only expected to increase in the coming months.

One man from Cumberland told us that if his premiums increase as he expects, health insurance will be the single largest expense for his family, more than his mortgage.

A grandmother from York who is raising her two grandchildren told us that if her insurance rates go up, she'll have to go without her health insurance.

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This is entirely unnecessary. It's wrong. And I want to be clear: people will die because of it.

But look, even the ACA, which has been such a political football, is only a bandaid on the whole problem of health care in America.

And what health care really needs in this country right now is not a series of bandaids, it needs major surgery. Each individual state cannot, and should not, be left alone to grapple with this national crisis.

Because health care is a human right.

Look, the Federal government is capable of big things. It was the Federal government that created Social Security and Medicare. It was the Federal government that passed the Civil Rights Act. It was the Federal government that built the Interstate Highway System. The Federal government sent a man to the moon.

It is time for the Federal government to take its head out of the sand and address the crisis of health care head on.

Nothing short of universal health care is acceptable.

It's an idea whose time has definitely come.

STATE OF DEMOCRACY

Lastly, it is appropriate to pause to share my reflections on the moment we find ourselves in.

In doing so, I speak to you now not as a Democrat or even as your governor, but as a mother, a grandmother, a proud native of Maine, and, very simply, an American citizen who – like you – deeply loves this nation and this state.

But I worry about the future of our country and the fate of our democracy.

I worry about the standing of our country in the eyes of the world and the standing of our country in the eyes of our own citizens.

I believe we are at a dangerous moment in our history – a moment where the very idea of America is in peril.

Maine's U.S. Senator Margaret Chase Smith once told us that the four "Principles of Americanism" were:

- The right to criticize

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- The right to hold unpopular beliefs
- The right to protest
- The right to independent thought

She was right.

But today I see a nation where our Federal government uses its immense power to intimidate, to punish, and to silence those who dare to criticize or question it –

- A Federal government that has deployed masked law enforcement onto the streets of America, including here in Maine, stoking fear in our communities, killing American citizens in Minnesota, and arresting people, not on public safety grounds but based on quotas, on skin color, on accents, on religion on ethnic origin.
- A Federal government that outright ignores the Constitutional rights that are guaranteed to us all, that undermines the rule of law, and that even attacks the courts who uphold it.

For those who may be unconcerned by the Federal government's abuses of today, I only ask you to consider this – what happens when the Federal government finds *you* to be the problem tomorrow?

This is not partisan. This is not about whether you are a Democrat, a Republican, or an Independent. This is not about whether you live in a blue state, a red state, or a purple state – a city, a suburb, or a small rural town.

It is about Margaret Chase Smith's Principles of Americanism – it is about the very essence of America and the fundamental tenet that here, power comes from the people; here the rule of law reigns, here everyone is treated equally under the law, and here we have no kings.

What will our chapter of the American story be as our history is read to our children and grandchildren and to generations yet to come?

That choice is ours today.

And I have hope.

Because when the dawn seems furthest away, one star hangs in the night sky whose light keeps us from stumbling in the darkness. That North Star will always help

us find our way home. And that North Star is the people of Maine.

CONCLUSION

Over the past seven years, I have seen people run towards gunfire to save the lives of children in Lewiston.

I have seen firefighters rush to the aid of a town rocked by a deadly gas explosion in Farmington.

I have seen fire and rescue crews brave howling seas to save fishermen off the coast of Cape Elizabeth.

I have seen strangers line the streets of Dover-Foxcroft to welcome the remains of a World War II veteran home at last, and I know Maine National Guardsmen have been training in the freezing cold in Gilead alongside soldiers from Montenegro.

I have seen business owners line their windows with paper hearts to carry on the legacy of a man who quietly spread a contagion of kindness in Portland.

I have seen fans come together to cheer a new soccer team with great pride and excitement in their hearts of pine.

And, I have seen new Mainers build their lives here in our beloved state, finding a good home among loving and welcoming people.

It is the people of Maine who reaffirm my faith every day that the bonds we share will not be easily dissolved. That our democracy, defended by Maine people regardless of their politics, their power, or their possessions, will not be easily discarded.

And I will tell you this: As your governor, I will defend you. I will defend our Constitution – a Constitution written by immigrants – and I will defend our democracy. With everything I have.

Fifty years ago, farmers gathered in Mars Hill eager to be the very first of millions to celebrate this country and welcome a new dawn in the history of America.

One man wrote to the people of the future, "We of 1976 have faith that you will be there, as our fellow Americans of 1876 and 1776 had faith that we would be here. We now pass that faith on to you."

I accept.

Fifty years hence, I hope that better minds will have eliminated the scourge of cancer; that they will have explored the depths of the oceans for untold nutrients; that they will have found a way to preserve the air we breathe and the planet we were born to; that Artificial Intelligence will be commonplace but will never replace the human touch or the human heart; and that peace-seeking peoples will rule the nations.

More importantly, when the people of 2076 look back on us, I hope they see that we were a beacon of hope in dangerous times. That we stood side by side in moments of incredible joy and immense sorrow, sharing both gratitude and grief as one; that we refused to give in to a national drumbeat of division, doubt, and dread, that we stood tall and defended democracy; that we worked together for the lasting benefit of all.

From Bunker Hill to Little Round Top to Mars Hill to Capitol Hill and beyond, Maine people have climbed great heights to fight for democracy and to plant the flag of liberty.

Today whistles are sounding, alarms are ringing, calling once again for conscience, for common sense and for courage, calling for all of us to stand up, again, to defend the Constitution and to preserve the safety and security of our people.

We have the mountains of Maine at our backs, our ridgeline of courage, a spine of granite. And like our noble champions throughout history, we will "lead with our hearts."

We are the people of Maine.

To the Honorable Members of the Legislature, it has been a privilege to serve with you. You are an incredible array of public servants, always risking the friction and the controversy that comes with public affairs with a dedication to public duty.

To my staff and cabinet, I thank you for serving the people of Maine with hope, intelligence and compassion.

To my family, I would not be here tonight without you, I love you.

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And, to the people of Maine, It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your governor these past seven years.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you.

**STATE OF THE JUDICIARY ADDRESS
OF
CHIEF JUSTICE VALERIE STANFILL
FEBRUARY 12, 2026**

(The text of the speech of the Chief Justice appears here as published online by the State of Maine Judicial Branch)

**MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH
THE STATE OF THE JUDICIARY**

A Report to the Joint Convention of the
Second Regular Session of the 132nd Maine
Legislature

Presented by Chief Justice Valerie Stanfill
February 12, 2026

Governor Mills, President Daughtry, Speaker Fecteau, distinguished Members and guests of the 132nd Maine Legislature, and people of the State of Maine:

I am very pleased to be here today to report to you on the State of the Judiciary of Maine.

You know that the Judicial Branch is a separate and co-equal branch of Maine government, but unless you are involved in Judiciary Committee or AFA you may not fully appreciate what that means on a day-to-day basis. Obviously, we are partnered with the other branches on many things, but we operate and manage our own buildings, negotiate and contract separately with employee unions, have separate departments for HR, IT, finance, and the like.

I mention that as a preface to thanking the members of the Judicial Branch who have accompanied me here today. They support me every day and are critical to the success of the Maine Judicial Branch.

Some of our administrative team present include

State Court Administrator **Amy Quinlan**, who is the non-judicial head of the Judicial Branch, in charge of all aspects of its management, and I am grateful for that wonderful partnership. She is accompanied by **Tom Hild**, our Chief of Finance and Administration; **Barbara Cardone**, our Director of Legal Affairs; and our new Chief Information Officer, **Chris Oberg**.

And of course, someone you all know, Legislative Analyst **Julie Finn**.

The Justices on the Supreme Judicial Court not only comprise one of the most collegial courts to be found, but they also work like a Board of Governors in the operation of the Branch: Justices Andy Mead, Catherine Connors, Rick Lawrence, Wayne Douglas, and Julia Lipiez.

The Chiefs of the trial courts, in addition to being sitting judges, operate like the Executive Committee of the Organization in conjunction with me and Amy Quinlan: Superior Court Chief Justice **Bob Mullen**, District Court Chief Judge **Brent Davis**, and District Court Deputy Chief Judge **Eric Walker**.

I wish I could name and personally thank every member of the Maine Judicial Branch – judges and staff alike - for their dedication to the people of this State every day. There is no better group of people and I am so grateful to them all.

As is the tradition for the State of the Judiciary address, I would like to highlight both where we have been and where we are going.

Since I became Chief Justice, I have focused on the importance of ensuring that the Maine Judicial Branch has adequate resources to fulfill the court's mission of providing fair and timely access to justice to all. Our ability to do that rests on three key components: (1) sufficient staffing, (2) reliable and secure technology infrastructure, and (3) safe and accessible courthouses. And we are making progress.

(1) Sufficient Staffing

The Maine Judicial Branch has been understaffed for years, and that won't change overnight. Some of you may recall that in 2022 the National Center for State Courts performed a limited study of our staffing, and among other things observed that we needed an additional 54 court clerk positions in our courthouses. You have been working with us to slowly increase these positions.

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For some years we have struggled to attract and hire people into some of the positions, particularly marshals. Last year you agreed to reclassify the marshal positions, and I am pleased to report that it has helped in hiring and retention. Overall, we have fewer vacant positions than we have had in some years in the past.

In short, we have made strides on the staffing front, although we still have a way to go. Now, if only we could do something about judicial salaries, which rank 51st in the nation . . .

(2) *Reliable and Secure Technology Infrastructure*

The Judicial Branch has been turning to technology with unprecedented speed in the last several years to efficiently manage increasingly complex caseloads. Technological solutions and tools are used every day to create the court record; provide remote access to proceedings; enable video interpreting to those with limited English proficiency; support scheduling and payment of mediators; and, of course, by attorneys and litigants to present their cases and evidence. We are always looking at tools – including AI – to expand access to justice.

You may recall that in last year’s biennial budget we asked for and received funds for updating and maintaining the technology infrastructure. As a result, we have been updating our Zoom carts (which were cobbled together during the global pandemic) and replacing them with modern Neat Bar technology to bring better audio and video communication to remote and hybrid hearings.

We are also updating the hardware and software for the courtroom recording technology used for recording official court records and transcripts, known as “For The Record.” The updated version of For the Record is being installed in courtrooms throughout the state over this biennium.

Maine eCourts

Most exciting of all, in 2025 we accelerated our installation and rollout of Maine eCourts and eFiling for all case types. In June, we launched Maine eCourts for criminal and juvenile cases in the Androscoggin Superior and Lewiston District courts. This was the first roll out of criminal and juvenile cases. Those cases require close coordination and collaboration with the

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Maine Attorney General, district attorneys, public defenders, and private attorneys to enable a smooth transition from conventional filing to eFiling. The Department of Public Safety is a particularly important partner as integrations for the Metro Switch maintained by DPS are critical for things like warrants and bail.

We followed up in September with the installation of Maine eCourts for criminal and juvenile cases in the Rumford, Farmington and South Paris courts. These five courts in Region 3 are now using Maine eCourts for all active cases in all case types.

Then, on February 2, 2026, we “went live” for all case types in Region 4: the Augusta, Waterville and Skowhegan courts. Our goal is to continue with rollouts approximately every 2 months; Region 1, the York Judicial Center, is scheduled for March 31. This schedule will allow us to deploy Maine eCourts within the next year throughout the state so that all trial courts will be digital for all case types.

A couple of years ago I explained that implementation of Maine eCourts required switching every desk in every courthouse from Apple computers to PCs, which I think is emblematic of all the hidden, myriad challenges involved. As we go around the state we need to assess each facility to ensure it will support the new technology. So, a couple of examples to give you an idea of what I mean: the Waterville District Court needed to be rewired before we could go there, and in Houlton, the beautiful historic wooden bench and clerk’s desk have slanted surfaces -- old-fashioned writing desks -- that will not hold the necessary computer monitors. Thus, we need to renovate those desks. I could go on, but you get the idea of the kinds of issues involved, big and small, that go far beyond electronic technology.

There have been bumps, and there are more improvements to be made, but we did it. These rollouts were the biggest “ask” so far of the Branch and of court users. I want to take a minute to thank all of those involved, from information technology to court operations and clerks to judges, communications and process specialists. It is truly an “all hands on deck” effort for the Judicial Branch, and the hands have been nothing short of heroic. And, let me just say it looks like it is paying off because when I addressed the annual

meeting of the State Bar Association a few weeks ago, the comment I received was “Thank you for bringing Maine Courts into the 21st Century.” So - While it takes a village, I also want to pause to recognize the leader of our Maine eCourts effort, who is here today. I said at the outset that Chris Oberg is our new Chief Information Officer. He was hired from within the Judicial Branch and has managed the Maine eCourts implementation from the start. It is only fair that I give a shout out to Chris Oberg who has been working tirelessly to ensure the success of this project: Chris, would you please stand to accept the recognition of the Convention?

In addition to a modern case management system and eFiling, we implemented a new electronic payment site, Defendant Access, in the court locations with Maine eCourts. And – this is near and dear to Representative Moonan - we have also implemented a program to deliver hearing reminders by text message for criminal defendants who have a cell phone number on file with the court. Defendants are texted three days in advance of their upcoming hearing dates with the goal of reducing failure to appear rates.

(3) Safe and Accessible Courthouses

2025 was both an exciting and a challenging year for our courthouses – and I do mean the buildings. With your permission and the full support of the local bar, we closed the District Court courthouse in **Madawaska**. Most of the towns served in that district now go to Fort Kent, and the remainder to Caribou. It was a leased facility that was only open two days a month, and it was staffed by the Fort Kent clerks. In fact, Fort Kent was closed on the days Madawaska was open. We do not consider any courthouse closures lightly, but this one made sense to everyone involved.

Challenges we faced this year included the discovery of mold in the basement of the **Lincoln District Court**, which had to be closed for cleaning for a period of time. Lincoln’s cases were temporarily heard instead in Millinocket. Like Fort Kent and Madawaska, the Lincoln and Millinocket courts are staffed by the same clerk’s office, and each is closed when the other is open, so the disruption was, I think, minimal. Both are now open.

