

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS  
OF THE  
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

January 5, 1977 to July 25, 1977

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ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,  
TITLE 3, SECTION 164, SUBSECTION 6.

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PORTLAND LITHOGRAPH COMPANY  
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1977

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PUBLIC LAWS  
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## CHAPTER 26

### AN ACT to Amend the Duties of the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services Relating to Bilingual Education.

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

20 MRSA § 102, sub-§ 16, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 225, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

16. Bilingual education. The commissioner is empowered to cooperate with the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare in carrying out the Bilingual Education Program Act and any other federal programs as may concern the improvement of educational programs designed to meet the educational needs of children in areas with nonEnglish-speaking families.

Subject to the annual approval of the commissioner, the school committee or the school directors of any administrative unit having children from non-English-speaking families may provide programs involving bilingual education techniques designed to provide children at the elementary grades with educational experiences to enhance their learning. If an emergency situation should be created at the secondary level, the commissioner may give temporary approval for such programs.

Effective October 24, 1977

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## CHAPTER 27

### AN ACT to Advance the Schedule for Legislative Approval of County Budgets and to Change the Interest Charges on Delinquent County Taxes.

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

Sec. 1. 30 MRSA § 252, 1st ¶, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 716, § 1, is further amended to read:

In order to assess a county tax, county commissioners, prior to ~~December~~ ~~not~~ ~~November~~ ~~7th~~ in each year, shall prepare estimates of the sums necessary to defray the expenses which have accrued or may probably accrue for the coming year, including the building and repairing of jails, courthouses and appurtenances, with the debts owed by their counties and after newspaper notice, written notices of which shall be transmitted by registered or certified mail with return receipt requested to the clerk of each municipality in said county and to each member of the Legislature of said county, hold a public hearing thereon in the county, prior to ~~December 20th~~ December 1st.

Sec. 2. 30 MRSA § 252, 2nd ¶, last sentence, as enacted by PL 1971, c. 380, § 2, is amended to read:

A copy of such estimate shall be distributed to each municipality in said county and to each member of the legislative delegation of said county, at least 10 days prior to ~~meeting of December 20th~~ the required public hearing.

Sec. 3. 30 MRSA § 252, 3rd ¶, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 716, § 1, is further amended to read:

Copies of such forms shall be transmitted to the county commissioners of each county by the office of the Secretary of State no later than ~~October 10th~~ September 19th of each year.

Sec. 4. 30 MRSA § 253, 1st ¶, 2nd and 3rd sentences, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 716, § 2, is further amended to read:

A copy of such estimates shall be transmitted by registered mail by the county commissioners to each municipality in their respective counties on or before the ~~20th~~ 1st day of December in each year. A copy thereof shall be signed by the chairman of the county commissioners and attested by their clerk, who shall transmit it to the office of the Secretary of State on or before the ~~20th~~ 1st day of each January, together with the county reports for the 2 preceding years, to be by him laid before the Legislature.

Sec. 5. 30 MRSA § 254, 1st sentence, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 155, is further amended to read:

When a county tax is authorized, the county commissioners shall, in ~~April~~ **March** in the year for which such tax is granted, apportion it upon the towns and other places according to the last state valuation and fix the time for the payment of the same, which shall not be earlier than the first day of the following September.

Sec. 6. 30 MRSA § 254, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 155, is further amended by adding a new paragraph at the end to read:

The county may collect delinquent county taxes and charge interest on delinquent county taxes as provided under Title 36, sections 891, 892 and 892-A.

Sec. 7. 36 MRSA § 892, 1st sentence, is amended to read:

Beginning with the first day of January, following the date on which state ~~or county~~ taxes are levied, interest at  $\frac{1}{2}\%$  per month or fraction thereof shall accrue on any unpaid balances that are then due.

Sec. 8. 36 MRSA § 892-A is enacted to read:  
§ 892-A. Interest on delinquent county taxes

Interest shall accrue on all unpaid balances of the county tax that are then due, beginning on the 60th day after the date for payment set by the county commissioners under Title 30, section 254. County taxes, not paid prior to the 60th day after the date for payment, are delinquent.

The rate of interest shall be specified by vote of the county commissioners and a notification of this rate shall be included in the warrant to assessors required under Title 30, section 254. The rate of interest shall not exceed 1% per month or fraction thereof. The specified rate of interest shall apply to delinquent taxes committed during the taxable year until those taxes are paid in full, and the interest shall be added to and become part of the taxes.

Effective October 24, 1977

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## CHAPTER 28

AN ACT Relating to School Age under the Education Laws.

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

Sec. 1. 20 MRSA § 859, 2nd ¶, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 212, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 20 MRSA § 859, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 746, § 12-B, is further amended by inserting after the 2nd paragraph the following:

Notwithstanding the age requirements of this section, a pupil who was enrolled in a public kindergarten or in grade 1 in another state may be admitted to kindergarten or to grade 1, respectively, in the administrative unit in which his parents or guardian establish their residency. Also, notwithstanding the age requirements of this section, a pupil who was enrolled in a public kindergarten in another state and was promoted to grade 1 may be admitted to grade 1 in the administrative unit in which his parents or guardian establish their residency.

Sec. 3. 20 MRSA § 859, 4th ¶, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 746, § 12-B, is repealed.

Effective October 24, 1977

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## CHAPTER 29

AN ACT Concerning a Limitation for Imposing a Penalty for Violations of the Public Utility Regulatory Law.

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

35 MRSA § 360 is enacted to read:

§ 360. Limitation on imposing penalty