

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 4, 2024 to March 21, 2025

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
March 25, 2025 to June 25, 2025

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 20, 2025

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

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

Augusta, Maine
2025

The month of November of each year is designated as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, and the Governor shall issue annually a proclamation inviting and urging the people of the State to observe the month through appropriate activities.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 25

H.P. 65 - L.D. 100

An Act to Increase the Expenditure Limit for the Informal Bidding Process for the Selection of Professional, Architect and Engineer Services

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §1742, sub-§6, as corrected by RR 2013, c. 1, §10, is amended by amending the 3rd blocked paragraph to read:

Notwithstanding this subsection, the bureau may select a person or persons to perform professional, architectural or engineering services from the list described in this subsection ~~without advertising or competitive selection~~ if the cost of the services does not exceed ~~\$25,000~~ \$50,000. The bureau shall solicit names for placement on a list by placing a general advertisement for professional, architectural or engineering services in newspapers that taken together have general circulation throughout the State. The bureau may substitute advertisement in professional journals or other publications that it finds equally effective in reaching the intended audience. The bureau may require persons responding to the advertisement to complete a qualifying questionnaire designed to address experience and expertise in performing the type of work advertised. The bureau shall prepare a list of respondents that it determines qualified and update the list at least every 2 years.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 26

H.P. 38 - L.D. 74

An Act to Update the System of Learning Results Review Timeline

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6209, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2019, c. 196, §2, is further amended to read:

4. Review cycle. The commissioner shall conduct a review of the content standards and performance indicators by content area on a ~~5-year cycle beginning in the 2015-2016~~ 7-year cycle beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. The review of the content standards and performance indicators for the content area of social studies, including student achievement of proficiency in personal finance, must be included in the commissioner's review ~~during the 2015-2016 school year~~. Any changes that are recommended must be approved through the same process used for establishment of the system of learning results. ~~Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, the~~ The commissioner shall review and make recommendations for objective measures that may be used to substantiate school certifications of postsecondary readiness. The review of the content standards and performance indicators for the content area of health, physical education and wellness, including instruction on affirmative consent, communication and decision making regarding sexual activity and the effects of alcoholic drinks, stimulants and narcotics on the ability to give affirmative consent, communicate and make appropriate decisions, must be included in the commissioner's review ~~beginning in the 2019-2020 school year~~.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 27

H.P. 493 - L.D. 751

An Act to Amend the Hunting Laws Related to the Training of Dogs and Open Training Seasons

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

Whereas, a provision of law allowing for the training of dogs to hunt bear in portions of Washington County and Hancock County is due to be repealed on May 1, 2025; and

Whereas, allowing this provision to lapse could have implications for unwanted bear-landowner interactions; and

Whereas, enactment of this legislation would continue to authorize the training of dogs for bear hunting in portions of Washington County and Hancock County; 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 §12051, sub-§1, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 172, §1, is amended to read:

D. Notwithstanding paragraph C, ~~until May 1, 2025~~, in those portions of Washington County and Hancock County that are situated south of Route 9, a resident may train up to 6 dogs at any one time on bear from July 1st to the 4th day preceding the open season on hunting bear except that permission is required to train dogs on land used for wild blueberry production.

~~This paragraph is repealed May 1, 2025.~~

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

Effective April 18, 2025.

CHAPTER 28

H.P. 523 - L.D. 816

An Act Regarding the Emptying of Elver Fyke Nets

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

Whereas, this legislation amends the law governing the emptying of elver fyke nets; and

Whereas, it is important that this legislation take effect immediately in order for these changes to be in place before the beginning of the next elver fishing season in March 2025; 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 §6505-A, sub-§1-A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 81, §1, is further amended to read:

1-A. Licensed activity. The holder of an elver fishing license or elver fishing license with crew may fish for, take or possess elvers. The holder of an elver fishing license or elver fishing license with crew may transport and sell within state limits elvers that the license holder has taken. The holder of an elver fishing license with crew is liable for the licensed activities under this subsection of an unlicensed crew member assisting that license holder pursuant to subsection 1-B.

The license holder to whom a tag is issued or the unlicensed crew member may empty an elver fyke net. The license holder to whom a tag is issued may allow an individual who also holds an elver fishing license to empty the elver fyke net of the license holder whose tag is on the net while under that license holder's direct supervision.

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

Effective April 18, 2025.

CHAPTER 29

H.P. 4 - L.D. 40

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Commercial Large Game Shooting Area License Transfer Process

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §1342, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 765, §3, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §1342, sub-§5-A is enacted to read:

5-A. Transfer of license. A person may not transfer a commercial large game shooting area license without obtaining approval of the commissioner for the transfer. Department approval must be obtained prior to the transfer of the license. The department, at its discretion, may require that the proposed new licensee apply for a new license or may approve the transfer of the existing license upon a satisfactory showing that the proposed new licensee can abide by the license terms and conditions and comply with subsection 2.

Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §1342-A, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 249, §6, is amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

A license issued under this section is for a specific parcel of land and only for the genus and species of large game specified in the license. The requirements and restrictions under section 1342, subsections 3, 4, ~~§ 5-A~~, 6 and 7 and rules adopted under subsection 8 apply to licenses issued under this section. A person issued a license under this section shall establish and maintain the licensed commercial large game shooting area in accordance with section 1342, subsection 2, paragraphs A to E.

See title page for effective date.