The biggest challenge is posed by the **Newport District Court**. We discovered extensive mold in that leased court building, leading to its closure in early spring. All Newport operations have been relocated to Bangor since then. Our efforts at working with the landlord to resolve the issues have not been successful to date. This past fall, we put out a call for proposals to move the location of the court. That will, of course, be very expensive. To be clear, it has not been our intent to permanently close the Newport courthouse, but the cost involved in getting a new facility up and running is significant. We understand the importance of providing convenient access to physical court facilities across the state, particularly in rural communities. But we also understand that resources are limited, and so whether we continue to have a court location in Newport is at least somewhat dependent on the will of the Legislature given the significant cost involved.

There is also exciting news on the building front. Intensive planning is ongoing for the three new courthouse facilities to be funded by the bonds that were authorized in 2024 and issued last summer. Each project will consolidate court services into modern, safe judicial centers supporting operations of both the Superior Court and the District Court for each county.

The **Hancock Judicial Center** is a new courthouse construction project. We would have liked to update the existing location appropriately, but it just can’t be done. With the assistance of the City of Ellsworth, we obtained a site off High Street behind the LL Bean Outlet and Merrill Furniture. North Peak Architecture, of Lyman, Maine, has been selected as the architect for the project. The City of Ellsworth has completed the access road to the new site, and we expect to break ground in the late spring or early summer of 2026.

Next, we are building an addition to the Skowhegan District Court to consolidate operations and courtrooms for both trial courts into the **Somerset County Judicial Center**. Upon completion we will vacate the County building across the street. WBRC Architects of Bangor/Portland is the architect for the project, and we hope to begin construction in the fall of 2026.

Finally, we have hired Harriman of Auburn as the architect for the new **Androscoggin Judicial Center** in Lewiston. This is an addition onto the existing

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Lewiston District Court and will consolidate the trial courts into a single building. This is the most complicated build; it will be a challenge to combine the current District Court building and the building adjacent to it, the former Depositors Trust/KeyBank building, into the new AJC. We hope to begin construction on this facility in 2027. As with Somerset, this means we will be vacating the county building in Auburn when the new one is complete.

As an aside, abandoning the old historic courtrooms makes me sad. We have tried to avoid it where we can; we were able to keep the old courtrooms in South Paris and Augusta, for example. Leaving Auburn particularly saddens me as I spent much of my career in that courthouse. However, most county facilities across the state are aging and simply cannot support modern and safe court operations.

A few other updates:

- The backlog continues to improve, although very slowly. The civil backlog is about returned to pre-pandemic levels. Many family cases, however, are still significantly delayed, and we are working on that. Last year I reported that the criminal caseload was about 35% above pre-pandemic levels, about half what it was at its height. A year later, the criminal caseload is now running between 25 and 30% above pre-pandemic levels. An improvement, but still a long way to go.
- We are taking a hard look at how we process criminal cases, to see where we can be more efficient. Delays in criminal cases hurt everyone involved, and the average age of our criminal cases is simply too old. To that end, last spring we hosted a New England Regional conference on criminal case processing, funded by the MacArthur Foundation. On January 1, we started a pilot project in the Bangor criminal dockets to try to put some of the ideas to work. We will be evaluating whether the different processes we have put in place are effective, and that will help inform what changes we may incorporate state-wide to increase the efficiency of our criminal case processing.
- On a related note, I am pleased to report that progress has been made in the last year in cases

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constitutionally requiring appointed counsel. Last year I told you that there were 1,150 matters pending without counsel at the end of 2025, including 998 criminal, post-conviction review, and juvenile matters; 112 child protective cases; and 40 appeals. Those numbers are improved, with about 225 criminal cases, 30 child protective cases, and 30 appeals pending in which we have been unable to appoint counsel. While the total number of cases lacking counsel is significantly reduced, it is still unacceptably high. There shouldn't be any. *No one* should be waiting to have an attorney appointed to represent them in cases in which there are significant rights and liberty interests at stake. *Every* case matters. This is something we all need to continue to work on.

- Our school outreach is ongoing and increasing. As we have for many years, we heard oral arguments in three high schools in October: Upper Kennebec Valley High School in Bingham, Oak Hill High School in Wales, and Falmouth High School. In addition, students from around the state visited courts to watch trial court proceedings, tour a courthouse, visit with a judge or justice about how a court docket is administered, and attend programs about the various career opportunities within the state court system.
- Together with the federal courts, we are planning two events to commemorate the 250th anniversary – the semiquincentennial – of our country's founding this year. First, to recognize Law Day on May 1, we will have a joint presentation in the Supreme Judicial Courtroom in Portland – maybe some of you will come. And, in the fall, we hope to increase our outreach within Maine schools by hosting an event in which schools may be able to participate remotely. No details yet, we have just begun planning, but I expect we may ask for participation of bar leaders and other stakeholders.

I am excited to increase our community engagement efforts. And those efforts are particularly important in our current public climate. I worry, in these times of increasing partisanship and polarization, that we are losing track of what unites us into these United States. I have said before that public trust and confidence in

our public institutions, including the justice system, is historically low. And as that trust has decreased, attacks on judges – both in word and in deed – have increased. We should not tolerate this: judicial independence is one of the cornerstones of the rule of law in this country. Disagreement with judicial interpretation cannot result in threatening judges for simply doing their work. I know you understand this: disagreements should also not result in threats to Legislators either.

This past summer in Maine, I was honored to host the national gathering of Chief Justices and State Court Administrators from across the country, sponsored by the National Center for State Courts. You will be happy to hear that everyone fell in love with Maine and all we have to offer. I was privileged to introduce Chief Justice Roberts of the United States Supreme Court to the conference. To quote him,

[J]udicial rulings can provoke strong and passionate reactions. And those expressions of public sentiment – whether criticism or praise – are not threats to judicial independence. To the contrary, public engagement with the work of the courts results in better-informed polity and a more robust democracy.

[Unfortunately, there are] four areas of illegitimate activity that . . . *do* threaten the independence of judges on which the rule of law depends: (1) violence, (2) intimidation, (3) disinformation, and (4) threats to defy lawfully entered judgments.

I worry that, even here in Maine, those areas of illegitimate activity are on the rise. I fear that divisive partisanship will infect civil discourse and consideration of even those issues that should unite us. Nationally, the press appears to like to identify federal judges by who appointed them – a Trump judge, or an Obama judge. We don't do that here, nor should we. Maine has historically been non-partisan in the confirmations of state judges. If we were to identify Maine judges by the Governor who appointed them, then we have in this very room McKernon judges, King judges, Baldacci judges, and LePage judges. And all of us were reappointed by every governor along the way, including Governor Mills. Those labels are meaningless and

must remain so: we are simply judges, doing our best to faithfully, impartially and independently administer justice in this state.

Let me wrap up by saying that it is indeed a pleasure to be able to address this Joint Convention. Particularly in this short second session, time is dear and you have a lot of pressing matters. However, the primary importance of the Chief Justice's annual address lies not in the content alone, but in the pause we take to recognize and celebrate the American experiment of republican government, a pause that has never been so important. There are three co-equal branches of government, and the only times the three branches of Maine's government have reliably come together, quite literally, are for the annual addresses of the Governor and of the Chief Justice to the Joint Convention. That we all come together here despite our differences is one of the most potent symbols we can offer to our citizens.

When lawyers are admitted to the bar of this state, when you are sworn in as legislators or as Governor, and when judges are sworn in to judicial office, we all take an oath. We swear to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this State. That promise is the promise of the rule of law in this country: that all people and institutions are accountable under laws that are publicly promulgated by the Legislature, equally enforced by the Executive, and independently adjudicated by the Judiciary. Our oaths bind all of us together in service to the citizens of this state.

Public trust in our justice system, and indeed in all governmental institutions, is rarely dismantled in one fell swoop. Rather, it erodes; a death by a thousand cuts. We all must guard against those cuts on a daily basis. We do so by upholding the rule of law, by supporting the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this State as we have sworn to do.

Thank you for your time this morning.

CROSS-REFERENCE TABLES

TABLE I

Sections of the Maine Revised Statutes affected by the laws of the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature and Revisor's Report 2025, chapter 1 and Initiated Bill 2025, chapter 1.

TITLE	SECTION	SUB	PARA	EFF	CHAPTER	PART	SEC	TITLE	SECTION	SUB	PARA	EFF	CHAPTER	PART	SEC	
1	150-V			RAL	RR	1	A	5	286		6th	AMD	PL	650	E	2
1	150-W			RAL	RR	1	A	5	286-A			RP	PL	650	E	3
1	150-X			RAL	RR	1	A	5	481			NEW	PL	516		1
1	150-Y			RAL	RR	1	A	5	481			AFF	PL	516		2
1	150-Z			NEW	PL	564		5	931	1	G	AMD	PL	597	A	3
1	232			RAL	RR	1	A	5	957	4		AMD	PL	650	E	4
1	232			RAL	RR	1	A	5	1532	4		AMD	PL	650	UUU	1
1	233			RAL	RR	1	A	5	1532	4-A		NEW	PL	650	UUU	2
1	234			RAL	RR	1	A	5	1532	5		RPR	PL	650	UUU	3
								5	1532	6		AMD	PL	749		1
2	6	3		AMD	PL	597	A	5	1532	9		AMD	PL	650	F	1
2	6	5		AMD	PL	724		5	1532	10		NEW	PL	650	F	2
2	6	5		AFF	PL	724		5	1532	11		NEW	PL	650	F	3
2	9	3	C	RP	PL	597	A	5	1591	1		AMD	PL	650	G	1
								5	1591	5		AMD	PL	597	A	4
3	1		2nd	AMD	PL	705	A	5	1591	10		NEW	PL	597	B	2
3	2		2nd	AMD	PL	505		5	1591	10		NEW	PL	650	OO	1
3	2		9th	AMD	PL	705	A	5	1591	10		NEW	PL	650	RR	1
3	959	1	N	AMD	PL	734	D	5	1591	11		NEW	PL	650	BB	1
3	959	1	P	AMD	PL	597	B	5	1731		1st	AMD	PL	650	E	5
3	959	1	R	AMD	PL	738	A	5	1764-A	2		AMD	PL	597	B	3
3	959	1	R	AFF	PL	738	A	5	1825-B	2	F	AMD	PL	698		1
								5	1825-B	2	G	AMD	PL	698		2
4	153	3		AMD	PL	552		5	1825-B	2	H	NEW	PL	698		3
4	157	1	A	AMD	PL	650	NNN	5	1825-B	2	I	NEW	PL	698		4
4	161			AMD	PL	560		5	1827	1		AMD	PL	650	I	1
4	161		4th	NEW	PL	560		5	1827	3		AMD	PL	650	I	2
4	807	3	R	AMD	PL	734	B	5	1827	6		AMD	PL	650	H	2
4	807	3	R	AFF	PL	734	B	5	1972	4-A		NEW	PL	698		5
4	807	3	U	AMD	PL	663	A	5	1972	4-B		NEW	PL	698		6
4	807	3	V	AMD	PL	663	A	5	1972	7-A		NEW	PL	698		7
4	807	3	W	NEW	PL	663	A	5	1973	5	B	AMD	PL	698		8
4	807	3	X	NEW	PL	663	A	5	1974	1		AMD	PL	698		9
4	1610-Q			AMD	PL	716		5	1974	2		AMD	PL	698		10
4	1610-R			RAL	RR	1	A	5	1974	3		AMD	PL	698		11
4	1610-T			RAL	RR	1	A	5	1975			AMD	PL	698		12
4	1802	4		AMD	PL	511		5	2041	2		AMD	PL	530		1
4	1802	4-A		NEW	PL	607		5	2041	9		AMD	PL	530		2
4	1802-A			RPR	PL	511		5	2041	10		AMD	PL	530		3
4	1802-A			AMD	PL	639		5	2041	12		RP	PL	530		4
4	1802-A	3		NEW	PL	639		5	2042			AMD	PL	530		5
4	1805-A	1		AMD	PL	607		5	3204	2	F	AMD	PL	597	A	5
4	1805-A	3		AMD	PL	607		5	3209			NEW	PL	556		1
4	1807-A			NEW	PL	607		5	3232		1st	AMD	PL	655	A	1
								5	3232	4		COR	RR	1	A	6
5	60			NEW	PL	775		5	3233	4		AMD	PL	655	B	4
5	135		1st	AMD	PL	650	H	5	3233	4	C	AMD	PL	655	B	1
5	135		8th	NEW	PL	502		5	3233	4	D	AMD	PL	655	B	2
5	200-O			NEW	PL	770		5	3233	4	F	AMD	PL	655	B	3
5	282	6		AMD	PL	734	C	5	3234	1	A	COR	RR	1	A	7
5	285	7	K	AMD	PL	685		5	3241	5		AMD	PL	591		1
5	286		3rd	RP	PL	650	E	5	3360	3	H	AMD	PL	696		1

