

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 7, 2016 to August 2, 2017

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
NOVEMBER 1, 2017

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

Augusta, Maine
2017

feated. The result of the tie resolution must be recorded and reused in the event of a recount. Election officials may resolve prospective ties between candidates before the election.

4. Modification of ranked-choice voting ballot and tabulation. Modification of a ranked-choice voting ballot and tabulation is permitted in accordance with the following.

A. The number of allowable rankings may be limited to no fewer than 6.

B. Two or more candidates may be defeated simultaneously by batch elimination in any round of tabulation.

5. Effect on rights of political parties. For all statutory and constitutional provisions in the State pertaining to the rights of political parties, the number of votes cast for a party's candidate for an office elected by ranked-choice voting is the number of votes credited to that candidate after the initial counting in the first round described in subsection 2.

6. Application. This section applies to elections held on or after January 1, 2018.

Sec. 6. Application. This Act applies to elections held on or after January 1, 2018.

Effective January 7, 2017.

CHAPTER 4

I.B. 3 - L.D. 1660

An Act To Establish the Fund To Advance Public Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRS §15697 is enacted to read:

§15697. Fund to Advance Public Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education

1. Fund established. The Fund to Advance Public Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as an interest-bearing account administered by the department.

2. Revenue; 30-day review before changing use of fund. The Treasurer of State shall deposit all revenue collected pursuant to Title 36, section 5111, subsection 6 from the income tax surcharge to advance public kindergarten to grade 12 education into the fund according to the schedule in Title 36, section 5111, subsection 6. Any private or public funds appropriated, allocated or dedicated to the fund must be depos-

ited into the fund as well as income from any other source directed to the fund. All interest earned by the fund becomes part of the fund. Legislation that proposes to enact or amend a law that would change the distribution of the revenue directed to the fund by this subsection or by Title 36, section 5111, subsection 6 must be submitted to the Legislative Council and to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters at least 30 days prior to any vote or public hearing on that legislation.

3. Use of fund to supplement and not supplant General Fund appropriations; direct support for student learning. The use of the fund is controlled by this subsection. The fund may not be used for any purpose other than as described in this subsection.

A. If the General Fund appropriation for the state contribution for general purpose aid for local schools as finally enacted in any year is insufficient to meet the annual target established by section 15752, the commissioner shall use the fund to supplement the state contribution. These supplemental funds must be used to enable the State to meet the annual target established by section 15752 or to decrease the amount by which state funding from all other sources falls short of the target. The commissioner shall announce the increased state contribution amounts made possible by the supplemental amounts obtained from the fund within 14 days after final enactment of the General Fund appropriation for general purpose aid for local schools. The commissioner shall distribute the increased state contribution amounts on the basis of the essential programs and services formula set forth in this chapter.

B. The fund may be used only to pay for portions of the state contribution that constitute direct support for student learning and not for the costs of administration. As used in this paragraph, "direct support for student learning" includes salary and benefit costs paid for public school classroom teachers; special teachers of reading or mathematics; literacy specialists; career technical education teachers; education technicians; associate teachers; assistant teachers; special education technicians I, II or III; guidance staff; health staff; librarians; and media assistants as documented in the department's database. Direct support for student learning does not include salary and benefit costs paid for school administrative staff or clerical staff. By July 1st annually each school administrative unit must file a report to the department detailing how the funding provided by this section was used to provide direct support for student learning in this chapter.

C. The fund may be used for the necessary expenses of the department in the administration of the fund.

4. Report. Annually by January 15th, the department shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters showing the amounts deposited into and disbursed from the fund and detailing how those disbursements increased the state contribution and enabled the State to meet or come closer to meeting the applicable annual targets specified in section 15752. The department shall post the report on its publicly accessible website.

5. Rule of construction. This section must be liberally construed to increase the amount of funding available for public kindergarten to grade 12 education above the General Fund appropriation for that year to the greatest extent possible in any year.

Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §5111, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Income tax surcharge to advance public kindergarten to grade 12 education. An income tax surcharge to advance public kindergarten to grade 12 education, referred to in this subsection as "the surcharge," is established and administered as follows.

A. For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2017, in addition to any other tax imposed by this chapter, a tax at the rate of 3% is imposed on that portion of the taxpayer's Maine taxable income in excess of \$200,000.

B. One hundred percent of the revenue from the surcharge must be deposited each year into the Fund to Advance Public Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education established in Title 20-A, section 15697 in accordance with this paragraph.

(1) Prior to January 1st of each year, the bureau shall estimate the annual revenue to be collected from the surcharge for the immediately following calendar year.

(2) On the first of each month, beginning on January 1, 2018, the Treasurer of State shall deposit 8.333% of the estimated annual total revenue from the surcharge into the Fund to Advance Public Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education.

(3) The bureau may adjust the monthly transfer amount once annually to account for any difference between the estimated collection and actual collection.

C. The surcharge must be imposed and collected regardless of whether the income tax brackets in this section are changed, replaced or eliminated by an act of the Legislature or by a measure approved by voters pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 18.

Effective January 10, 2017.

CHAPTER 5

I.B. 6 - L.D. 1701

An Act To Legalize Marijuana

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA c. 417 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 417

MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION ACT

§2441. Short title

This chapter may be known and cited as "the Marijuana Legalization Act."

§2442. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Advertising. "Advertising" means the act of providing consideration for the publication, dissemination, solicitation or circulation, visual, oral or written, to induce directly or indirectly any person to patronize a particular retail marijuana establishment or retail marijuana social club or to purchase particular retail marijuana or a retail marijuana product. "Advertising" includes marketing, but does not include packaging and labeling. "Advertising" proposes a commercial transaction or otherwise constitutes commercial speech.

2. Applicant. "Applicant" means a person that has submitted an application for licensure as a retail marijuana establishment or retail marijuana social club pursuant to this chapter that was accepted by the state licensing authority for review but has not been approved or denied by the state licensing authority.

3. Batch. "Batch" means a specific quantity of cannabis harvested during a specified time period from a specified cultivation area.

4. Batch number. "Batch number" means any distinct group of numbers, letters or symbols, or any combination thereof, assigned by a retail marijuana cultivation facility or retail marijuana products manufacturing facility to a specific harvest batch or production batch of retail marijuana.

5. Cannabis. "Cannabis" means all parts of the plant of the genus Cannabis whether growing or not, the seeds thereof, the resin extracted from any part of the plant and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture or preparation of the plant, its seeds or its resin including cannabis concentrate. "Cannabis" does not include industrial hemp, fiber produced from the stalks, oil, cake made from the seeds of the plant, sterilized seed of the plant that is incapable of germination or any ingredient combined with cannabis to