

# 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.**

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**Augusta, Maine**  
**2025**

**CHAPTER 30  
H.P. 448 - L.D. 709**

**An Act to Establish the Respite  
for ME Program**

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

**Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §7308**, as amended by PL 2001, c. 487, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**§7308. Respite for ME Program**

The Respite for ME Program is established in the department. The department shall administer the Respite for ME Program for the purpose of providing respite care, as described in the federal Older Americans Act of 1965, 42 United States Code, Section 3030s-1(b)(4), and supplemental services, as described in 42 United States Code, Section 3030s-1(b)(5), for family caregivers as defined in 42 United States Code, Section 3022(3) and older relative caregivers as defined in 42 United States Code, Section 3030s(a)(4).

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 31  
H.P. 36 - L.D. 72**

**An Act to Designate the Spring  
Peeper as the Official State  
Amphibian**

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

**Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §232** is enacted to read:

**§232. State amphibian**

The spring peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*) is the official state amphibian.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 32  
H.P. 37 - L.D. 73**

**An Act to Designate the Wood  
Turtle as the Official State  
Reptile**

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

**Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §232** is enacted to read:

**§232. State reptile**

The wood turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*) is the official state reptile.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 33  
S.P. 29 - L.D. 1**

**An Act to Increase Storm  
Preparedness for Maine's  
Communities, Homes and  
Infrastructure**

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

**Whereas**, the winter storms of December 18, 2023, January 9, 2024 and January 13, 2024 caused an estimated \$90,000,000 of damage to public infrastructure and significant additional damage to private property, including homes, wharves and businesses; and

**Whereas**, the damage demonstrates an urgent need for increased preparedness for improved resiliency from future extreme weather events; and

**Whereas**, the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency has obligated the existing balance of the Disaster Recovery Fund to fund the state match for funding for previously declared disasters and requires additional funding to fully fund the state cost share for funding for current open disasters; and

**Whereas**, the Maine Emergency Management Agency currently lacks the capacity to apply for competitive hazard mitigation grant funds, improve much-needed statewide emergency systems and provide matching funds needed for United States Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster and hazard mitigation loan funds; and

**Whereas**, in its November report to the Governor, the State of Maine Infrastructure Rebuilding and Resilience Commission recommended a set of immediate actions to improve emergency communication, increase community resilience, prepare for future extreme weather events and increase public safety; and

**Whereas**, county, municipal and tribal leaders, regional planners, state agencies and emergency managers at the state, county and local level lack up-to-date hydrological and sea level rise modeling data and are operating with outdated Federal Emergency Management Agency maps; and

**Whereas**, only 1.3% of all homes and buildings in the State are covered under the National Flood Insurance Program, a number that has declined while people