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5	3360	3	H	AFF	PL 696		6	5	12004-I	47-J		NEW	PL 507		1
5	3360	3	J	AMD	PL 696		2	5	12004-I	52-D		NEW	PL 526		1
5	3360	3	J	AFF	PL 696		6	5	12004-I	52-D		AFF	PL 526		4
5	3360	3	K	NEW	PL 696		3	5	12004-I	74-H		RP	PL 704		3
5	3360	3	K	AFF	PL 696		6	5	12004-J	22		NEW	PL 520		1
5	3360-C	2	B	AMD	PL 696		4	5	12004-K	10-B		NEW	PL 500		1
5	3360-C	2	B	AFF	PL 696		6	5	13056-E	2	B	AMD	PL 655	A	5
5	3360-I		1st	AMD	PL 528		1	5	13056-K			NEW	PL 502		2
5	3360-I		1st	AMD	PL 696		5	5	13080-Q	2	D	AMD	PL 650	J	1
5	3360-I		1st	AFF	PL 696		6	5	13080-S	3		AMD	PL 650	J	2
5	4612	4	B	AMD	PL 655	A	2	5	15303	6	D	AMD	PL 643		1
5	4651	2	C	AMD	PL 767		1	5	15303	6	E	AMD	PL 643		2
5	4761			NEW	PL 517		1	5	15303	6	F	NEW	PL 643		3
5	4762			NEW	PL 517		1	5	15303	7	D	AMD	PL 735		1
5	4763			NEW	PL 517		1	5	15303	7	E	AMD	PL 735		2
5	4763			AMD	PL 655	C	1	5	15303	7	F	NEW	PL 735		3
5	4764			NEW	PL 517		1	5	15331			NEW	PL 643		4
5	4765			NEW	PL 517		1	5	15341			NEW	PL 735		4
5	7034	9		AMD	PL 650	E	6	5	17001	3-A		AMD	PL 562		1
5	7036	24		AMD	PL 650	E	7	5	17446			NEW	PL 756		1
5	7039			AMD	PL 655	C	2	5	17804	5-F		AMD	PL 655	A	6
5	7051	5		AMD	PL 669		1	5	17851-A	1	H	AMD	PL 759		1
5	7051	7		AMD	PL 655	A	3	5	17851-A	1	Q	AMD	PL 595		1
5	7054-B	1	C	NEW	PL 634		1	5	17851-A	1	R	AMD	PL 595		2
5	7054-B	2		AMD	PL 634		2	5	17851-A	1	R	AMD	PL 650	FFFF	1
5	7054-B	3		AMD	PL 634		3	5	17851-A	1	S	NEW	PL 595		3
5	7061	4	B	AMD	PL 539		1	5	17851-A	1	S	AMD	PL 650	FFFF	2
5	7061	4	C	AMD	PL 539		2	5	17851-A	1	T	NEW	PL 650	FFFF	3
5	7064	2		AMD	PL 655	A	4	5	17851-A	1	T	AMD	PL 747		1
5	7065	2		AMD	PL 623		1	5	17851-A	1	U	NEW	PL 650	FFFF	4
5	7065	2-D		RP	PL 623		2	5	17851-A	1	U	AMD	PL 747		2
5	7065	2-E		NEW	PL 623		3	5	17851-A	1	V	NEW	PL 747		3
5	7073			NEW	PL 629		1	5	17851-A	2		AMD	PL 595		4
5	7083			AMD	PL 663	B	1	5	17851-A	2		AMD	PL 650	FFFF	5
5	7084	1		AMD	PL 663	B	2	5	17851-A	2		AMD	PL 747		4
5	8053	3	F	COR	RR 1	A	8	5	17851-A	3	A	AMD	PL 595		5
5	8053	6		COR	RR 1	A	9	5	17851-A	3	A	AMD	PL 650	FFFF	6
5	11052	1	D-1	NEW	PL 597	B	4	5	17851-A	3	A	AMD	PL 747		5
5	12002	3-B		NEW	PL 503		1	5	17851-A	4	A	AMD	PL 595		6
5	12002-B		1st	AMD	PL 503		2	5	17851-A	4	A	AMD	PL 650	FFFF	7
5	12002-B	3		NEW	PL 503		3	5	17851-A	4	A	AMD	PL 747		6
5	12002-B	4		NEW	PL 503		4	5	17851-A	4	B	AMD	PL 595		7
5	12003-A	2		AMD	PL 503		5	5	17851-A	4	B	AMD	PL 650	FFFF	8
5	12004-A	22		RP	PL 650	RRR	1	5	17851-A	4	B	AMD	PL 747		7
5	12004-A	24		RP	PL 738	A	2	5	17851-A	4	H	NEW	PL 595		8
5	12004-A	24		AFF	PL 738	A	9	5	17851-A	4	I	NEW	PL 650	FFFF	9
5	12004-A	24-A		NEW	PL 738	A	3	5	17851-A	4	J	NEW	PL 650	FFFF	10
5	12004-A	24-A		AFF	PL 738	A	9	5	17851-A	4	K	NEW	PL 747		8
5	12004-A	29		RP	PL 738	A	4	5	17851-A	5		AMD	PL 595		9
5	12004-A	29		AFF	PL 738	A	9	5	17851-A	5		AMD	PL 650	FFFF	11
5	12004-B	2		AMD	PL 619		1	5	17851-A	5		AMD	PL 747		9
5	12004-B	10		RP	PL 734	B	2	5	17851-D			NEW	PL 759		2
5	12004-B	10		AFF	PL 734	B	15	5	17857	2	D	AMD	PL 598		1
5	12004-G	5-B		NEW	PL 660		1	5	17901			RP	PL 598		2
5	12004-G	5-B		NEW	PL 724		2	5	17901-B			NEW	PL 598		3
5	12004-G	5-B		AFF	PL 724		13	5	17903		1st	AMD	PL 598		4
5	12004-G	10-E		RP	PL 704		1	5	17906	1		RP	PL 598		5
5	12004-G	29-D		RP	PL 704		2	5	17906	1-A		NEW	PL 598		6
5	12004-H	14-A		AMD	PL 612		1	5	17907	2	B	AMD	PL 598		7
5	12004-I	2-J		NEW	PL 506		1	5	17921	3		NEW	PL 598		8

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5	17921	4		NEW	PL 598		9	7	220-A			AMD	PL 650	U	2
5	17929	2	B	AMD	PL 598		10	7	320-AA			RAL	RR 1	A	12
5	17930			RP	PL 598		11	7	341			RAL	RR 1	A	12
5	17930-A			NEW	PL 598		12	7	1808-A		2nd	COR	RR 1	A	13
5	17932	3		AMD	PL 598		13	7	2481			NEW	PL 536		1
5	18404	5-F		AMD	PL 655	A	7	7	2482			NEW	PL 536		1
5	18462	2	D	AMD	PL 598		14	7	3923-B	2-A		COR	RR 1	A	14
5	18501			RP	PL 598		15								
5	18501-B			NEW	PL 598		16	8	272-C	1		AMD	PL 655	A	9
5	18503		1st	AMD	PL 598		17	8	374	1	L	AMD	PL 605		1
5	18506	1		RP	PL 598		18	8	374	1	M	AMD	PL 605		2
5	18506	1-A		NEW	PL 598		19	8	374	1	N	NEW	PL 605		3
5	18506	2	A	AMD	PL 598		20	8	374	1	O	NEW	PL 605		4
5	18507	2	B	AMD	PL 598		21	8	374	6		NEW	PL 536		2
5	18521	3		NEW	PL 598		22	8	374	6		AMD	PL 757	I	1
5	18521	4		NEW	PL 598		23	8	376	1	E	AMD	PL 605		5
5	18529	2	B	AMD	PL 598		24	8	376	1	F	AMD	PL 605		6
5	18530			RP	PL 598		25	8	376	1	G	NEW	PL 605		7
5	18530-A			NEW	PL 598		26	8	381-A			NEW	PL 605		8
5	18532	3		AMD	PL 598		27	8	387	1	C	AMD	PL 536		3
5	19203	2		AMD	PL 559		1	8	387	1	D	AMD	PL 536		4
5	19203	8		COR	RR 1	A	10	8	387	1	E	NEW	PL 536		5
5	19203-A	1		AMD	PL 559		2	8	1203	2	C	AMD	PL 628		1
5	19203-D	7		NEW	PL 559		3	8	1203	2	F	AMD	PL 628		2
5	20006-B	1		AMD	PL 645		1	8	1203	2	G	AMD	PL 628		3
5	26201			NEW	PL 724		3	8	1205	1	E	AMD	PL 538		1
5	26201			AFF	PL 724		13	8	1210	1		AMD	PL 538		2
5	26202			NEW	PL 724		3	8	1210	5		AMD	PL 538		3
5	26202			AFF	PL 724		13	8	1214-A			NEW	PL 628		4
5	26203			NEW	PL 724		3	8	1351			NEW	PL 645		2
5	26203			AFF	PL 724		13	8	1352			NEW	PL 645		2
5	26204			NEW	PL 724		3	8	1401			NEW	PL 538		4
5	26204			AFF	PL 724		13	8	1402			NEW	PL 538		4
5	26205			NEW	PL 724		3	8	1403			NEW	PL 538		4
5	26205			AFF	PL 724		13	8	1403	2	A	AMD	PL 628		5
5	26206			NEW	PL 724		3	8	1403	2	C	AMD	PL 628		6
5	26206			AFF	PL 724		13	8	1404			NEW	PL 538		4
5	26207			NEW	PL 724		3	8	1405			NEW	PL 538		4
5	26207			AFF	PL 724		13	8	1406			NEW	PL 538		4
5	26208			NEW	PL 724		3	8	1407			NEW	PL 538		4
5	26208			AFF	PL 724		13	8	1408			NEW	PL 538		4
5	26209			NEW	PL 724		3	8	1409			NEW	PL 538		4
5	26209			AFF	PL 724		13	8	1410			NEW	PL 538		4
5	26210			NEW	PL 724		3	8	1411			NEW	PL 538		4
5	26210			AFF	PL 724		13	8	1412			NEW	PL 538		4
								8	1412-A			NEW	PL 628		7
6	205	6		COR	RR 1	B	1	8	1413			NEW	PL 538		4
6	205	7		AMD	PL 655	A	8	8	1414			NEW	PL 538		4
								8	1415			NEW	PL 538		4
7	2		4th	AMD	PL 597	A	6	8	1416			NEW	PL 538		4
7	84	4		NEW	PL 582		1	8	1417			NEW	PL 538		4
7	84	5		NEW	PL 582		2								
7	84	6		NEW	PL 582		3	9-A	1-107	4		COR	RR 1	C	1
7	86	5		AMD	PL 582		4, 5	9-A	1-110	3		AMD	PL 653	A	1
7	211			RPR	PL 521		1	9-A	1-111			COR	RR 1	C	2
7	212	4		NEW	PL 521		2	9-A	1-201	6		COR	RR 1	C	3
7	212	5		NEW	PL 521		3	9-A	1-201	7		COR	RR 1	C	4
7	214-A			RPR	PL 521		4	9-A	1-203	2		COR	RR 1	C	5
7	215-A			RPR	PL 521		5	9-A	1-301	14	D	NEW	PL 653	A	2
7	219-B			AMD	PL 543		1	9-A	1-301	17		AMD	PL 653	A	3

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9-A	1-301	18			COR	RR	1 C	6	9-A	8-506	1	A-1	NEW	PL 653	A	10
9-A	1-301	19	A		AMD	PL	653 A	4-6	9-A	8-506	1	F-1	NEW	PL 653	A	11
9-A	1-301	30			COR	RR	1 C	7	9-A	8-506	1	F-2	NEW	PL 653	A	12
9-A	1-301	34			COR	RR	1 C	8	9-A	8-506	1	H	AMD	PL 653	A	13
9-A	1-301	37-A			NEW	PL	653 A	7	9-A	8-506	1	I	AMD	PL 653	A	14
9-A	1-301	37-B			NEW	PL	653 A	8	9-A	8-506	1	J-1	NEW	PL 653	A	15
9-A	2-201	5			COR	RR	1 C	9	9-A	8-506	1	J-2	NEW	PL 653	A	16
9-A	2-201	7			COR	RR	1 C	10	9-A	8-506	1	L	AMD	PL 653	A	17
9-A	2-502	4			COR	RR	1 C	11	9-A	8-506	1	M-1	NEW	PL 653	A	18
9-A	2-506	1			COR	RR	1 C	12	9-A	8-506	1	M-2	NEW	PL 653	A	19
9-A	2-510	9			COR	RR	1 C	13	9-A	8-506	5-A		NEW	PL 653	A	20
9-A	3-203				COR	RR	1 C	14	9-A	8-506	5-B		NEW	PL 653	A	21
9-A	3-204	3	A		COR	RR	1 C	15	9-A	8-506	5-C		NEW	PL 653	A	22
9-A	3-204	4			COR	RR	1 C	16	9-A	8-506	5-D		NEW	PL 653	A	23
9-A	3-206	2	D		COR	RR	1 C	17	9-A	8-506	5-E		NEW	PL 653	A	24
9-A	3-206	2	E		COR	RR	1 C	18	9-A	8-506	5-F		NEW	PL 653	A	25
9-A	3-206	3			COR	RR	1 C	19	9-A	8-506	5-G		NEW	PL 653	A	26
9-A	3-206	5			COR	RR	1 C	20	9-A	8-506	6	K	NEW	PL 653	A	27
9-A	3-304	2			COR	RR	1 C	21	9-A	9-302	1		COR	RR	1 C	55
9-A	3-305	1			COR	RR	1 C	22	9-A	9-303	1		COR	RR	1 C	56
9-A	3-305	2			COR	RR	1 C	23	9-A	9-303	2		COR	RR	1 C	57
9-A	3-309				COR	RR	1 C	24	9-A	9-306			COR	RR	1 C	58
9-A	3-311				COR	RR	1 C	25	9-A	9-401			COR	RR	1 C	59
9-A	3-501				COR	RR	1 C	26	9-A	9-403	1	E	COR	RR	1 C	60
9-A	3-503	1			COR	RR	1 C	27	9-A	9-405	2		COR	RR	1 C	61
9-A	3-503	3			COR	RR	1 C	28								
9-A	3-503	4			COR	RR	1 C	29	9-B	131	11		COR	RR	1 D	1
9-A	3-504	3			COR	RR	1 C	30	9-B	131	22-B		AMD	PL 655	C	3
9-A	3-505				COR	RR	1 C	31	9-B	131	22-C		RP	PL 655	C	4
9-A	4-106	1	A		COR	RR	1 C	32	9-B	131	44		COR	RR	1 D	2
9-A	4-204				COR	RR	1 C	33	9-B	151			COR	RR	1 D	3
9-A	4-304				COR	RR	1 C	34	9-B	152	1		COR	RR	1 D	4
9-A	5-103	5			COR	RR	1 C	35	9-B	152	3		COR	RR	1 D	5
9-A	5-105	4			NEW	PL	649	1	9-B	161	1-A	F	AMD	PL 565		5-8
9-A	5-109	4			COR	RR	1 C	36	9-B	162	5-A		AMD	PL 565		9
9-A	5-110	3	B		COR	RR	1 C	37	9-B	213	1	A	COR	RR	1 D	6
9-A	5-111	1			COR	RR	1 C	38	9-B	213	2	A	COR	RR	1 D	7
9-A	5-111	3			COR	RR	1 C	39	9-B	226	2		COR	RR	1 D	8
9-A	5-111	4			COR	RR	1 C	40	9-B	232	4		COR	RR	1 D	9
9-A	5-115				COR	RR	1 C	41	9-B	232	5	B	COR	RR	1 D	10
9-A	5-116	1	E		COR	RR	1 C	42	9-B	241	1	D	COR	RR	1 D	11
9-A	5-116-A	5			NEW	PL	649	2	9-B	242	2	B	COR	RR	1 D	12
9-A	5-116-A	6			NEW	PL	649	3	9-B	243	2		COR	RR	1 D	13
9-A	5-201	3			COR	RR	1 C	43	9-B	252	2	B	COR	RR	1 D	14
9-A	6-104	4			COR	RR	1 C	44	9-B	252	6		AMD	PL 565		10
9-A	6-106	1			COR	RR	1 C	45	9-B	253	1	A	COR	RR	1 D	15
9-A	6-106	2			COR	RR	1 C	46	9-B	255	2		COR	RR	1 D	16
9-A	6-106	3			COR	RR	1 C	47	9-B	255	4		COR	RR	1 D	17
9-A	6-106	4			COR	RR	1 C	48	9-B	322	4	B	COR	RR	1 D	18
9-A	6-106	5			COR	RR	1 C	49	9-B	323	5	A	COR	RR	1 D	19
9-A	6-110				COR	RR	1 C	50	9-B	323	5	B	COR	RR	1 D	20
9-A	6-111	1			COR	RR	1 C	51	9-B	324	2	C	COR	RR	1 D	21
9-A	6-111	3	E		COR	RR	1 C	52	9-B	325	4		COR	RR	1 D	22
9-A	6-113	2			COR	RR	1 C	53	9-B	326	1	E	AMD	PL 565		11
9-A	6-201				AMD	PL	565	1	9-B	327	3	A	COR	RR	1 D	23
9-A	6-203	1			COR	RR	1 C	54	9-B	327	3	B	COR	RR	1 D	24
9-A	6-203	3-A			RP	PL	565	2	9-B	357	3		COR	RR	1 D	25
9-A	6-203	3-D			AMD	PL	565	3	9-B	358	4		COR	RR	1 D	26
9-A	6-203	6			RP	PL	565	4	9-B	422-A	5		COR	RR	1 D	27
9-A	8-504	2			AMD	PL	653 A	9	9-B	427	2	B	COR	RR	1 D	28

