

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

PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH IN
ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 164, SUBSECTION 6.

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PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED AT THE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

of the
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

1977

CHAPTER 274

AN ACT Extending the Time for Apportionment of County Taxes From
May to June in the Year 1977.

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

Whereas, under the present law the county tax must be apportioned upon the towns in the month of April; and

Whereas, approval of the county budgets has been delayed; and

Whereas, the following extension of time will prevent undue hardship in resolving such; and

Whereas, the following legislation to temporarily change the apportionment to the month of June is vitally necessary to prevent undue hardship and confusion on the several counties and municipalities of the 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:

30 MRSA § 254-B, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 64, is amended to read:

§ 254-B. Temporary extension

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 254, when a county tax is authorized, for the year 1977, the county commissioners shall, in ~~April~~ **or the months of May and June** apportion ~~the~~ tax 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.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

Effective June 8, 1977

CHAPTER 275

AN ACT to Provide Limited Immunity to aid in Arson Investigation.

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

25 MRSA § 2402 is enacted to read:

§ 2402. Limited immunity

In the absence of fraud or malice, no insurance company or person who furnished information on its behalf to the Attorney General or his designee is liable for damages in a civil action or subject to criminal prosecution for any oral or written statement made pursuant to investigations authorized pursuant to this chapter.

Effective October 24, 1977

CHAPTER 276

AN ACT Clarifying the Saco River Corridor Commission Statutes.

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

Whereas, thousands of persons use the Saco River annually for canoe trips, from several hours to several days in duration; and

Whereas, many of these canoeists build campfires on private lands after receiving advice and instruction together with permits from local or state fire wardens; and

Whereas, during the past 12 years that these permits have been issued there have been no campfire-caused woods fires along the Saco River; and

Whereas, the Attorney General of the State has determined that the local and state wardens were issuing permits without authority; and

Whereas, a campfire permit system is necessary for the summer season of 1977 in order to provide continuity with prior and future years; 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. 12 MRSA § 1201, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 460, § 18, is further amended by inserting before the last paragraph the following:

Saco River Corridor. Solely for the purpose of the issuance of permits pursuant to section 1402, the lands within Oxford County within the Saco River Corridor, private and special laws of 1973, chapter 150, as amended, are included within the Maine Forestry District. The annual district tax provided by section 1601 shall not be assessed for these lands included within the Maine Forestry District for this limited purpose.