

# 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.**

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**J.S. McCarthy Company**  
**Augusta, Maine**  
**1997**

**PART F**

**Sec. F-1. Study tax relief and tax reform.**

The Joint Standing Committee on Taxation shall study tax relief and tax reform. The study must include, but is not limited to, the following issues: broadening the sales tax base by eliminating current exemptions or exclusions. Specific focus must be made on the "rent-to-own" industry, income tax and revenue targeting.

**1. Staff assistance.** The committee shall request staffing assistance from the Legislative Council.

**2. Reimbursement.** The committee members are entitled to receive the legislative per diem, as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 2, for each day's attendance at meetings of the committee. All members of the committee are entitled to reimbursement for travel and other necessary expenses upon application to the Legislative Council. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall administer the committee budget.

**3. Meetings.** The committee may meet up to 4 times.

**4. Report.** The committee shall present its findings and any recommended legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.

**Sec. F-2. Allocation.** The following funds are allocated from the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents to carry out the purposes of this Part.

**1997-98**

**LEGISLATURE**

**Tax Committee Study**

All Other	\$5,460
Provides funds for the per diem of legislative members, expenses and miscellaneous costs of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation to study a number of remaining tax reform issues.	

**PART G**

**Sec. G-1. Contingent effective date.** This Act is effective only if the State Controller certifies that the transfer to the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents at the end of fiscal year 1996-97 is sufficient to make the allocations and transfers required by this Act. This Act is intended to meet the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1518, subsection 2.

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

Effective June 12, 1997, unless otherwise indicated.

**CHAPTER 558**

**S.P. 674 - L.D. 1899**

**An Act Regarding the Restructuring of Contracts between Public Utilities and Qualifying Facilities**

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

**Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3204, sub-§1, ¶A,** as enacted by PL 1997, c. 316, §3, is amended to read:

A. Contract with a qualifying facility, contract with a party other than a qualifying facility or affiliated interest entered into solely for the purpose of restructuring a contract with a qualifying facility or contract with a demand-side management or conservation provider, broker or host;

**Sec. 2. PL 1997, c. 316, §5, 2nd ¶** is amended to read:

All existing electric utilities shall provide each qualifying facility, each party to a contract entered into solely for the purpose of restructuring a contract with a qualifying facility except an affiliated interest and each demand-side management or conservation provider, broker or host with whom it has contracts as of March 1, 2000 the option to have the contract or contracts:

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 559**

**S.P. 677 - L.D. 1901**

**An Act to Extend the Authorization for Federally Funded Positions to Establish a Military Rebuild Site at the Former Loring Air Force Base**

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

**Sec. 1. Position authorization.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1583-A, the Commissioner of Defense and Veterans' Services is authorized to establish by financial order, upon the recommendation of the State Budget Officer