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9-B	427	3	A	COR	RR	1	D	29	10	8001	38	R	RP	PL	650	RRR	3
9-B	427	3	C	AMD	PL	655	C	5	10	9001	2		AMD	PL	650	RRR	4
9-B	427	6		COR	RR	1	D	30	10	9002	1		RP	PL	650	RRR	5
9-B	427	8	A	COR	RR	1	D	31	10	9002	5		AMD	PL	650	RRR	6
9-B	427	9	A	COR	RR	1	D	32	10	9002	6	B	AMD	PL	650	RRR	7
9-B	427	9	A	COR	RR	1	D	33	10	9002	7	B	AMD	PL	650	RRR	8
9-B	436	1	A	COR	RR	1	D	34	10	9002	11-A		NEW	PL	650	RRR	9
9-B	445	3		COR	RR	1	D	35	10	9003			RP	PL	650	RRR	10
9-B	448			AMD	PL	655	C	6	10	9004			RP	PL	650	RRR	11
9-B	448	3		AMD	PL	655	C	7	10	9005-A			AMD	PL	650	RRR	12
9-B	453	2		COR	RR	1	D	36	10	9006			AMD	PL	650	RRR	13
9-B	453	3		COR	RR	1	D	37	10	9006-B			AMD	PL	650	RRR	14
9-B	813	4	B	COR	RR	1	D	38	10	9006-C			AMD	PL	650	RRR	15
9-B	842	1	F	COR	RR	1	D	39	10	9006-D			AMD	PL	650	RRR	16
9-B	842	3		COR	RR	1	D	40	10	9008	1		AMD	PL	650	RRR	17
9-B	851	1		AMD	PL	565		12	10	9009			AMD	PL	650	RRR	18
9-B	855	1		AMD	PL	565		13	10	9011			AMD	PL	650	RRR	19
9-B	862	2-A	F	COR	RR	1	D	41	10	9012			AMD	PL	650	RRR	20
9-B	1012	1		COR	RR	1	D	42	10	9021			AMD	PL	650	RRR	21
9-B	1022			COR	RR	1	D	43	10	9041		1st	AMD	PL	650	RRR	22
9-B	1026	3		COR	RR	1	D	44	10	9042			AMD	PL	650	RRR	23
									10	9043			AMD	PL	650	RRR	24
10	31			NEW	PL	500		2	10	9044			AMD	PL	650	RRR	25
10	31	4		AMD	PL	757	A	1	10	9046		1st	AMD	PL	650	RRR	26
10	962	2		AMD	PL	650	TT	1	10	9047			AMD	PL	650	RRR	27
10	1044	12	B	AMD	PL	597	A	7	10	9048			AMD	PL	650	RRR	28
10	1044	13		AMD	PL	650	TT	2	10	9051			AMD	PL	650	RRR	29
10	1100-JJ	1	C	NEW	PL	583		1	10	9061	1		RP	PL	650	RRR	30
10	1100-JJ	2		AMD	PL	583		2	10	9061	2		RP	PL	650	RRR	31
10	1100-JJ	4	D	NEW	PL	583		3	10	9061	4		RP	PL	650	RRR	32
10	1100-LL	3		AMD	PL	583		4	10	9061	4-A		NEW	PL	650	RRR	33
10	1100-LL	5		NEW	PL	583		5	10	9061	9		AMD	PL	650	RRR	34
10	1100-NN		1st	AMD	PL	583		6	10	9062		1st	AMD	PL	650	RRR	35
10	1102-B			NEW	PL	661		1	10	9063		1st	AMD	PL	650	RRR	36
10	1243	3	A	AMD	PL	592		1	10	9064			AMD	PL	650	RRR	37
10	1243	3	B	AMD	PL	592		2	10	9065		1st	AMD	PL	650	RRR	38
10	1243	3	D	AMD	PL	592		3	10	9066	1		AMD	PL	650	RRR	39
10	1243	3	J	AMD	PL	592		4	10	9068			AMD	PL	650	RRR	40
10	1243	3	M	AMD	PL	592		5	10	9081	4		NEW	PL	688		1
10	1243	3	Q	AMD	PL	592		6	10	9081	5		NEW	PL	688		2
10	1243	3	R	AMD	PL	592		7, 8	10	9081	6		NEW	PL	688		3
10	1248			RPR	PL	592		9	10	9081	7		NEW	PL	688		4
10	1250-F			AMD	PL	592		10	10	9082		1st	AMD	PL	650	RRR	41
10	1250-F	2		NEW	PL	592		11	10	9082		2nd	AMD	PL	650	RRR	42
10	1250-M			NEW	PL	575		1	10	9082		2nd	AMD	PL	688		5
10	1404	6		AMD	PL	650	RRR	2	10	9082		3rd	AMD	PL	688		6
10	1492	1		AMD	PL	597	A	8	10	9082	3		AMD	PL	688		7
10	1500-Y			RAL	RR	1	A	16	10	9083		1st	AMD	PL	650	RRR	43
10	1500-Y			RAL	RR	1	A	18	10	9084			AMD	PL	650	RRR	44
10	1500-Z			RAL	RR	1	A	20	10	9085		1st	AMD	PL	650	RRR	45
10	1500-AA			NEW	PL	513		1	10	9086		1st	AMD	PL	650	RRR	46
10	1500-BB			NEW	PL	513		1	10	9088			AMD	PL	650	RRR	47
10	1500-CC			NEW	PL	513		1	10	9089			AMD	PL	650	RRR	48
10	1500-DD			NEW	PL	513		1	10	9090-A			AMD	PL	688		8
10	1500-DD			RAL	RR	1	A	16	10	9090-A	3		AMD	PL	650	RRR	49
10	1500-EE			NEW	PL	513		1	10	9091	2-A		NEW	PL	688		9
10	1500-EE			NEW	PL	687		1	10	9091	3-A		NEW	PL	688		10
10	1500-HH			RAL	RR	1	A	18	10	9091	3-B		NEW	PL	688		11
10	1500-LL			RAL	RR	1	A	20	10	9091	3-C		NEW	PL	688		12
10	1500-LL	1-A		NEW	PL	730		1	10	9093-B			AMD	PL	691		1

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10	9094	2	B-2	AMD	PL 650	RRR	50	12	6431-A	4		RP	PL 570		4
10	9094	2	F	AMD	PL 650	RRR	51	12	6455-A	4		AMD	PL 612		2
10	9094	2	F-1	RP	PL 650	RRR	52	12	6455-A	14		AMD	PL 612		3
10	9094	2	F-2	RP	PL 650	RRR	53	12	6502-C	1-C		AMD	PL 761		1
10	9094-B			AMD	PL 688		14	12	6502-C	1-E		NEW	PL 761		2
10	9420	1		AMD	PL 579		1	12	6803	6		NEW	PL 569		1
10	9722	2		AMD	PL 657		1	12	6864	1-B		RP	PL 570		5
10	9722	2	I	AMD	PL 597	A	9	12	6866	8		COR	RR 1	A	23
10	9722	6	B	AMD	PL 736		1-3	12	8885	2-B		COR	RR 1	A	24
11	2-103	(4)		AMD	PL 655	A	10	12	10001	19		AMD	PL 706		5
11	2-1103	(4)		AMD	PL 655	A	11	12	10001	35-A		NEW	PL 706		6
11	3-1103	(4)		AMD	PL 655	A	12	12	10001	42-D		NEW	PL 706		7
11	4-104	(4)		AMD	PL 655	A	13	12	10001	52-A		NEW	PL 706		8
11	4-1105	(4)		AMD	PL 655	A	14	12	10001	58-A		AMD	PL 706		9
11	5-1102	(3)		AMD	PL 655	A	15	12	10001	62		AMD	PL 706		10
11	7-1102	(3)		AMD	PL 655	A	16	12	10050			NEW	PL 642		1
11	8-1102	(3)		AMD	PL 655	A	17	12	10053			AMD	PL 706		11
11	9-1102	(72)	(f)	AMD	PL 655	A	18	12	10105	19		AMD	PL 706		12
11	9-1102		2nd	AMD	PL 655	A	19	12	10108	11	B	AMD	PL 706		13, 14
11	9-1315	(4)	(a)	COR	RR 1	A	21	12	10108	13		NEW	PL 650	FFF	1
11	9-1526	(2)	(a)	COR	RR 1	A	22	12	10110			RP	PL 692		1
12	405-A	4		AMD	PL 597	B	5	12	10111			NEW	PL 692		2
12	407			AMD	PL 597	A	10	12	10157	1-A		AMD	PL 620		1
12	541-A			AMD	PL 706		1	12	10206	2	A	AMD	PL 676		2
12	544			RP	PL 706		2	12	10206	2	A	AFF	PL 676		9
12	544-B			RP	PL 706		3	12	10206	2	B	AMD	PL 676		3
12	544-C			RP	PL 706		4	12	10206	2	B	AFF	PL 676		9
12	683-A	1st		AMD	PL 534		1	12	10206	2-A		NEW	PL 676		4
12	683-A	1		RP	PL 534		2	12	10206	2-A		AFF	PL 676		9
12	683-A	1-A		NEW	PL 534		3	12	10252			RPR	PL 650	GGG	1
12	683-A	2		AMD	PL 534		4	12	10269			NEW	PL 706		15
12	683-A	2-A		NEW	PL 534		5	12	10301	3		RP	PL 706		16
12	683-A	4		AMD	PL 534		6	12	10307	3		AMD	PL 706		17
12	684	1st		AMD	PL 534		7	12	10308	1		AMD	PL 706		18
12	1819-C			NEW	PL 707		1	12	10309	2	C	AMD	PL 706		19
12	1849	2		AMD	PL 650	V	1	12	10309	2	D	AMD	PL 706		20
12	1893	1	A	AMD	PL 676		1	12	10309	3		AMD	PL 706		21
12	1893	1	A	AFF	PL 676		9	12	11154	2		AMD	PL 727		1
12	6025	1		AMD	PL 655	C	8	12	11154	14-A		NEW	PL 727		2
12	6043			NEW	PL 650	LLL	1	12	11154	16		AMD	PL 563		3
12	6072	10		AMD	PL 672		1	12	11401	2	C	AMD	PL 655	A	20
12	6072	13		RP	PL 672		2	12	12509			AMD	PL 563		2
12	6072	19		NEW	PL 672		3	12	12510			AMD	PL 563		3
12	6072-A	20		AMD	PL 672		4	12	12511			AMD	PL 563		4
12	6072-C	10		RP	PL 672		5	12	12607			AMD	PL 563		5
12	6072-C	11		NEW	PL 672		6	12	12607	1		AMD	PL 563		6
12	6072-D	4		AMD	PL 672		7	12	12663-B	4	A	AMD	PL 563		7
12	6072-E			NEW	PL 672		8	12	12664	2		AMD	PL 563		8
12	6072-E			AFF	PL 672		12	12	12803			AMD	PL 706		24
12	6072-F			NEW	PL 672		9	12	12804			AMD	PL 706		25
12	6072-F			AFF	PL 672		12	12	12805			AMD	PL 706		26
12	6085-B			NEW	PL 672		10	12	12806	1	A	AMD	PL 706		27
12	6085-C			NEW	PL 672		11	12	12806	2	A	AMD	PL 706		28
12	6171	6		NEW	PL 625		1	12	12808			AMD	PL 706		29
12	6171	7		NEW	PL 625		2	12	12808-A			AMD	PL 706		30
12	6313	4	A	RP	PL 570		1	12	12810			AMD	PL 706		31
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12	12824			NEW	PL 706		32	13	3163			COR	RR	1	E 47
12	12825			NEW	PL 706		32								
12	13056	3-A	B	AMD	PL 566		1	14	159-E			NEW	PL	518	1
12	13068-A	4	A	COR	RR 1	A	25	14	1252-A	1		AMD	PL	708	1
12	13068-A	4	A	AFF	RR 1	A	26	14	1252-A	1		AFF	PL	708	2
12	13104	4		AMD	PL 676		5	14	4422	1	E	AMD	PL	649	4
12	13104	4		AFF	PL 676		9	14	4422	1	F	NEW	PL	649	5
12	13104	4-A		NEW	PL 676		6	14	4426		1st	AMD	PL	655	A 21
12	13104	4-A		AFF	PL 676		9	14	4655		2nd	NEW	PL	649	6
12	13106-E			NEW	PL 692		3	14	6021	1		RPR	PL	515	1
12	13155	3		AMD	PL 679		1	14	6021	6-B		NEW	PL	515	2
12	13157-D			NEW	PL 692		4	14	6025	3		AMD	PL	767	2
12	13161	1-A		AMD	PL 679		2	14	6025-B			NEW	PL	767	3
								14	6111	1-B		NEW	PL	677	1
13	334			COR	RR 1	E	1	14	6203-H	4	A	AMD	PL	655	A 22
13	335			COR	RR 1	E	2								
13	932		1st	COR	RR 1	E	3	15	393	1	E-3	NEW	IB	1	1
13	981			COR	RR 1	E	4	15	1023	4	B-2	NEW	IB	1	2
13	984			COR	RR 1	E	5	15	2261	6	A	AMD	PL	513	2
13	1384			COR	RR 1	E	6	15	2261	6	B	AMD	PL	513	3
13	1643			COR	RR 1	E	7	15	2261	6	C	NEW	PL	513	4
13	1645	4		COR	RR 1	E	8	15	2261	8		NEW	PL	513	5
13	1692			COR	RR 1	E	9	15	2261	9		NEW	PL	513	6
13	1825	1		COR	RR 1	E	10	15	2262		1st	AMD	PL	513	7
13	1872			COR	RR 1	E	11	15	2262-A	1		RP	PL	513	8
13	1874			COR	RR 1	E	12	15	2262-A	2		AMD	PL	513	9
13	1911	3		COR	RR 1	E	13	15	2262-B			NEW	PL	513	10
13	1912			COR	RR 1	E	14	15	2263			AMD	PL	513	11
13	1951			COR	RR 1	E	15	15	2264	1		AMD	PL	513	12
13	1958			COR	RR 1	E	16	15	2264	4-A		NEW	PL	513	13
13	1965	1		COR	RR 1	E	17	15	2264	5		AMD	PL	513	14
13	1965	4		COR	RR 1	E	18	15	2264	7		AMD	PL	513	15
13	2061	2		COR	RR 1	E	19	15	3103	1	C	AMD	PL	551	1
13	2062	5		COR	RR 1	E	20	15	3103	1	G	AMD	PL	551	2
13	2062	6		COR	RR 1	E	21	15	3103	1	H	RP	PL	551	3
13	2107			COR	RR 1	E	22	15	3201	1		AMD	PL	551	4
13	2109			COR	RR 1	E	23	15	3301	7	B	AMD	PL	655	A 23
13	2152			COR	RR 1	E	24	15	3308-A	4-A		NEW	PL	622	1
13	2153			COR	RR 1	E	25	15	3310	4		AMD	PL	551	5
13	2155			COR	RR 1	E	26	15	3310	5	A	AMD	PL	551	6
13	2284			COR	RR 1	E	27	15	3314	1	G	AMD	PL	551	7
13	2286			COR	RR 1	E	28								
13	2691			COR	RR 1	E	29	16	901			NEW	PL	526	2
13	2733			COR	RR 1	E	30	16	901			AFF	PL	526	4
13	2771			COR	RR 1	E	31	16	902			NEW	PL	526	2
13	2812			COR	RR 1	E	32	16	902			AFF	PL	526	4
13	2861			COR	RR 1	E	33	16	903			NEW	PL	526	2
13	2866			COR	RR 1	E	34	16	903			AFF	PL	526	4
13	2867			COR	RR 1	E	35	16	904			NEW	PL	526	2
13	2904			COR	RR 1	E	36	16	904			AFF	PL	526	4
13	2944			COR	RR 1	E	37								
13	2982			COR	RR 1	E	38	17	1831	5		AMD	PL	538	5
13	2983			COR	RR 1	E	39								
13	2984			COR	RR 1	E	40	17-A	8	1		AMD	PL	617	1
13	3022			COR	RR 1	E	41	17-A	8	2-A		AMD	PL	617	2
13	3102			COR	RR 1	E	42	17-A	15	1	A	AMD	IB	1	3-5
13	3106			COR	RR 1	E	43	17-A	281			AMD	PL	719	1
13	3107			COR	RR 1	E	44	17-A	282			AMD	PL	719	2
13	3110			COR	RR 1	E	45	17-A	283			AMD	PL	719	3

