

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

prevent homelessness among veterans in this State and to otherwise carry out the purposes of this section.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 58
H.P. 63 - L.D. 98

**An Act to Include School
Counselors in the Educators
for Maine Program**

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §12501-A, sub-§12, as amended by PL 2019, c. 303, §2, is further amended to read:

12. Return service. "Return service" means service in a public elementary or secondary school, publicly supported secondary school, special education facility as defined in section 7001, subsection 6 or private school in this State approved for tuition purposes for a full school year as a certified teacher or school counselor or a licensed speech pathologist, service as a Jobs for Maine's Graduates specialist with similar teacher certification or service for a 12-month period in a child care facility by an individual who has attained child care provider qualifications.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §12501-A, sub-§12-A is enacted to read:

12-A. School counselor. "School counselor" means a person who is employed as a school counselor in a school setting and who:

A. Is certified as a school counselor by the department; or

B. Possesses a minimum of a master's degree in an approved program in guidance and counseling.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §12501-A, sub-§13, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 427, §2, is amended to read:

13. Student pursuing postbaccalaureate certification. "Student pursuing postbaccalaureate certification" means a student who has earned a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent and is pursuing a program of study leading to certification as a teacher or school counselor or licensure as a speech pathologist or to the attainment of child care provider qualifications.

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §12501-A, sub-§14-A, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 303, §3, is amended to read:

14-A. Underserved geographic areas. "Underserved geographic areas" means those geographic areas of the State where there is an insufficient supply of teachers, school counselors or speech pathologists as determined by the chief executive officer in consultation with the commissioner.

Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §12502, as amended by PL 2019, c. 303, §4, is further amended to read:

§12502. Educators for Maine Program

There is established the Educators for Maine Program to provide financial assistance for postsecondary education to undergraduate students and students pursuing postbaccalaureate certification who demonstrate academic achievement and an interest in pursuing a career in teaching, school counseling, speech pathology or child care in this State. The chief executive officer shall administer the program and shall establish pursuant to rules of the authority the rates of interest or fees to be charged.

Under the program, the authority may annually award a certain number of loan repayments to selected educators and other school personnel under this section in underserved geographic areas as funds permit. A selected loan repayment recipient must enter into a loan repayment agreement with the authority and may receive payment from the authority on the recipient's outstanding student debt for each year of service as long as the recipient ~~teaches~~ is employed in a certified instructional or student support role, specifically as a teacher, school counselor or licensed speech pathologist, in a school in an underserved geographic area.

Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §12505, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2003, c. 427, §8, is further amended to read:

3. Eligibility for postbaccalaureate certification. A loan to a student pursuing postbaccalaureate certification may be given only to a resident of the State who has shown academic achievement, who has a baccalaureate degree, who is pursuing a course of study that will lead to certification as a teacher or school counselor, to licensure as a speech pathologist or to attainment of child care provider qualifications and who has met other eligibility criteria established by rule of the authority.

Sec. 7. 20-A MRSA §12507, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2003, c. 427, §10, is further amended to read:

3. Deferment. A recipient of a loan may seek a deferment of the annual payments for a period or periods as established by rule of the authority. A request for deferment must be made to the chief executive officer who shall make a determination on a case-by-case basis. The chief executive officer may grant a deferment in the event that a recipient of a loan evidences intent to ~~teach~~ work as a teacher, school counselor or speech pathologist and inability to secure employment necessary to obtain forgiveness of the loan at the time the deferment is sought. The chief executive officer shall require certification of the intent annually and grant a deferment for each successful request for deferment for a period not to exceed one year. The chief ex-

ecutive officer may establish limits to the number of deferments that may be granted to any recipient by rule of the authority.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 59

H.P. 746 - L.D. 1127

An Act to Establish Immunity for a Receiver Appointed by the Public Utilities Commission to Oversee the Operations of a Consumer-owned Water Utility

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §6410-A, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Liability. A receiver appointed by the commission pursuant to subsection 1 that is acting in good faith while exercising the authorities granted pursuant to subsection 1 must be treated in the same manner as an employee acting on behalf of a governmental entity under Title 14, chapter 741.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 60

H.P. 318 - L.D. 489

An Act to Provide for a Vessel Breakdown License Exception for Commercial Halibut Fishing License Holders

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 must take effect before May 18, 2025, the beginning of the 2025 commercial halibut fishing season; 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 §6506, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 627, §5, is amended to read:

2. Licensed activity; commercial license. The holder of a commercial halibut fishing license issued under subsection 1 may fish for, take, possess, ship,

transport or sell halibut that the holder has taken using the vessel named on the license. Crew members aboard a license holder's vessel may fish for, take, possess, ship or transport halibut only if the license provides for crew members.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6506, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Exception to using vessel named on license holder's license for commercial license holders. Notwithstanding subsection 2, the commissioner may temporarily authorize a holder of a commercial halibut fishing license to use a vessel other than the vessel named on that license holder's license to fish for, take, possess, ship or transport halibut if the license holder documents to the commissioner that the vessel named on that license holder's license has become temporarily inoperable because of an accident or a mechanical failure and requests in writing to the commissioner that the commissioner authorize the use of another vessel to fish for or take halibut. The commissioner's authorization may require the license holder to fish for, take, possess and land halibut separately from any halibut taken under another license listing the same vessel to ensure that harvest limits are not exceeded. An authorization granted by the commissioner to a license holder due to an accident or a mechanical failure may not exceed 2 weeks. The commissioner may authorize one 2-week extension per license holder during the commercial halibut fishing season. An authorization under this subsection may not be granted by the commissioner in 2 consecutive years.

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

Effective May 9, 2025.

CHAPTER 61

H.P. 252 - L.D. 398

An Act to Amend the Definition of "Transient Occupancy" in the Laws Governing the Maine Land Use Planning Commission

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 Legislature finds that it is desirable to extend principles of sound planning, zoning and development to the unorganized and deorganized townships of the State; and

Whereas, the Legislature desires to encourage appropriate use of these lands by the residents of Maine