MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION
September 5, 1996 to September 7, 1996

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 4, 1996 to March 27, 1997

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
March 27, 1997 to June 20, 1997

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 26, 1997

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 19, 1997

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

J.S. McCarthy Company
Augusta, Maine
1997

A. The amount of retained state tax increment revenues paid to a municipality may not exceed the amount of tax increment revenues generated by the municipality pursuant to section 5254, subsection 3 and ~~actually~~ required to ~~satisfy the estimated obligations of the~~ be deposited in a development ~~sinking~~ program fund account; and

B. All retained state tax increment revenues not ~~actually~~ required to satisfy the estimated obligations of the development ~~sinking~~ program fund account revert to the State.

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

Effective May 20, 1997.

CHAPTER 221

S.P. 352 - L.D. 1171

An Act to Better Inform Car Repair Customers

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

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §1805, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

2. Flat rate. The notice must also contain the following if it applies:

"We also charge a flat rate for some repairs. Our service manager will explain what a flat rate is and show you how much it may cost you. A flat-rate charge may not match the time actually spent repairing your vehicle. PLEASE ASK US WHETHER WE WILL CHARGE YOU BY THE HOUR OR BY A FLAT RATE."

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 222

H.P. 388 - L.D. 533

An Act to Ensure Public Safety and Proper Allocation of Liability for Gas Pipelines

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

Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §165, sub-§§1 and 2, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 299, §1, are amended to read:

1. Liability without proof of negligence. A natural gas company or an intrastate or interstate natural gas pipeline company that stores, transports or distributes natural gas is liable for all acts and omissions of its servants and agents that cause death or injury to persons or damage to property resulting from explosions or fire caused by natural gas escaping from the natural gas storage, transportation or distribution system under its control or from explosions or fire caused by defects in the natural gas storage, transportation and distribution systems under its control.

2. Rebuttable presumption. When there is death or injury to persons or damage to property resulting from explosions or fire caused by escaping natural gas, there is a rebuttable presumption that the gas escaped because of a defect in a portion of the storage, transportation or distribution system under the company's control.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 223

S.P. 402 - L.D. 1297

An Act Pertaining to Free Meals for Legislators during a Prayer Breakfast

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

Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §602, sub-§2, ¶C, as amended by PL 1995, c. 33, §3, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

C. "Pecuniary benefit" means any advantage in the form of money, property, commercial interest or anything else, the primary significance of which is economic gain; it does not include economic advantage applicable to the public generally, such as tax reduction or increased prosperity generally. "Pecuniary benefit" does not include the following:

(i) A meal, if the meal is provided by industry or special interest organizations as part of an informational program presented to a group of public servants;

(ii) A meal, if the meal is a prayer breakfast or a meal served during a meeting to establish a prayer breakfast; or