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17-A	761				NEW	PL 689	1	20-A	1055	9	E-1		NEW	PL 626		2
17-A	951				AMD	PL 538	6	20-A	1905				NEW	PL 548		1
17-A	954	1-B			NEW	PL 645	3	20-A	2651				RP	PL 650	HH	1
17-A	1060				NEW	PL 537	1	20-A	2951	3			AMD	PL 632		2
17-A	1810	2			AMD	PL 694	1	20-A	4251		1st		AMD	PL 633		3
17-A	1811	1			AMD	PL 694	2	20-A	4252	4			AMD	PL 633		4
17-A	1812	1			AMD	PL 694	3	20-A	4271	2			AMD	PL 633		6
17-A	2102	1	F-2		AMD	PL 695	1	20-A	4271	2-A			NEW	PL 633		7
17-A	2102	1	G		AMD	PL 695	2	20-A	4271	3			AMD	PL 633		8
17-A	2102	1	H		NEW	PL 695	3	20-A	4271	4			AMD	PL 633		9
17-A	2102	1	I		NEW	PL 695	4	20-A	4271	5			AMD	PL 633		10
17-A	2107-A				NEW	PL 755	1	20-A	4502	9			AMD	PL 633		11
17-A	2109				AMD	PL 694	4	20-A	4706				AMD	PL 535		1
17-A	2109		1st		AMD	PL 694	5	20-A	4706				AFF	PL 535		4
17-A	2109	4			NEW	PL 694	6	20-A	4706		1st		AMD	PL 762		2
17-A	2110				NEW	PL 695	5	20-A	4706	2			AMD	PL 762		3
17-A	2111				NEW	PL 695	6	20-A	4706	4			NEW	PL 762		4
								20-A	4771				AMD	PL 631		1
18-C	5-119	1			AMD	PL 511	3	20-A	4772	2			AMD	PL 631		2
18-C	5-127	4			AMD	PL 724	4	20-A	4772	5			AMD	PL 631		3
18-C	5-127	4			AFF	PL 724	13	20-A	4772	6			AMD	PL 631		4
18-C	5-205	4			AMD	PL 511	4	20-A	4772	7			NEW	PL 631		5
18-C	5-205	5			AMD	PL 511	5	20-A	4772		2nd		NEW	PL 631		6
18-C	5-210	1			AMD	PL 511	6	20-A	4772-A		2nd		NEW	PL 631		7
18-C	5-210	7			AMD	PL 511	7	20-A	4772-B		2nd		AMD	PL 631		8
18-C	5-406	1			AMD	PL 511	8	20-A	4774	3			NEW	PL 631		9
18-C	5-406	3			AMD	PL 511	9	20-A	4774	4			NEW	PL 631		10
18-C	5-507	1			AMD	PL 511	10	20-A	4774	5			NEW	PL 631		11
18-C	5-507	3			AMD	PL 511	11	20-A	4775		1st		RP	PL 631		12
18-C	9-106	1			AMD	PL 511	12	20-A	4775		3rd		NEW	PL 631		13
18-C	9-106	2			AMD	PL 511	13	20-A	4776				RP	PL 631		14
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19-A	951-A	4-A			NEW	PL 571	3	20-A	6304-A				AMD	PL 757	H	1
19-A	951-A	4-A			AFF	PL 571	8	20-A	6304-B				NEW	PL 529		2
19-A	951-A	5	H		AMD	PL 571	4	20-A	6305				AMD	PL 627		2
19-A	951-A	5	H		AFF	PL 571	8	20-A	6359	1	G-1		COR	RR 1	B	2
19-A	951-A	5	P		AMD	PL 571	5	20-A	6401-B	3			AMD	PL 627		3
19-A	951-A	5	P		AFF	PL 571	8	20-A	6401-B	4			AMD	PL 627		4
19-A	951-A	5	P-1		NEW	PL 571	6	20-A	6401-B	5			NEW	PL 627		5
19-A	951-A	5	P-1		AFF	PL 571	8	20-A	6403-A	1			AMD	PL 627		6
19-A	951-A	5	P-2		NEW	PL 571	7	20-A	6403-A	5			AMD	PL 627		7
19-A	951-A	5	P-2		AFF	PL 571	8	20-A	6601-A				AMD	PL 717		1
19-A	1658	2-A	A		AMD	PL 511	15	20-A	6602	1	F		AMD	PL 717		2
19-A	1658	2-A	A-1		NEW	PL 511	16	20-A	6602	1	G		AMD	PL 717		3
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20-A	1	23-A			AMD	PL 633	1	20-A	6672				NEW	PL 533		2
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20-A	253	10			NEW	PL 527	1	20-A	7304	4			NEW	PL 650	JJ	2
20-A	405	3	T		AMD	PL 633	2	20-A	7504				AMD	PL 594		1
20-A	1001	23			RPR	PL 650	GG	20-A	8605	2	B		RP	PL 650	KK	1
20-A	1001	23			RAL	RR 1	A	20-A	8605	2	C		RP	PL 650	KK	2

