

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

CHAPTER 110
H.P. 1121 - L.D. 1686

**An Act to Clarify, Align and
Amend Provisions of the Maine
Revised Statutes, Title 35-A**

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §107, sub-§2, ¶F, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 307, §2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

F. The interconnection ombudsman is:

(1) For interconnection-related activities undertaken by the interconnection ombudsman, funded through fees assessed under section 3474, federal money and contributions from private and public sources; and

(2) For activities undertaken by the interconnection ombudsman pursuant to section 3474, subsection 4, paragraph A, subparagraph (6), funded in accordance with section 116.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §120, sub-§7, ¶D-1 is enacted to read:

D-1. Section 3805, subsection 1;

Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA §901, 2nd ¶, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 325, §2, is amended to read:

The Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the requirements of this chapter do not apply to a consumer-owned water utility as defined in section 6101, subsection 1-A.

Sec. 4. 35-A MRSA §3214, sub-§6, ¶B, as amended by PL 2023, c. 201, §2, is further amended to read:

B. For each month of the program year, the dollar amount of low-income assistance program benefits, the dollar amount of oxygen pump benefits and the dollar amount of ventilator benefits; and

Sec. 5. 35-A MRSA §3214, sub-§6, ¶C, as amended by PL 2023, c. 201, §2, is repealed.

Sec. 6. 35-A MRSA §4516-A, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2021, c. 318, §15, is further amended to read:

1. Violation of this Title. The commission may impose an administrative penalty on a natural gas pipeline utility that violates any provision of this Title relating to safety of pipeline facilities or transportation of gas or any rule issued under this Title in an amount not to exceed \$223,000 the administrative penalty adopted by the commission by rule, which may not exceed the administrative penalty established in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 190.223, as amended, for each

violation. Each day of violation constitutes a separate offense.

Sec. 7. 35-A MRSA §4516-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2021, c. 318, §16, is further amended to read:

2. Maximum administrative penalty. The maximum administrative penalty may not exceed \$2,227,000 for any related series of violations may not exceed the maximum administrative penalty adopted by the commission by rule, which may not exceed the maximum administrative penalty established in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 190.223, as amended.

Sec. 8. 35-A MRSA §4705-A, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2021, c. 318, §18, is further amended to read:

1. Violation of this Title. The commission may impose an administrative penalty on a gas utility that violates any provision of this Title relating to safety of gas facilities or any rule issued under this Title in an amount not to exceed \$223,000 the administrative penalty adopted by the commission by rule, which may not exceed the administrative penalty established in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 190.223, as amended, for each violation. Each day of violation constitutes a separate offense.

Sec. 9. 35-A MRSA §4705-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2021, c. 318, §19, is further amended to read:

2. Maximum administrative penalty. The maximum administrative penalty may not exceed \$2,227,000 for any related series of violations may not exceed the maximum administrative penalty adopted by the commission by rule, which may not exceed the maximum administrative penalty established in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 190.223, as amended.

Sec. 10. 35-A MRSA §6104-B, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 325, §8, is amended to read:

2. Maximum rate adjustment. The maximum rate adjustment that a consumer-owned water utility may propose under this section is 1.5% of current total annual revenue rates. A consumer-owned water utility may not propose a rate adjustment under this section more than once every 11 months.

Sec. 11. 35-A MRSA §7104-B, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2023, c. 144, §4, is further amended to read:

2. Authority. Pursuant to the authority granted in section 7104 and in order to carry out the policy goals established by section 7101, subsections 1, 2 and 4, the commission shall establish a telecommunications education access fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," and require all voice network service providers providing service in the State using numbers placed in service for the State's numbering plan area from the

North American Numbering Plan Administrator or its successor to contribute to the fund. A voice network service provider is not required to contribute to the fund for telephone numbers that are acquired by the provider but are not placed in service. The fund must be available, with any accumulated interest, to qualified libraries, qualified schools and the Raymond H. Fogler Library at the University of Maine to assist in paying the costs of acquiring and using advanced telecommunications technologies.

The commission may investigate a voice network service provider to ensure compliance with this section.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 111

H.P. 1223 - L.D. 1828

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning Public Records Exceptions

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2006, as repealed and replaced by PL 2013, c. 54, §1, is amended to read:

§2006. Access to information and proceedings

1. Application, refusals and collected information; proceedings. All applications for a permit to carry concealed handguns and documents made a part of the application, refusals and any information of record collected by the issuing authority during the process of ascertaining whether an applicant is of good moral character and meets the additional requirements of sections 2003 and 2005 are confidential ~~and are not public records for the purposes of Title 1, chapter 13, subchapter 1.~~ The applicant may waive this confidentiality by written notice to the issuing authority. All proceedings relating to the issuance, refusal, suspension or revocation of a permit to carry concealed handguns are not public proceedings under Title 1, chapter 13, unless otherwise requested by the applicant.

2. Permanent record of permit. The issuing authority shall make a permanent record of each permit to carry concealed handguns in a suitable book or file kept for that purpose. The record must include the information contained in the permit itself. The record is confidential except that the following information about each permit holder is not confidential ~~and is a public record:~~

- A. The municipality of residence;
- B. The date the permit was issued; and
- C. The date the permit expires.

This subsection does not limit disclosure of confidential information for criminal justice purposes or permitting purposes to law enforcement officers and issuing authorities.

Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §1085, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 644, §4, is amended to read:

4. Confidentiality. All information obtained by the bureau pursuant to this section is confidential ~~and not a public record as defined in Title 1, section 402, subsection 3.~~ The information may be used only for making decisions regarding the suitability of an affected person for new or continued employment with the bureau, to provide services to the bureau under an identified contract or to access federal tax information obtained from the bureau.

Sec. 3. 27 MRSA §86-B, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 205, §1, is amended to read:

§86-B. Confidentiality of certain research and personal information

1. Draft research and materials. Museum draft research, publications and exhibit materials, including scientific, archaeological and historical findings, are confidential ~~and not public records for the purposes of Title 1, chapter 13, subchapter 1~~ until complete and presented to the public. The Museum Director may authorize disclosure before publication or presentation to the public.

2. Personal history research and materials. Personal information contained in any record about the individual that is obtained by the Maine State Museum in the course of a historical research project is confidential ~~and not a public record for the purposes of Title 1, chapter 13, subchapter 1~~ until:

- A. The individual authorizes the release of the personal information as a public record; or
- B. The death of the individual, except that the Museum Director may, at the request of the individual, designate in writing that personal information about the individual remain confidential for a specified period, not to exceed 25 years after the death of the individual, to protect the privacy of the individual or the privacy of the parent or child of the individual.

For the purposes of this section, "personal information" means any information about an individual's personal history, including, but not limited to, medical, psychiatric, employment, counseling and other information of a personal or private nature.

Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §503, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 1989, c. 6 and c. 9, §2 and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10 and repealed and replaced by c. 402, §2, is further amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

- (1) Notwithstanding any confidentiality provision other than this paragraph, applications,