

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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

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,

disciplinary actions and placement decisions if and when appropriate, up to and including removal from a classroom or a school bus;

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 126
S.P. 42 - L.D. 27**

**An Act to Amend and Simplify
Certain Inland Fisheries and
Wildlife Licensing and
Permitting Laws**

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §11108, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2023, c. 239, §16, is further amended to read:

1. On certain land. Notwithstanding section 11109, subsection 1 as it applies to this subchapter, and subject to all other applicable laws and rules, a resident and a member of the resident's immediate family, as long as the hunter's license to hunt is not under suspension or revocation, may hunt without a license, including, but not limited to, a license to hunt with a firearm, an archery hunting license and a muzzle-loading permit, on a single plot of land:

- A. To which they are legally entitled to possession;
- B. On which they are actually domiciled; and
- ~~C. That is used exclusively for agricultural purposes; and~~
- D. That is ~~in excess of~~ 10 or more contiguous acres in size.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §11154, sub-§15, as corrected by RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. B, §75, is amended to read:

15. Moose permit transfer; family members. The commissioner, in cases involving exceptional extenuating circumstances as determined by the commissioner, may authorize a person who holds a valid moose permit to transfer that permit to a family member who meets the eligibility and permit requirements under this section and who is not otherwise prohibited from holding the moose permit, except that the commissioner shall transfer a moose permit to a family member who meets the eligibility and permit requirements under this section and who is not otherwise prohibited from holding the moose permit if the permit holder dies at any time prior to or during the moose hunting season if a moose has not yet been harvested under that permit. A transferor and a transferee are subject to the elimination of any accumulated points under subsection 8 and the 3-year ineligibility period under subsection 5. For purposes of this subsection, "family member" means the transferor's spouse, domestic partner, child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, grandparent, stepparent, sibling,

~~half-sibling or adopted child~~ stepgrandchild; the transferor's sibling's child; the transferor's spouse's sibling's child; or the transferor's parent's sibling or that sibling's spouse.

The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this subsection and may establish a transfer fee to recover administrative costs associated with transferring moose permits. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §11154, sub-§18, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 127, §1, is amended to read:

18. Moose permit deferment; multiple permits in single household. The commissioner may authorize a person who holds a valid moose permit to defer the permit until the next moose hunting season in circumstances in which a member of that permit holder's household also holds a valid moose permit for the same hunting season. For the purposes of this subsection, members of a household are limited to a spouse, domestic partner, grandparent, parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, grandchild, sibling and stepgrandchild sharing the same legal address. Under this subsection, the person is ineligible to be selected for another moose permit in accordance with subsection 5 beginning in the calendar year that the person uses a permit deferred.

For the purposes of this subsection, "next moose hunting season" means the moose hunting season in the calendar year immediately following a person's selection under subsection 9.

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §12202, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9, is repealed.

Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §12202, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Minimum acreage. That is 10 or more contiguous acres in size.

Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §12503, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. A, §31, is further amended to read:

2. Land used for agricultural purposes legally possessed by resident; domicile; 10 or more contiguous acres in size. Notwithstanding section 12501, subsection 1 and subject to all other applicable laws and rules, any resident and any member of the resident's immediate family, as long as the angler's license to fish is not under suspension or revocation, may fish without a license in open inland waters from land:

- A. To which they are legally entitled to possession;
- B. On which they are actually domiciled; and
- ~~C. That is used exclusively for agricultural purposes.~~