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20-A	8607-B			NEW	PL 722		3	22	259	1	B	AMD	PL 650	EE	1
20-A	9201			RP	PL 630		1	22	259	1	C	AMD	PL 650	EE	2
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20-A	9204			RP	PL 630		1	22	264	3	H	AMD	PL 738	C	2
20-A	10017		1st	AMD	PL 630		2	22	264	3	H	AFF	PL 738	C	54
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20-A	10703	3		NEW	PL 630		3	22	264	3	H-1	COR	RR 1	A	28
20-A	10707			AMD	PL 630		4	22	266			NEW	PL 586		1
20-A	12311			NEW	PL 508		1	22	329	4-A	B	AMD	PL 599		1
20-A	12312			NEW	PL 508		1	22	371			NEW	PL 690		1
20-A	12313			NEW	PL 508		1	22	371			AFF	PL 690		3
20-A	12314			NEW	PL 508		1	22	372			NEW	PL 690		1
20-A	12723			RPR	PL 650	QQQ	1	22	372			AFF	PL 690		3
20-A	12901			RP	PL 704		5	22	373			NEW	PL 690		1
20-A	12902		1st	AMD	PL 704		6	22	373			AFF	PL 690		3
20-A	13011	11		NEW	PL 762		5	22	666	2		AMD	PL 597	A	11
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20-A	13025			AMD	PL 697		1	22	1066	3	E	AMD	PL 702		1
20-A	13112	4	C	AMD	PL 650	HH	2	22	1066	4-A		NEW	PL 702		2
20-A	13407	3		AMD	PL 650	SSS	1	22	1066	5	G	AMD	PL 702		3
20-A	13408			NEW	PL 650	SSS	2	22	1241	3		AMD	PL 738	C	4
20-A	15672	2-A	A	RP	PL 650	MM	1	22	1241	3		AFF	PL 738	C	54
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20-A	15676	2		AMD	PL 737		2	22	1425	1	C	AMD	PL 711		3
20-A	15682			AMD	PL 737		3	22	1425	2		AMD	PL 711		4
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20-A	15683	1	B	AMD	PL 650	KK	4	22	1502		1st	AMD	PL 738	C	5
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20-A	15689-A	21		RP	PL 650	NN	1	22	1513			NEW	PL 641		4
20-A	15689-A	29		NEW	PL 650	MM	4	22	1531	1		AMD	PL 738	C	7
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20-A	15905	1	A	AMD	PL 650	MM	5	22	1551-A	7		NEW	PL 580		3
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21-A	1059	2	E	AMD	PL 600		8	22	1700-I			NEW	PL 507		2
								22	1708	3		AMD	PL 664		1
22	20	1	A	AMD	PL 738	C	1	22	1708-A			NEW	PL 650	WW	1
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22	1711-C	6	V	AMD	PL 586		2	22	3272	1		AMD	PL 753		2
22	1711-C	6	W	AMD	PL 586		3	22	3273	1	A	AMD	PL 753		3
22	1711-C	6	X	NEW	PL 586		4	22	3273	1	C	AMD	PL 753		4
22	1715	1		AMD	PL 655	A	26	22	3273	6	B-1	AMD	PL 753		5
22	1715	1		AMD	PL 655	A	27	22	3477	1	A	COR	RR 1	B	3
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22	1720			RP	PL 664		2	22	3731-A	3		NEW	PL 587		1
22	1730-B			NEW	PL 732		1	22	3731-A	4		NEW	PL 650	VV	1
22	1730-B			NEW	PL 770		3	22	3731-B			NEW	PL 587		2
22	1812-M			RAL	RR 1	A	29	22	3737	7		NEW	PL 587		3
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22	1822-B			NEW	PL 606		1	22	3769-E			RP	PL 650	YY	1
22	1823		1st	AMD	PL 738	C	15	22	4002	1-B	C	RP	PL 774		1
22	1823		1st	AFF	PL 738	C	54	22	4002	5-E		NEW	PL 667		1
22	1832			RPR	PL 668		1	22	4002	6-A		AMD	PL 667		2
22	1902	5-B		NEW	PL 650	Z	1	22	4004	1	E	AMD	PL 724		5
22	1902	7		NEW	PL 650	Z	2	22	4004	1	E	AFF	PL 724		13
22	1912			NEW	PL 650	Z	3	22	4009			RP	PL 667		3
22	1913			NEW	PL 650	Z	4	22	4011-A	1		AMD	PL 667		4
22	2145-A			NEW	PL 567		1	22	4011-A	1	A	COR	RR 1	B	4
22	2147	15		AMD	PL 635		1	22	4011-A	1-A		RP	PL 667		5
22	2383-B	3	B-1	AMD	PL 738	C	16	22	4011-A	2		RPR	PL 667		6
22	2383-B	3	B-1	AFF	PL 738	C	54	22	4011-A	4		RP	PL 667		7
22	2421-A	16	B	AMD	PL 611		1	22	4011-A	4-A		NEW	PL 667		8
22	2421-A	37		AMD	PL 738	C	17	22	4011-A	8		RP	PL 667		9
22	2421-A	37		AFF	PL 738	C	54	22	4011-A	9		AMD	PL 667		10
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22	2421-A	38		AFF	PL 738	C	54	22	4011-C	2		AMD	PL 667		12
22	2423-A	2	A	AMD	PL 514		1	22	4011-C	3		AMD	PL 667		13
22	2423-A	2	B	AMD	PL 514		2	22	4018	1	A	COR	RR 1	B	5
22	2423-A	2	B-1	NEW	PL 514		3	22	4021	3	C	AMD	PL 667		14
22	2423-A	2	O	AMD	PL 512		1	22	4034	1		RPR	PL 774		2
22	2423-A	3	B	AMD	PL 514		4	22	4034	2		AMD	PL 774		3
22	2423-A	4		AMD	PL 611		2	22	4034	4		AMD	PL 774		4
22	2423-A	10	A	AMD	PL 611		3	22	4061	1		AMD	PL 594		2
22	2423-F	8	B	AMD	PL 611		4	22	4087-A			RP	PL 724		6
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22	2425-A	6		AMD	PL 611		7	22	4100-B			NEW	PL 501		1
22	2425-A	10	B-1	NEW	PL 514		5	22	4100-C			NEW	PL 501		1
22	2425-A	10	J	RP	PL 611		8	22	4100-D			NEW	PL 501		1
22	2425-B			NEW	PL 611		9	22	7246	1		AMD	PL 760		1
22	2430	3		AMD	PL 506		2	22	7403			RP	PL 664		4
22	2430-N	8		AMD	PL 512		2	22	7703	2	B	AMD	PL 594		3
22	2601	5-A		NEW	PL 746		1	22	7802	1-A		AMD	PL 594		4
22	2660-T			AMD	PL 746		2	22	8103	2-A		AMD	PL 594		5
22	2660-Y			AMD	PL 746		3	22	8104			AMD	PL 594		6
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22	3024		4th	AMD	PL 742		1	22	8111			AMD	PL 757	F	1
22	3104-A	1		RP	PL 647		1	22	8402	3	A	AMD	PL 594		9
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22	3108-A			NEW	PL 650	XX	1	22	8710-A			AFF	PL 690		3
22	3173-J			AMD	PL 664		3	22	8712	6		AMD	PL 530		6
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23	3105-A			AMD	PL 518		2	24-A	4349	7		NEW	PL 674		1
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24	2325-C			AMD	PL 712		1	24-A	4349-B	2		AFF	PL 652		10
24	2325-C			AFF	PL 712		5	24-A	4349-B	4		AMD	PL 652		8
24	2502	1-A		COR	RR 1	B	6	24-A	4349-B	4	4-A	AFF	PL 652		10
24	2505		2nd	AMD	PL 738	C	20	24-A	4349-B	4-A		NEW	PL 652		9
24	2505		2nd	AFF	PL 738	C	54	24-A	4349-B	4-A		AFF	PL 652		10
24	2510	6		AMD	PL 738	C	21	24-A	4362	3		AMD	PL 655	C	9
24	2510	6		AFF	PL 738	C	54	24-A	4362	4		AMD	PL 655	C	10
24	2510-A		1st	AMD	PL 738	C	22	24-A	6917	3	B	COR	RR 1	B	7
24	2510-A		1st	AFF	PL 738	C	54	25	1502		6th	AMD	PL 671		1
24	2607		1st	AMD	PL 738	C	23	25	1542-A	1	N	AMD	PL 738	C	30
24	2607		1st	AFF	PL 738	C	54	25	1542-A	1	N	AFF	PL 738	C	54
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24-A	1914	4-A		AFF	PL 652		10	25	1542-A	3	M	AMD	PL 738	C	34
24-A	1914	5-A		NEW	PL 652		4	25	1542-A	3	M	AFF	PL 738	C	54
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24-A	2003	7	A	AMD	PL 655	A	32	25	1542-A	3	O	AFF	PL 738	C	54
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24-A	2745-G			AFF	PL 712		5	25	1542-A	3	BB	NEW	PL 538		8
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24-A	4313	15		NEW	PL 531		3	25	2016	1	C	AMD	PL 537		2
24-A	4314	1	A	AMD	PL 738	C	27	25	2016	4	B	AMD	PL 537		3
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25	2395			AFF	PL	603	3	26	683	8	A	AMD	PL	666	22		
25	2403			RP	PL	549	1	26	683	8	B	AMD	PL	666	23		
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25	2448-A	11		NEW	PL	658	3	26	683	8	E	NEW	PL	666	26		
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25	2803-B	1	P	RAL	PL	655	A	35	26	686	1	B	AMD	PL	666	37	
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25	2808-B	1		AMD	PL	757	C	1	26	850-H	2	A	AFF	PL	686	5	
25	2915-B			NEW	PL	650	OOO	2	26	850-H	3	E	AMD	PL	686	2	
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32	3270			AFF	PL 738	A	9	32	3300-B			RP	PL 738	A	6
32	3270-A			RP	PL 738	A	6	32	3300-B			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	3270-A			AFF	PL 738	A	9	32	3300-D			RP	PL 738	A	6
32	3270-C			RP	PL 738	A	6	32	3300-D			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	3270-C			AFF	PL 738	A	9	32	3300-E			RP	PL 738	A	6
32	3270-E			RP	PL 738	A	6	32	3300-E			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	3270-E			AFF	PL 738	A	9	32	3300-F			RP	PL 738	A	6
32	3270-E	5	E	AMD	PL 604		5	32	3300-F			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	3270-F			RP	PL 738	A	6	32	3300-G			RP	PL 738	A	6
32	3270-F			AFF	PL 738	A	9	32	3300-G			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	3270-G			RP	PL 738	A	6	32	3300-H			RP	PL 738	A	6
32	3270-G			AFF	PL 738	A	9	32	3300-H			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	3270-G	1	F	RP	PL 604		6	32	3300-I			RP	PL 738	A	6
32	3270-G	4		AMD	PL 604		7	32	3300-I			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	3270-G	4		AMD	PL 655	A	46	32	3300-J			NEW	PL 687		4
32	3270-G	6		RP	PL 604		8	32	3300-AA			RP	PL 738	A	6

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32	3300-AA			AFF	PL 738	A	9	32	13810	2		AFF	PL 738	C	54
32	3300-BB			RP	PL 738	A	6	32	13831	1		AMD	PL 683		2
32	3300-BB			AFF	PL 738	A	9	32	13831	2		AMD	PL 683		3
32	3300-CC			RP	PL 738	A	6	32	13831	2-A		AMD	PL 683		4
32	3300-CC			AFF	PL 738	A	9	32	13831	7		AMD	PL 683		5
32	3300-DD			RP	PL 738	A	6	32	13831	8		NEW	PL 702		4
32	3300-DD			AFF	PL 738	A	9	32	13834	1		AMD	PL 683		6
32	3300-EE			RP	PL 738	A	6	32	13870			NEW	PL 687		8
32	3300-EE			AFF	PL 738	A	9	32	14501	2-A		NEW	PL 553		1
32	3811	3		AMD	PL 738	C	42	32	14513			AMD	PL 553		2
32	3811	3		AFF	PL 738	C	54	32	14701	4		AMD	PL 575		3
32	3820-A			NEW	PL 687		5	32	16202	26		AMD	PL 602		1
32	3831	1		AMD	PL 577		1	32	16401	2		AMD	PL 602		2
32	3831	2		AMD	PL 577		2	32	16606	1		AMD	PL 602		3
32	3837-A	1	D	AMD	PL 738	C	43	32	16808			AMD	PL 659		12
32	3837-A	1	D	AFF	PL 738	C	54	32	18375	1	Q	AMD	PL 601		1
32	4329		1st	AMD	PL 738	C	44	32	18375	1	R	AMD	PL 601		2
32	4329		1st	AFF	PL 738	C	54	32	18375	1	S	NEW	PL 601		3
32	4661	2		AMD	PL 575		2	32	19101	25		AMD	PL 738	C	48
32	6080	1		AMD	PL 659		10	32	19101	25		AFF	PL 738	C	54
32	6080	2		AMD	PL 659		11	32	20101			NEW	PL 738	A	7
32	6152	2		AMD	PL 542		1	32	20101			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	6153	1	B	AMD	PL 542		2	32	20102			NEW	PL 738	A	7
32	6153	1-A		NEW	PL 542		3	32	20102			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	6153	1-B		NEW	PL 542		4	32	20103			NEW	PL 738	A	7
32	6153	6		AMD	PL 542		5	32	20103			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	6154	1	A-1	NEW	PL 542		6	32	20104			NEW	PL 738	A	7
32	6207-D			NEW	PL 687		6	32	20104			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	7001-A	7-A		NEW	PL 584		1	32	20111			NEW	PL 738	A	7
32	7001-A	8-A		NEW	PL 584		2	32	20111			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	7009			NEW	PL 687		7	32	20112			NEW	PL 738	A	7
32	7051			AMD	PL 584		3	32	20112			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	7053		1st	AMD	PL 584		4	32	20113			NEW	PL 738	A	7
32	7053	1		AMD	PL 584		5, 6	32	20113			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	7053	2-A		AMD	PL 584		7	32	20114			NEW	PL 738	A	7
32	7053	2-B		NEW	PL 584		8	32	20114			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	7053	3		AMD	PL 584		9	32	20115			NEW	PL 738	A	7
32	7053	3-B		AMD	PL 584		10	32	20115			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	7053	3-C		AMD	PL 584		11	32	20121			NEW	PL 738	A	7
32	7053-A	4		AMD	PL 584		12	32	20121			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	7060			AMD	PL 584		13	32	20122			NEW	PL 738	A	7
32	7352	1		RP	PL 704		7	32	20122			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	7353	3		RP	PL 704		8	32	20123			NEW	PL 738	A	7
32	7371			RP	PL 704		9	32	20123			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	8103	1-A		RP	PL 704		10	32	20124			NEW	PL 738	A	7
32	8103-A			RP	PL 704		11	32	20124			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	8116	3		AMD	PL 704		12	32	20125			NEW	PL 738	A	7
32	8124		1st	AMD	PL 704		13	32	20125			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	9855	4		AMD	PL 738	C	45	32	20126			NEW	PL 738	A	7
32	9855	4		AFF	PL 738	C	54	32	20126			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	11013	12		NEW	PL 649		7	32	20127			NEW	PL 738	A	7
32	11013	13		NEW	PL 649		8	32	20127			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	12512	1	B	COR	RR 1	B	9	32	20128			NEW	PL 738	A	7
32	13742-A	1	F	AMD	PL 544		1	32	20128			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	13742-A	1	G	AMD	PL 544		2	32	20129			NEW	PL 738	A	7
32	13742-A	1	H	NEW	PL 544		3	32	20129			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	13758	4		RPR	PL 544		4	32	20130			NEW	PL 738	A	7
32	13786-C		1st	AMD	PL 738	C	46	32	20130			AFF	PL 738	A	9
32	13786-C		1st	AFF	PL 738	C	54	32	20131			NEW	PL 738	A	7
32	13810	2		AMD	PL 738	C	47	32	20131			AFF	PL 738	A	9

