

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

~~pursuant to Title 22, section 7254, subsection 2; and~~

Sec. 7. 32 MRSA §2600-C, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 488, §17, is amended by amending subparagraph (5) to read:

(5) Other circumstances determined in rule by the Department of Health and Human Services ~~pursuant to Title 22, section 7254, subsection 2; and~~

Sec. 8. 32 MRSA §3300-F, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 488, §20, is amended by amending subparagraph (5) to read:

(5) Other circumstances determined in rule by the Department of Health and Human Services ~~pursuant to Title 22, section 7254, subsection 2; and~~

Sec. 9. 32 MRSA §3657, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 488, §23, is amended by amending subparagraph (5) to read:

(5) Other circumstances determined in rule by the Department of Health and Human Services ~~pursuant to Title 22, section 7254, subsection 2; and~~

Sec. 10. 32 MRSA §18308, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 488, §32, is amended by amending subparagraph (5) to read:

(5) Other circumstances determined in rule by the Department of Health and Human Services ~~pursuant to Title 22, section 7254, subsection 2; and~~

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 38

H.P. 559 - L.D. 873

An Act to Expand Municipal Authority over Utility Pole Permits

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §2517, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1999, c. 753, §13, is further amended to read:

1. Revocation of pole location by municipal officers. When the municipal officers of a municipality having a population of more than ~~40,000~~ 30,000 inhabitants determine, after notice and hearing, that public safety and the public welfare require the revocation of a location for poles for conveying electricity or for the transmission of telephone messages already erected in a public street or way other than a state or a state-aid high-

way outside the compact area of an urban compact municipality as defined in Title 23, section 754, they may revoke the location and order the poles removed. The person that owns the poles shall remove them within a reasonable time. Other suitable locations or the right to use other poles jointly must be granted by the municipal officers to the person.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 39

S.P. 395 - L.D. 906

An Act to Update the Solar Energy Development Reporting Date Deadline

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3473, sub-§1-A, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 307, §4, is amended to read:

1-A. Reporting. By ~~January 1st~~ February 10th of each year, the commission shall provide a summary report of its findings under subsection 1 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 40

S.P. 462 - L.D. 1101

An Act to Address the Limited Availability of Counsel in Courts to Represent Indigent Parties in Matters Affecting Their Fundamental Rights

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 is designed to address an existing crisis in the courts arising from the limited availability of counsel qualified by the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services to represent indigent parties in criminal and child protection proceedings affecting their fundamental rights; and

Whereas, when a court appoints counsel to represent an indigent party, compensation must be made available to counsel, whether the commission or the court determined that counsel is qualified to provide the representation; and

Whereas, a Maine Superior Court order issued in *Robbins v. Billings, et al.*, No. CV-22-054 (Me. Super. Ct., Ken. Cty., March 7, 2025) (Order After Phase One