

# 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**

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.

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**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.

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**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.

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**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

and visitors in pursuit of outdoor recreation activities, including, but not limited to, camping; and

**Whereas**, this legislation must take effect before the expiration of the 90-day period since recreational camping season begins Memorial Day weekend in the month of May; 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 §682, sub-§18**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 16, §1, is further amended to read:

**18. Transient occupancy.** "Transient occupancy" means occupancy that does not exceed ~~20~~ 150 days in a calendar year.

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

Effective May 9, 2025.

**CHAPTER 62**

**S.P. 200 - L.D. 465**

**An Act to Update Waste Discharge License Fees**

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

**Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §353-B, sub-§2, ¶A**, as amended by PL 2019, c. 631, §1, is further amended to read:

A. The fees for waste discharge license groups are the 2019 bill amounts increased by a factor of 1.4, unless otherwise indicated, as follows.

Discharge group	Basis for annual fee	Median fee for discharge group	Water quality improvement surcharge
Publicly owned treatment facilities, 10,000 gallons per day or less	annual fee 2019 bill amount	\$543	

Publicly owned treatment facilities, more than 10,000 gallons per day to 0.1 million gallons per day

annual fee    2019 bill amount    \$689

Publicly owned treatment facilities, more than 0.1 million gallons per day to 1.0 million gallons per day

annual fee    2019 bill amount    \$1,063

Publicly owned treatment facilities, more than 1.0 million gallons per day to 5.0 million gallons per day

annual fee    2019 bill amount    \$2,241

Publicly owned treatment facilities, greater than 5 million gallons per day or with significant industrial waste

annual fee    2019 bill amount    \$7,850

Major industrial facility, process wastewater (based on EPA list of major source discharges)

annual fee    2019 bill amount    \$33,919

Other industrial facility, process wastewater

annual fee    2019 bill amount    \$2,093