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32	20132			AFF	PL 738	A	9	33	2061	14-A		NEW	PL 675		6
32	20133			NEW	PL 738	A	7	33	2062			AMD	PL 675		7
32	20133			AFF	PL 738	A	9	33	2063	2		RP	PL 675		8
32	20141			NEW	PL 738	A	7	33	2064	1		AMD	PL 675		9
32	20141			AFF	PL 738	A	9	33	2064	2		RP	PL 675		10
32	20142			NEW	PL 738	A	7	33	2064	3		RP	PL 675		11
32	20142			AFF	PL 738	A	9	33	2066	1	A	AMD	PL 675		12
32	20143			NEW	PL 738	A	7	33	2067-A			NEW	PL 675		13
32	20143			AFF	PL 738	A	9	33	2070	2	C	AMD	PL 675		14
32	20144			NEW	PL 738	A	7	33	2070	2	E	AMD	PL 675		15
32	20144			AFF	PL 738	A	9	33	2071			AMD	PL 675		16
32	20151			NEW	PL 738	A	7	33	2081		1st	COR	RR 1	A	45
32	20151			AFF	PL 738	A	9	33	2081	5		NEW	PL 675		17
32	20152			NEW	PL 738	A	7	33	2093	2		AMD	PL 675		18
32	20152			AFF	PL 738	A	9	33	2101	3		AMD	PL 675		19
32	20153			NEW	PL 738	A	7	33	2102	2	D	AMD	PL 675		20
32	20153			AFF	PL 738	A	9	33	2102	2	E	AMD	PL 675		21
32	20154			NEW	PL 738	A	7	33	2112			AMD	PL 675		22
32	20154			AFF	PL 738	A	9	33	2112	3		NEW	PL 675		23
32	20155			NEW	PL 738	A	7	33	2120	4		NEW	PL 675		24
32	20155			AFF	PL 738	A	9	33	2121			NEW	PL 675		25
32	20156			NEW	PL 738	A	7	33	2132			AMD	PL 675		26
32	20156			AFF	PL 738	A	9	33	2133			AMD	PL 675		27
32	20157			NEW	PL 738	A	7	33	2136			NEW	PL 675		28
32	20157			AFF	PL 738	A	9	33	2153	1		AMD	PL 675		29
32	20158			NEW	PL 738	A	7	33	2164		1st	AMD	PL 675		30
32	20158			AFF	PL 738	A	9	33	2165	4		RP	PL 675		31
32	20159			NEW	PL 738	A	7	33	2166			AMD	PL 675		32
32	20159			AFF	PL 738	A	9	33	2211			AMD	PL 675		33
32	20160			NEW	PL 738	A	7	33	2211	3		NEW	PL 675		34
32	20160			AFF	PL 738	A	9	33	2212	1		AMD	PL 675		35
32	20161			NEW	PL 738	A	7	33	2213	1	D	AMD	PL 675		36
32	20161			AFF	PL 738	A	9	33	2213	1	E	AMD	PL 675		37
32	20162			NEW	PL 738	A	7	33	2213	1	F	NEW	PL 675		38
32	20162			AFF	PL 738	A	9	33	2214			AMD	PL 675		39
32	20163			NEW	PL 738	A	7								
32	20163			AFF	PL 738	A	9	34-A	1214-C			NEW	PL 528		2
32	20181			NEW	PL 738	A	7	34-A	1401	2	B	AMD	PL 694		7
32	20181			AFF	PL 738	A	9	34-A	1402	15		RAL	RR 1	A	46
32	20182			NEW	PL 738	A	7	34-A	1402	16		RAL	RR 1	A	46
32	20182			AFF	PL 738	A	9	34-A	3001-A	1		AMD	PL 765		1
32	20183			NEW	PL 738	A	7	34-A	3001-B			NEW	PL 765		2
32	20183			AFF	PL 738	A	9	34-A	3001-B			AFF	PL 765		3
32	20184			NEW	PL 738	A	7	34-A	7009			AMD	PL 624		1
32	20184			AFF	PL 738	A	9								
32	20185			NEW	PL 738	A	7	34-B	1001	4-C		NEW	PL 610		1
32	20185			AFF	PL 738	A	9	34-B	1001	4-D		NEW	PL 610		2
								34-B	3012			RAL	RR 1	A	47
33	173	1	E	AMD	PL 746		4	34-B	3012	3		AMD	PL 655	A	47
33	459-A			NEW	PL 691		5	34-B	3013			RAL	RR 1	A	47
33	476	1		AMD	PL 609		1	34-B	3613			RPR	PL 655	C	16
33	476	2	A	AMD	PL 609		2	34-B	3614			RP	PL 655	C	17
33	580			COR	RR 1	A	44	34-B	3621			RP	PL 610		4
33	767-A			NEW	PL 691		6	34-B	3625			NEW	PL 610		5
33	1603-117 (a)			AMD	PL 655	C	15	34-B	3801	4-A	D	AMD	PL 655	A	48
33	2052	23-A		NEW	PL 675		1	34-B	3862-A	4	B	AMD	PL 545		1
33	2052	24	B	AMD	PL 675		2	34-B	3864	10		AMD	PL 511		17
33	2052	32-A		NEW	PL 675		3	34-B	3873-B	2		AMD	PL 576		1
33	2061	5		AMD	PL 675		4	34-B	7003	6		AMD	PL 738	C	49

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34-B	7003	7		AMD	PL 738	C	50	35-A	3408	5		AMD	PL 597	A	41
34-B	7003	7		AFF	PL 738	C	54	35-A	3408	6		AMD	PL 597	B	6
34-B	15003	9		AMD	PL 522		2	35-A	3409		1st	AMD	PL 597	A	42
								35-A	3409	1	B	AMD	PL 597	A	43
35-A	103-B			NEW	PL 588		1	35-A	3454		1st	AMD	PL 597	A	44
35-A	107	1	B	AMD	PL 680		1	35-A	3454	5		AMD	PL 597	A	45
35-A	107	1	C	AMD	PL 680		2	35-A	3474	4		AMD	PL 680		5
35-A	107	1	D	RP	PL 680		3	35-A	3475			NEW	PL 644		1
35-A	107	2	F	RP	PL 680		4	35-A	3483	3		AMD	PL 555		6
35-A	123	2		AMD	PL 597	A	14	35-A	3802	2		RP	PL 597	A	46
35-A	123	4		AMD	PL 597	A	15	35-A	3802	2-A		NEW	PL 597	A	47
35-A	301-A			NEW	PL 766		1	35-A	3803	2	A	AMD	PL 597	A	48
35-A	1714	1	B	AMD	PL 597	A	16	35-A	3803	2	B	AMD	PL 597	A	49
35-A	1904		1st	AMD	PL 597	A	17	35-A	3803	3		AMD	PL 597	A	50
35-A	1904	1	C	AMD	PL 597	A	18	35-A	3803	4		AMD	PL 597	A	51
35-A	3107	2		AMD	PL 766		2	35-A	3805	2		AMD	PL 597	A	52
35-A	3107	3		AMD	PL 766		3	35-A	4131	3	C	AMD	PL 597	A	53
35-A	3107	4		NEW	PL 766		4	35-A	10103	2	A	AMD	PL 597	A	54
35-A	3132-B	1		AMD	PL 681		1	35-A	10104	4		AMD	PL 597	A	55
35-A	3132-C	4		AMD	PL 681		2	35-A	10126	3-A	C	COR	RR 1	A	48
35-A	3132-C	5		NEW	PL 681		3	35-A	10305	1	H	AMD	PL 558		1
35-A	3133-B			NEW	PL 646		1	35-A	10305	1	I	AMD	PL 558		2
35-A	3145			AMD	PL 597	A	19	35-A	10305	1	J	NEW	PL 558		3
35-A	3147	4	D	AMD	PL 597	A	20	35-A	10312	1	B	AMD	PL 597	B	7
35-A	3149		1st	AMD	PL 681		4	35-A	10312	5		AMD	PL 597	B	8
35-A	3156		5th	AMD	PL 650	TT	3	35-A	10313		1st	COR	RR 1	A	49
35-A	3202	3		AMD	PL 665		1	35-A	10313	7		AMD	PL 597	B	9
35-A	3203	4-D		NEW	PL 640		1	35-A	10313	9		AMD	PL 597	B	10
35-A	3209	5	B	AMD	PL 555		1	35-A	10313	10		COR	RR 1	A	50
35-A	3209	6		AMD	PL 555		2	35-A	10314			NEW	PL 703		1
35-A	3209-A	5	G-1	NEW	PL 575		4								
35-A	3209-A	12		NEW	PL 766		5	36	111	1-A		AMD	PL 650	K	1
35-A	3209-C	2	B	AMD	PL 555		3	36	111	1-A		AFF	PL 650	K	27
35-A	3209-C	2	C	NEW	PL 555		4	36	111	1-C		RP	PL 734	B	3
35-A	3209-F			NEW	PL 532		1	36	111	1-C		AFF	PL 734	B	15
35-A	3209-H	2	B	AMD	PL 597	A	21	36	111	1-H		NEW	PL 734	B	4
35-A	3209-I	2		AMD	PL 597	A	22	36	111	1-H		AFF	PL 734	B	15
35-A	3210	2		AMD	PL 597	A	24	36	111	2		AMD	PL 662	A	1
35-A	3210	2	A-4	AMD	PL 597	A	23	36	112	7-A		AMD	PL 734	B	5
35-A	3210	3-B	B	AMD	PL 597	A	25	36	112	7-A		AFF	PL 734	B	15
35-A	3210	3-D	B	AMD	PL 597	A	26	36	151			AMD	PL 734	B	6
35-A	3210	11		AMD	PL 597	A	27	36	151			AFF	PL 734	B	15
35-A	3210-F			AMD	PL 555		5	36	151-A	2		AMD	PL 734	B	7
35-A	3210-I	1	F	AMD	PL 597	A	28	36	151-A	2		AFF	PL 734	B	15
35-A	3210-I	2	A-1	AMD	PL 597	A	29	36	151-C	2	C	AMD	PL 734	A	1
35-A	3210-I	3	A-1	AMD	PL 597	A	30	36	151-C	2	D	AMD	PL 734	A	2
35-A	3210-L			NEW	PL 766		6	36	151-C	2	E	NEW	PL 734	A	3
35-A	3214	2		AMD	PL 650	EEEE	1	36	151-D			RP	PL 734	B	8
35-A	3218			NEW	PL 575		5	36	151-D			AFF	PL 734	B	15
35-A	3219			NEW	PL 665		2	36	151-E			NEW	PL 734	B	9
35-A	3401-A	14		RP	PL 597	A	31	36	151-E			AFF	PL 734	B	15
35-A	3404	2		AMD	PL 597	A	32	36	191	2	C	AMD	PL 734	B	10
35-A	3405	3	D	AMD	PL 597	A	33	36	191	2	C	AFF	PL 734	B	15
35-A	3406	1		AMD	PL 597	A	34	36	191	2	XX	AMD	PL 734	B	11
35-A	3406	2		AMD	PL 597	A	35	36	191	2	XX	AFF	PL 734	B	15
35-A	3406	3		AMD	PL 597	A	36	36	191	2	YY	AMD	PL 734	B	12
35-A	3406	4		AMD	PL 597	A	37	36	191	2	YY	AFF	PL 734	B	15
35-A	3407			AMD	PL 597	A	38	36	192	1		COR	RR 1	F	1
35-A	3408	1		AMD	PL 597	A	39	36	271	2	A	AMD	PL 734	C	2-4

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36	501	4		COR	RR 1	F	2	36	2893	2-B		NEW	PL 650	L	3
36	502		1st	AMD	PL 662	C	1	36	2893	2-B		AFF	PL 650	L	5
36	507	1		AMD	PL 662	D	1	36	2903-D	2	A	AMD	PL 676		7
36	651	1	F	AMD	PL 705	E	1	36	2903-D	2	A	AFF	PL 676		9
36	651	1	G	AMD	PL 705	E	2	36	3202	8		COR	RR 1	F	4
36	651	1	H	NEW	PL 705	E	3	36	3914			COR	RR 1	F	5
36	653	3		NEW	PL 650	M	2	36	3917			COR	RR 1	F	6
36	654-A	6		NEW	PL 650	M	3	36	3984			COR	RR 1	F	7
36	681	2		AMD	PL 650	M	4	36	4043		1st	COR	RR 1	F	8
36	681	6		NEW	PL 650	M	5	36	4043		2nd	COR	RR 1	F	9
36	682		1st	AMD	PL 650	M	6	36	4045			COR	RR 1	F	10
36	683	6		NEW	PL 650	M	7	36	4065	1		COR	RR 1	F	11
36	683-A			NEW	PL 650	M	8	36	4071	2	B	COR	RR 1	F	12
36	684	1		AMD	PL 650	M	9	36	4071	2	D	COR	RR 1	F	13
36	684	1-A		NEW	PL 650	M	10	36	4071	2	E	COR	RR 1	F	14
36	684	2-A		NEW	PL 650	M	11	36	4078		2nd	COR	RR 1	F	15
36	684	3		AMD	PL 650	M	12	36	4365-F			RP	PL 655	A	51
36	684	4		AMD	PL 650	M	13	36	4403	1		AMD	PL 662	B	6
36	684	5		NEW	PL 650	M	14	36	4403	1-A		AMD	PL 662	B	7
36	684	6		NEW	PL 650	M	15	36	4605	4		COR	RR 1	F	16
36	685	6		NEW	PL 650	M	16	36	4605	7		COR	RR 1	F	17
36	691	1	A	AMD	PL 768		1-3	36	4641-B	4-B	E-4	NEW	PL 729		1
36	691	1	A-1	NEW	PL 768		4	36	4641-B	4-B	E-4	AFF	PL 729		3
36	841	4		RPR	PL 650	M	17	36	4641-C	21		COR	RR 1	A	51
36	943		4th	AMD	PL 662	C	2	36	4641-C	22		COR	RR 1	A	52
36	948		1st	AMD	PL 662	C	3	36	4641-C	22		RAL	RR 1	A	53
36	949			RP	PL 662	C	4	36	4641-C	22		AFF	RR 1	A	54
36	1109	3	M	AMD	PL 706		33	36	4641-C	23		RAL	RR 1	A	53
36	1281		1st	AMD	PL 662	C	5	36	4921	9-A		NEW	PL 504		1
36	1283			AMD	PL 662	C	6	36	4923	6		AMD	PL 504		2
36	1482	1	C	AMD	PL 523		1	36	4923	7		NEW	PL 504		3
36	1482	1	C	AFF	PL 757	G	1	36	4923	8		NEW	PL 504		4
36	1482	1	C-1	NEW	PL 523		2	36	5102	1-C	B	COR	RR 1	F	18
36	1482	1	C-1	AFF	PL 757	G	1	36	5102	4	A	COR	RR 1	F	19
36	1483	12		AMD	PL 578		1	36	5102	5-B		NEW	PL 705	B	1
36	1483	12-A		NEW	PL 578		2	36	5102	5-B		AFF	PL 705	B	3
36	1545		1st	AMD	PL 655	A	49	36	5111	7		NEW	PL 650	DDDD	1
36	1546		1st	AMD	PL 655	A	50	36	5122	1	KK	AMD	PL 662	A	2
36	1752	6-K		AMD	PL 662	B	1	36	5122	1	QQ	NEW	PL 650	K	2
36	1760	5-A		AMD	PL 662	B	2	36	5122	1	QQ	AFF	PL 650	K	27
36	1760	7-A		COR	RR 1	F	3	36	5122	1	QQ	NEW	PL 650	N	1
36	1760	18-A		AMD	PL 594		11	36	5122	1	QQ	AFF	PL 650	N	8
36	1760	58		RP	PL 662	B	3	36	5122	1	QQ	NEW	PL 662	A	3
36	1760	74	A	AMD	PL 662	B	4	36	5122	1	RR	NEW	PL 650	K	3
36	1760	74	B	AMD	PL 662	B	5	36	5122	1	RR	AFF	PL 650	K	27
36	1760	113		AMD	PL 705	C	1	36	5122	1	SS	NEW	PL 650	K	4
36	1760	113		AFF	PL 705	C	2	36	5122	1	SS	AFF	PL 650	K	27
36	1760	114		AMD	PL 705	D	1	36	5122	1	TT	NEW	PL 650	K	5
36	1815	2		AMD	PL 705	D	2	36	5122	1	TT	AFF	PL 650	K	27
36	2013	1	B-1	AMD	PL 650	XXX	1	36	5122	1	UU	NEW	PL 650	K	6
36	2013	1	B-1	AFF	PL 650	XXX	5	36	5122	1	UU	AFF	PL 650	K	27
36	2013	1	C	AMD	PL 650	XXX	2, 3	36	5122	2	L	RP	PL 662	D	2
36	2013	1	C	AFF	PL 650	XXX	5	36	5122	2	M-3	AMD	PL 662	A	4-7
36	2013	1	D	NEW	PL 650	XXX	4	36	5122	2	M-3	COR	RR 1	A	55
36	2013	1	D	AFF	PL 650	XXX	5	36	5122	2	QQ	AMD	PL 662	D	3
36	2723-A	5-A		AMD	PL 662	C	7	36	5122	2	RR	AMD	PL 662	A	8
36	2892		10th	AMD	PL 650	L	1	36	5122	2	SS	AMD	PL 738	C	51
36	2892		10th	AFF	PL 650	L	5	36	5122	2	SS	AFF	PL 738	C	54
36	2892		11th	NEW	PL 650	L	2	36	5122	2	AAA	AMD	PL 688		16

