

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

a new meeting must be called to conduct a run-off election by the method described in this subsection.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 115

H.P. 702 - L.D. 1080

An Act Prohibiting Public Utilities from Requiring Deposits Based Solely on a Residential Customer's Income

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §705, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6, is amended to read:

1. Residential customers; applicants. ~~No~~ A public utility may not require ~~any~~ a deposit of ~~any~~ a residential customer without proof that the customer is likely to be a credit risk or to damage the property of the utility. That proof ~~shall~~ must be furnished to the customer upon request. Absence of previous experience with the utility ~~shall~~ may not be considered proof that the customer is a credit risk or threatens to damage utility property. A utility may not require a deposit from an applicant for residential service based solely on the applicant's income. For purposes of this subsection, "applicant" means a person that applies for public utility service and has not been a customer of the utility within 30 calendar days prior to the person's application for utility service. The commission shall adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules. Within 30 days of the effective date of this Act, the Public Utilities Commission shall initiate rulemaking to implement the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 705, subsection 1, as amended by this Act.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 116

H.P. 104 - L.D. 171

An Act to Enhance Protections Regarding Invasive Aquatic Plant and Animal Infestations in Inland Waters of the State

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §1862, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 434, Pt. A, §7, is amended to read:

1. Program. The commissioner and the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife jointly shall implement a program to inspect watercraft, watercraft trailers and outboard motors at or near the border of the State and at boat launching sites for the presence of invasive aquatic plants; to monitor inland waters of the State known to be infested with invasive aquatic plants; and to provide educational materials to the public and to watercraft owners regarding invasive aquatic plants and surface use restrictions on inland waters of the State pursuant to section 1864.

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §1862, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 434, Pt. A, §7, is amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

The program in 2002 and subsequent years must be at a level of effort determined by the commissioner and the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in consultation with the Interagency Task Force on Invasive Aquatic ~~Plant~~ Plants and Nuisance Species, as established in section 1871. The program must include a review of watercraft inspection protocols and surface use restrictions on inland waters of the State known to be infested with invasive aquatic plants pursuant to section 1864.

Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §1862, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Report. The commissioner and the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall submit a report detailing program activities to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters by January 15th annually. The committee may report out a bill based on the report to any regular or special session of the Legislature.

Sec. 4. 38 MRSA §1864, as amended by PL 2003, c. 551, §20 and c. 627, §8, is further amended to read:

§1864. Emergency authority to regulate surface use

The commissioner and the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife may jointly issue an emergency order to restrict access to or restrict or prohibit the use of any watercraft on all or a portion of a water body that has a confirmed infestation of an invasive aquatic plant or animal. The order must be for a specific period of time and may be issued only when the use of watercraft on that water body threatens to worsen or spread the infestation. The order may require that watercraft ~~on~~ using waters affected by the order be taken out of or launched on the water only at locations identified in the order. The order may require inspections and cleaning of watercraft, watercraft trailers and equipment upon removal at sites that have been identified in the order. Inspections must be conducted by designated ~~state~~ state-trained boat inspectors. For purposes of this section, "designated state boat inspector" means a person ~~em~~

~~ployed~~ trained by the State and identified by the department or the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as a person who is qualified to properly conduct inspection activities.

Sec. 5. Study of watercraft inspection protocols and surface use restrictions on inland waters of the State known to be infested with invasive aquatic plants; review of protocols and restrictions. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife jointly shall review watercraft inspection protocols and surface use restrictions on inland waters of the State known to be infested with invasive aquatic plants pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 1862, subsection 1 and make recommendations related to how these protocols and restrictions could be strengthened. The commissioners jointly shall also evaluate how information about restrictions is communicated to members of the public. By January 1, 2026, the commissioners shall submit a report, including any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife on their findings and recommendations with respect to watercraft inspection protocols and surface use restrictions on inland waters of the State known to be infested with invasive aquatic plants and how information on restrictions is communicated to members of the public. The committee may report out legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 117

S.P. 310 - L.D. 693

An Act to Support the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions

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

Sec. 1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF

Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions 0692

Initiative: Establishes 3 Office Specialist II positions and provides funding for All Other.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	3.000	3.000
Personal Services	\$350,430	\$363,045
All Other	\$29,647	\$8,602

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$380,077	\$371,647
FUNDS TOTAL		

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 118

S.P. 370 - L.D. 837

An Act to Require Positions Taken by the Public Advocate to Be Consistent with the Cost- effective Implementation of the State's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions Obligations

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §1702, sub-§10, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 79, §2, is amended to read:

10. Independent representation of the interests of the using and consuming public. The Public Advocate, when taking a position on any matter in any proceeding or forum pursuant to the Public Advocate's authority under this chapter, shall exercise independent judgment to ensure the position:

A. Is consistent with the priorities established in section 1702-A and the requirements of this chapter; ~~and~~

B. Promotes stabilization and lowering of prices paid by those members of the using and consuming public whose interests the Public Advocate is representing; ~~and~~

C. Is consistent with the cost-effective implementation for ratepayers of the greenhouse gas emissions reductions obligations established in Title 38, section 576-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 119

H.P. 536 - L.D. 850

An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws

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

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §161, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 419, §1 and reallocated by PL 2023, c. 1, Pt. A, §25, is amended by enacting at the end a new paragraph to read:

The Secretary of State may adopt rules to administer this section. Rules adopted under this paragraph