

# 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**

American beach grass, ~~rugosa rose~~ Rosa virginiana, bayberry, beach pea, beach heather and pitch pine.

B. Sand may not be moved seaward of the frontal dune between April 1st and September 1st unless the owner has obtained written approval from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

C. The replacement of a seawall may not increase the height, length or thickness of the seawall beyond that which legally existed within the 24 months prior to the submission of the permit-by-rule notification but may increase the height of the seawall in accordance with section 480-E, subsection 19. The replaced seawall may not be significantly different in construction from the one that previously existed.

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

Effective May 29, 2025.

**CHAPTER 123**

**H.P. 546 - L.D. 860**

**An Act to Allow the Public Advocate to Obtain Information from Public Utilities, Competitive Electricity Providers and Standard-offer Service Providers**

**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

**Whereas**, there is an immediate need to determine whether competitive electricity providers are disproportionately burdening low-income households in Maine with unaffordable prices; and

**Whereas**, delay in the implementation of this legislation would cause significant harm to Maine electricity ratepayers who are customers of competitive electricity providers; 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. 35-A MRSA §1702, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2021, c. 659, §13, is further amended to read:

**1. Review and recommendations.** The Public Advocate may review, investigate and make appropriate recommendations to the commission or the Legislature with respect to:

A. The reasonableness of rates charged or proposed to be charged by any public utility;

B. The reasonableness and adequacy of the service or the terms and conditions of such service furnished or proposed to be furnished by any public utility, standard-offer service provider or competitive electricity provider;

C. Any proposal by a public utility to reduce or abandon service to the public;

D. The issuance of certificates of public convenience and necessity. Recommendations may include alternative analyses and plans as necessary;

E. Terms and conditions of public utilities;

F. Mergers and consolidations of public utilities;

G. Contracts of public utilities with affiliates or subsidiaries; and

H. Securities, regulations and transactions of public utilities.

**Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §1708**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 141, Pt. A, §6, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**§1708. Information from utilities, standard-offer service providers and competitive electricity providers**

**1. Reports and filings.** Utilities shall provide to the Public Advocate copies of all reports and other information required to be filed with or that may be submitted to the commission, except to the extent that this requirement is waived, in writing, by the Public Advocate.

**2. Commission order; information disclosure.** The Public Advocate may petition the commission for information or data from a public utility, standard-offer service provider or competitive electricity provider that is necessary for the Public Advocate to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The commission may, upon a showing of good cause, order a public utility, standard-offer service provider or competitive electricity provider to provide such information or data to the Public Advocate. To the extent that the information or data would otherwise be confidential pursuant to this Title or rules adopted pursuant to this Title, the Public Advocate or the utility, standard-offer service provider or competitive electricity provider may request that the commission issue a protective order pursuant to section

1311-A to protect such information or data from disclosure.

**3. Data and information requests.** In a proceeding before the commission, the Public Advocate has the same right to request data or information as an intervenor.

**Sec. 3. Office of the Public Advocate to conduct study; prepare report.** The Office of the Public Advocate, referred to in this section as "the office," shall conduct a study and prepare a report regarding rates and business practices of standard-offer service providers and competitive electricity providers. The study must take into account differences in products and services offered by standard-offer service providers and competitive electricity providers, including, but not limited to, value-added services, such as behind-the-meter services that may reduce a customer's electricity demand, and varying contract periods.

1. In conducting the study and preparing the report under this section, the office shall consult with and solicit recommendations from interested parties, including at least 3 competitive electricity providers and one current or former provider of standard-offer service to residential and small commercial customers, regarding the study methodology, the office's analysis, any recommendations developed by the office and the report. The office shall provide interested parties with the opportunity to review and provide comments on at least one draft report prior to submitting the final report pursuant to subsection 2.

2. The office shall submit a final report by December 3, 2025 to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. The final report must include all comments and recommendations the office received from interested parties in an appendix to the final report. After receiving the final report, the committee may report out legislation relating to the final report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

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

Effective May 29, 2025.

**CHAPTER 124  
S.P. 20 - L.D. 8**

**An Act Regarding the Term of Appointment of Judicial Officers**

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

**Sec. 1. 4 MRSA c. 2** is enacted to read:

**CHAPTER 2**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**§71. Term start date for judicial officers**

The term of appointment of a judicial officer appointed pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article V, Part First, Section 8 begins on the date that the judicial officer is sworn into office.

**§72. Inapplicability of Title 5, section 6 qualification requirements**

The provisions of Title 5, section 6 do not apply to judicial officers appointed pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article V, Part First, Section 8.

**Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §6**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 837, Pt. A, §7, is further amended to read:

**§6. Officials have 30 days to qualify**

All public officers, other than judicial officers, appointed or renewed in accordance with law shall, within 30 days after being commissioned, qualify to perform the duties of their office and the certificate of qualification must be filed in the office of the Secretary of State. Any officer who fails to qualify within 30 days and file a certificate of qualification in the office of the Secretary of State within 45 days must be suspended by the Secretary of State until the defect is corrected. During this suspension, the officer may be deemed to have forfeited the appointment and the office may be declared vacant by the appointing authority and a new appointment made.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 125  
S.P. 34 - L.D. 21**

**An Act to Update the Provision of Law Concerning Student Codes of Conduct in Order to Reflect Best Practices Regarding Behavioral Threat Assessment and Response**

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

**Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1001, sub-§15, ¶F**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 307, §1, is further amended to read:

F. Establish policies and procedures concerning the removal of disruptive or violent students or students threatening death or bodily harm to others from a classroom or a school bus, as well as student disciplinary and placement decisions, when to identify, assess and intervene with students who may pose a threat of violence to themselves or others within the school community, including policies and procedures regarding student supports,