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36	5122	2	BBB	NEW	PL 650	K	7	36	5200-A	2	FF	AMD	PL 662	A	11	
36	5122	2	BBB	AFF	PL 650	K	27	36	5200-A	2	JJ	AMD	PL 688		17	
36	5122	2	BBB	NEW	PL 705	B	2	36	5200-A	2	KK	NEW	PL 650	K	22	
36	5122	2	BBB	AFF	PL 705	B	3	36	5200-A	2	KK	AFF	PL 650	K	27	
36	5122	2	CCC	NEW	PL 650	K	8	36	5200-A	2	LL	NEW	PL 650	K	23	
36	5122	2	CCC	AFF	PL 650	K	27	36	5200-A	2	LL	AFF	PL 650	K	27	
36	5122	2	DDD	NEW	PL 650	K	9	36	5200-A	2	MM	NEW	PL 650	K	24	
36	5122	2	DDD	AFF	PL 650	K	27	36	5200-A	2	MM	AFF	PL 650	K	27	
36	5124-C			AMD	PL 650	K	10	36	5211	1		COR	RR	1	F	
36	5124-C			AFF	PL 650	K	27	36	5211	2		COR	RR	1	F	
36	5124-C	1		RP	PL 650	K	11	36	5214-A	2		COR	RR	1	F	
36	5124-C	1		AFF	PL 650	K	27	36	5217-A			RPR	PL 650	N	4	
36	5124-C	1-A		AMD	PL 650	K	12	36	5217-A			AFF	PL 650	N	8	
36	5124-C	1-A		AFF	PL 650	K	27	36	5219-KK	2-D		AMD	PL 650	CCCC	1	
36	5124-C	1-B		AMD	PL 650	K	13	36	5219-KK	2-E		AMD	PL 650	M	18	
36	5124-C	1-B		AFF	PL 650	K	27	36	5219-LL	1	A	AMD	PL 738	C	52	
36	5124-C	1-B	A	AMD	PL 752		1	36	5219-LL	1	A	AFF	PL 738	C	54	
36	5124-C	1-C		NEW	PL 650	K	14	36	5219-SS			AMD	PL 650	K	25	
36	5124-C	1-C		AFF	PL 650	K	27	36	5219-SS			AFF	PL 650	K	27	
36	5124-C	1-D		NEW	PL 650	K	15	36	5219-UU			RP	PL 650	K	26	
36	5124-C	1-D		AFF	PL 650	K	27	36	5219-UU			AFF	PL 650	K	27	
36	5126			RP	PL 650	K	16	36	5219-WW	3		AMD	PL 699		1	
36	5126			AFF	PL 650	K	27	36	5219-AAA	1	C-1	NEW	PL 768		5	
36	5160			AMD	PL 650	DDDD	2	36	5219-AAA	1	G	AMD	PL 768		6	
36	5190		1st	AMD	PL 650	N	2	36	5219-AAA	3	D	AMD	PL 768		7	
36	5190		1st	AFF	PL 650	N	8	36	5219-AAA	3	E	AMD	PL 768		8	
36	5192	1		COR	RR	1	F	20	36	5219-AAA	3	F	NEW	PL 768		9
36	5192	2		COR	RR	1	F	21	36	5219-CCC			NEW	PL 650	N	5
36	5192	3		COR	RR	1	F	22	36	5219-CCC			AFF	PL 650	N	8
36	5192	5		COR	RR	1	F	23	36	5219-CCC			NEW	PL 713		1
36	5199-A			NEW	PL 650	N	3	36	5222	1		COR	RR	1	F	27
36	5199-A			AFF	PL 650	N	8	36	5222	2		COR	RR	1	F	28
36	5199-B			NEW	PL 650	N	3	36	5227-A	2		COR	RR	1	A	56
36	5199-B			AFF	PL 650	N	8	36	5228	1	B	AMD	PL 650	N	6	
36	5199-C			NEW	PL 650	N	3	36	5228	1	B	AFF	PL 650	N	8	
36	5199-C			AFF	PL 650	N	8	36	5231	1-A		AMD	PL 650	N	7	
36	5199-D			NEW	PL 650	N	3	36	5231	1-A		AFF	PL 650	N	8	
36	5199-D			AFF	PL 650	N	8	36	5257			COR	RR	1	F	29
36	5199-E			NEW	PL 650	N	3	36	5295	4	B	AMD	PL 662	A	12	
36	5199-E			AFF	PL 650	N	8	36	5311	1		COR	RR	1	F	30
36	5199-F			NEW	PL 650	N	3	36	5403	9		COR	RR	1	A	57
36	5199-F			AFF	PL 650	N	8	36	5403	10		AMD	PL 650	DDDD	3	
36	5199-G			NEW	PL 650	N	3	36	5403	10		COR	RR	1	A	58
36	5199-G			AFF	PL 650	N	8	36	5403	10		RAL	RR	1	A	59
36	5199-H			NEW	PL 650	N	3	36	5403	11		AMD	PL 650	DDDD	4	
36	5199-H			AFF	PL 650	N	8	36	5403	11		RAL	RR	1	A	59
36	5199-I			NEW	PL 650	N	3	36	5403	12		NEW	PL 650	DDDD	5	
36	5199-I			AFF	PL 650	N	8	36	6214			COR	RR	1	F	31
36	5200-A	1	CC	AMD	PL 662	A	9	36	6232	1		COR	RR	1	A	60
36	5200-A	1	II	NEW	PL 662	A	10	36	6234	1	B	AMD	PL 650	M	19	
36	5200-A	1	LL	NEW	PL 650	K	17	36	6252	2		AMD	PL 662	C	8	
36	5200-A	1	LL	AFF	PL 650	K	27	36	6254	2-B		AMD	PL 662	C	9	
36	5200-A	1	MM	NEW	PL 650	K	18	36	6652	1-D		AMD	PL 650	O	1	
36	5200-A	1	MM	AFF	PL 650	K	27	36	6652	4		AMD	PL 650	O	2	
36	5200-A	1	NN	NEW	PL 650	K	19									
36	5200-A	1	NN	AFF	PL 650	K	27	37-B	185	1-A		AMD	PL 738	C	53	
36	5200-A	1	OO	NEW	PL 650	K	20	37-B	185	1-A		AFF	PL 738	C	54	
36	5200-A	1	OO	AFF	PL 650	K	27	37-B	513-B			NEW	PL 636		1	
36	5200-A	2	EE	AMD	PL 650	K	21	37-B	518			NEW	PL 763		1	
36	5200-A	2	EE	AFF	PL 650	K	27	37-B	742	2	B	AMD	PL 597	A	56	

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37-B	748			NEW	PL 728		1	38	590	1		AMD	PL 651		2
38	341-D	4		AMD	PL 618		1	38	590	1	F	NEW	PL 651		1
38	424-C	5-A		NEW	PL 525		1	38	634	3		AMD	PL 597	A	62
38	450			NEW	PL 715		1	38	640		1st	AMD	PL 597	A	63
38	465	1	B	AMD	PL 616		1	38	1303-C	40		AMD	PL 655	C	18
38	465	2	B	AMD	PL 616		2	38	1306	8		NEW	PL 769		1
38	465	3	B	AMD	PL 616		3	38	1310-N	10-C		NEW	PL 651		3
38	465	4	B	AMD	PL 616		4	38	1310-N	10-D		NEW	PL 651		4
38	465-A	1	B	AMD	PL 616		5	38	1310-Y			AMD	PL 621		1
38	465-B	2	B	AMD	PL 616		6	38	1310-AA	1-B	C	NEW	PL 651		5
38	465-B	3	A	AMD	PL 616		7	38	1480-A			AMD	PL 597	A	64
38	465-B	3	B	AMD	PL 616		8	38	1604	2		AMD	PL 608		1
38	467	1	C	AMD	PL 616		9	38	1604	2-A		NEW	PL 608		2
38	467	4	G	AMD	PL 616		10	38	1617			NEW	PL 608		3
38	467	4	H	AMD	PL 616		11	38	1618			NEW	PL 769		2
38	467	7	E	AMD	PL 616		12	38	2152-A	4		NEW	PL 651		6
38	467	7	F	AMD	PL 616		13	38	2165	2		AMD	PL 608		4
38	480-B	1-C		NEW	PL 706		34	38	2165	4		AMD	PL 608		5
38	480-B	5-D		NEW	PL 706		35	38	3107	1		AMD	PL 655	A	52
38	480-B	10	B	AMD	PL 706		36	38	3113		1st	AMD	PL 655	A	53
38	480-E	19		RAL	RR 1	A	61	38	3119	1		AMD	PL 731		1
38	480-E	20		RAL	RR 1	A	61	38	3201	1		AMD	PL 597	A	65
38	480-Q	33		AMD	PL 590		1	38	3301	1		AMD	PL 566		2
38	480-Q	34		AMD	PL 590		2	38	3301	2		RP	PL 566		3
38	480-Q	35		NEW	PL 590		3	38	3301	8		RP	PL 566		4
38	480-Q	36		NEW	PL 590		4	38	3301	11		AMD	PL 566		5
38	480-Q	37		NEW	PL 590		5	38	3301	11-A		NEW	PL 566		6
38	480-R	1		AMD	PL 715		2	38	3301	13		NEW	PL 566		7
38	480-U	2	A	AMD	PL 706		37	38	3302		1st	AMD	PL 566		8
38	480-X	5		AMD	PL 706		38	38	3303	2		AMD	PL 566		9
38	480-X	6	A	AMD	PL 590		6	38	3304	1		AMD	PL 566		10
38	480-Y	2	C	AMD	PL 706		39	38	3304	6	B	AMD	PL 566		11
38	480-Z	7	E	AMD	PL 590		7	38	3304	7	B	AMD	PL 566		12
38	480-Z	7	F	AMD	PL 590		8	38	3305	3		AMD	PL 566		13
38	480-Z	7	G	NEW	PL 590		9	39-A	309	3		AMD	PL 655	A	54
38	480-Z	7	H	NEW	PL 590		10	39-A	309	3		COR	RR 1	B	10
38	480-Z	8		NEW	PL 590		11	39-A	309	4		AMD	PL 655	A	55
38	480-BB		1st	AMD	PL 706		40								
38	480-HH	3	H	AMD	PL 597	A	57								
38	482	5		AMD	PL 554		1								
38	484	10		AMD	PL 597	A	58								
38	484-C	2		AMD	PL 597	A	59								
38	488	17		AMD	PL 554		2								
38	488	17-A		NEW	PL 554		3								
38	488	19		AMD	PL 554		4								
38	489-E		1st	AMD	PL 554		5								
38	490-D	1		AMD	PL 706		41								
38	490-Z	1		AMD	PL 706		42								
38	490-OO	2	C	COR	RR 1	A	62								
38	577	8		AMD	PL 597	A	60								
38	577-A	1	O	AMD	PL 597	A	61								
38	580-B	3		AMD	PL 550		1								
38	580-B	4	C	RP	PL 550		2								
38	580-B	4	F	AMD	PL 597	B	11								
38	580-B	6	A	AMD	PL 597	B	12								
38	580-B	10		AMD	PL 597	B	13								
38	580-B	10	D	RP	PL 550		3								
38	580-C	1		AMD	PL 550		4								
38	580-C	2		RP	PL 550		5								

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TABLE II

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			(TYPE)						(TYPE)			(TYPE)					
2023	3	C5	AMD	PL	2025	650	D1		2025	398	4	AMD	PL	2025	688	18	
2023	643	D2	AMD	PL	2025	650	D2		2025	476	B2/6	RP	PL	2025	597	B14	
2023	643	D4	AMD	PL	2025	650	D3		2025	492	1	AMD	PL	2025	740	1	
2025	119	1	COR	RR	2025	1	A63		2025	492	1	AFF	PL	2025	740	12	
2025	288	3	NEW	PL	2025	733	23		2025	492	7	AMD	PL	2025	740	2	
2025	288	3	AFF	PL	2025	733	26		2025	492	7	AFF	PL	2025	740	12	
2025	374	2	NEW	PL	2025	733	24		2025	508	2/2ND	AMD	PL	2025	757	B1	
2025	374	2	AFF	PL	2025	733	26		2025	512	3	AMD	PL	2025	757	D1	
2025	385	22	AFF	PL	2025	733	26		2025	520	5/2ND	AMD	PL	2025	757	E2	
2025	385	23	AMD	PL	2025	733	25		2025	520	6	AMD	PL	2025	757	E3	
2025	385	23	AFF	PL	2025	733	26		2025	520	7	AMD	PL	2025	757	E4	
2025	388	A25	COR	RR	2025	1	A64		2025	522	3	AMD	PL	2025	757	F2	
2025	388	D48/7	NEW	PL	2025	736	5		2025	522	5/1ST	AMD	PL	2025	757	F3	
2025	388	D48/7	AFF	PL	2025	736	7		2025	523	3	AMD	PL	2025	757	G1	
2025	388	FF1	AMD	PL	2025	650	HHH1		2025	536	6	AMD	PL	2025	757	I2	
2025	388	FF2	AMD	PL	2025	650	HHH2		2025	650	N8	AMD	PL	2025	752	2	
2025	388	II4	AMD	PL	2025	650	AAA1		2025	650	FF4	AMD	PL	2025	752	3	

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