

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

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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.

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Augusta, Maine
1997

~~(5) One member to represent low income people; and~~

D. ~~Eight~~ **Four** persons appointed by the Governor, at least ~~4~~ **3** of whom must be chosen from a list of nominations provided by a state-wide coalition for the homeless to represent homeless and formerly homeless people and low-income tenants.

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §5044, as amended by PL 1991, c. 610, §19, is further amended to read:

§5044. Duties

The interagency task force shall advise the state authority with respect to the implementation of this chapter and the development of affordable housing. The task force shall:

~~1. Assist in the development of affordable housing plan. Assist the state authority with the development of the affordable housing plan under subchapter I;~~

~~2. Make recommendations. Make recommendations to the state authority, the Governor and the Legislature with respect to policies, programs and funding under this chapter;~~

~~3. Review programs and policies. Review and examine the plan, programs, policies and funding to determine their effectiveness. The task force shall provide the findings of its review to the persons and organizations set forth in subsection 2;~~

4. Serve as coordinator of information. Serve as a coordinator of information and communication among state agencies and among the state, municipal and private sectors with respect to this chapter; and

5. Assistance to homeless. In cooperation with the state authority, identify the resources available to the homeless and persons with special needs, identify the gaps in delivery services to this population and make recommendations concerning the policies and programs serving this population.

Sec. 3. Study. The Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities shall study and provide recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor by December 1, 1997 on:

A. How best to provide affordable housing and homeless shelter services to those homeless persons with mental illness or substance abuse problems; and

B. The future role and responsibilities, if any, of the interagency task force.

The study must include an inventory of the current safety and health requirements, licenses and permits applicable to homeless shelters, including shelters for families, adolescents, adults and victims of domestic violence.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 553

H.P. 890 - L.D. 1207

An Act Concerning Authorization of Educational Technicians

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §13011, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 1995, c. 207, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

C. Authorize educational technicians for service in schools and approve the employment of other semiprofessional personnel;

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §13011, sub-§1, ¶D, as amended by PL 1995, c. 207, §1, is further amended to read:

D. Seek a revocation of a certificate or authorization in the Administrative Court; and

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §13011, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 845, §4, is amended to read:

4. Appeal. An applicant who has been denied the issuance or renewal of a certificate or authorization by the commissioner under this chapter may appeal that denial in accordance with rules established by the state board and consistent with the provisions of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, Title 5, chapter 375.

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §13023 is enacted to read:

§13023. Educational technician authorization

1. Authorization. The educational technician authorization is a renewable authorization issued to paraprofessional personnel who have achieved minimum educational standards and to those personnel who have been grandfathered into their current positions for work in schools.

2. Qualifications. The commissioner shall adopt rules to define the function, preparation and supervision for the different levels of educational technician authorization. Rules adopted under this

subsection are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

3. Five-year authorization. An educational technician authorization is issued for a 5-year period and may be renewed upon presentation of documentation that the educational technician has completed at least 3 credit hours of professional or academic study or in-service training that is new learning and related to the occupation of educational technicians. Nothing in this section requires a school administrative unit to pay for the cost of the professional or academic study or in-service training of an educational technician.

4. Upgrade of authorization. An educational technician may at any time apply for and receive an upgraded authorization so long as the educational technician presents evidence of meeting the educational preparation requirements for that authorization.

5. Optional local authorization. A school administrative unit may develop and operate an optional local educational technician authorization system under rules adopted by the commissioner. These rules are routine technical rules under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 554

H.P. 1133 - L.D. 1589

An Act to Amend the Composition of the Information Services Policy Board and Establish a Task Force on Information Technology in the Public Sector

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §1892, sub-§§2 to 4, as amended by PL 1989, c. 857, §36, are further amended to read:

2. Advisory members. Advisory members must be appointed by the Legislative Council to represent the agencies of the Legislature that provide research and information to the Legislature and its committees and an advisory member must be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court to ~~assure~~ ensure that the needs of the Legislature and the Judiciary are known and to inform them of available information, access and innovations to be considered. In addition, the Chancellor of the University of Maine System and the President of the Maine Technical College System each shall appoint an advisory member to ensure that the needs of state institutions of higher education are known and to

encourage the development of compatible information systems and the sharing of information and technologies between educational institutions and agencies of State Government.

3. Terms of office. The voting and advisory members representing state agencies of the Legislature, the Judiciary, the University of Maine System, the Maine Technical College System and the office of the Governor shall serve for a period that coincides with the term of appointment to the agency they represent or to the term designated by the appointing authority, unless revoked sooner by the appointing authority. The members of the private sector serve 3-year terms, except that the initial term of one member is 2 years and the initial term of the other members is 3 years.

4. Expenses and compensation. All members are entitled to reimbursement for expenses in accordance with chapter 379. Members representing state agencies, the Executive Office, the Legislature, the University of Maine System, the Maine Technical College System and the Judiciary are reimbursed for expenses from the budgets of the departments they represent.

A. The members of the board are not entitled to compensation.

Sec. 2. Task Force on Information Technology in the Public Sector.

1. Task force established. There is established the Task Force on Information Technology in the Public Sector, referred to in this Act as the "task force." The purpose of the task force is to study the ways in which information regarding state information and information technology is being accessed by local government, schools, libraries and institutions of higher learning and to ensure that access to this information is maximized by compatible technologies.

2. Task force membership. The task force membership must include but not be limited to:

A. The Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services or the commissioner's designee;

B. Two members of the Legislature, one to be appointed by the President of the Senate and one to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

C. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council or the executive director's designee;

D. The Chair of the Information Services Policy Board or the chair's designee;

E. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;