

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 128
H.P. 29 - L.D. 65

**An Act to Update the
Definition of "Coastal
Wetlands" Under the Natural
Resources Protection Act and
the Mandatory Shoreland
Zoning Laws**

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §436-A, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2005, c. 330, §10, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

1. Coastal wetlands. "Coastal wetlands" has the same meaning as in section 480-B, subsection 2.

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §480-B, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2005, c. 330, §13, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. Coastal wetlands. "Coastal wetlands" means:

A. All areas with vegetation present that is tolerant of salt water and occurs primarily in a saltwater or estuarine habitat; and

B. All tidal and subtidal lands and any swamp, marsh, bog, beach, flat or other contiguous lowland subject to tidal action during the highest astronomical tide as determined by the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Coastal wetlands may include portions of coastal sand dunes.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 129
H.P. 31 - L.D. 67

**An Act to Establish Minimum
Standards for Certain Urgent
Care Facilities**

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1811, first ¶, as amended by PL 1989, c. 136, §1 and c. 572, §1 and repealed and replaced by c. 878, Pt. A, §58, is further amended to read:

~~No~~ A person, partnership, association or corporation, ~~nor~~ or any state, county or local governmental units, may not establish, conduct or maintain in the State any hospital, sanatorium, convalescent home, rest home, nursing home, ambulatory surgical facility, ur-

gent care facility or other institution for the hospitalization or nursing care of human beings without first obtaining a license therefor. Hospital, sanatorium, convalescent home, rest home, nursing home, ambulatory surgical facility and other related institution, within the meaning of this chapter, means any institution, place, building or agency in which any accommodation is maintained, furnished or offered for the hospitalization of the sick or injured or care of any aged or infirm persons requiring or receiving chronic or convalescent care. ~~Nothing in this chapter may~~ This chapter does not apply to hotels or other similar places that furnish only board and room, or either, to their guests or to such homes for the aged or blind as may be subject to licensing under any other law.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §1812-M is enacted to read:

§1812-M. Urgent care facility

1. Definition. As used in this chapter, "urgent care facility" means a health care facility that is not otherwise licensed with a primary purpose of providing medical evaluation and care on a walk-in basis for non-life-threatening injuries and illnesses and that does not have a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner on site to provide patient care. "Urgent care facility" does not include:

A. A facility that is licensed as part of a hospital;

B. A facility that provides services or accommodations for patients who stay overnight; or

C. The private office of a physician or dentist in individual or group practice.

2. Standards. The department shall establish standards for the licensure of urgent care facilities effective July 1, 2026. The standards must include a licensure fee of not less than \$50 and not more than \$500 and address staffing, quality of care, advertising and promotion, inspections and complaint investigations and accreditation.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §2053, sub-§3-A, as amended by PL 2007, c. 72, §1, is further amended to read:

3-A. Health care facility. "Health care facility" means a nursing home that is, or will be upon completion, licensed under chapter 405; a residential care facility that is, or will be upon completion, licensed under chapter 1663; a continuing care retirement community that is, or will be upon completion, licensed under Title 24-A, chapter 73; an assisted living facility that is, or will be upon completion, licensed under chapter 1664; a hospital; a community mental health facility; a scene response air ambulance licensed under Title 32, chapter 2-B and the rules adopted thereunder; a facility of a hospice program that is, or will be upon completion, licensed under chapter 1681; a nonprofit statewide health information network incorporated in the State for the purpose of exchanging health care information among

licensed health care providers in the State; ~~or a community health center; or an urgent care facility licensed under section 1812-M.~~

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 130

H.P. 47 - L.D. 83

An Act Concerning the Filing of Marriage Licenses and the Recording of Intentions as Part of the Electronic Vital Records System

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

Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §651, sub-§2, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 49, §1, is amended to read:

2. Application. The parties wishing to record notice of their intentions of marriage shall submit an application for recording notice of their intentions of marriage. The application may be issued to any 2 persons otherwise qualified under this chapter regardless of the sex of each person if the clerk or State Registrar of Vital Statistics is satisfied as to the identity of the applicants. The application must include a signed certification that the information recorded on the application is correct and that the applicant is free to marry according to the laws of this State. If either party intends to change that party's name upon marriage, the application must include the proposed new name of that party. The applicant's signature must be acknowledged before an official authorized to take oaths. An electronic copy of the completed application must be attached to the marriage record in the electronic system specified by the State Registrar of Vital Statistics. An application recording notice of intention to marry is not open for public inspection for 50 years from the date of the application except that:

A. The names of the parties for whom intentions to marry are filed and the intended date of marriage are public records and open for public inspection; and

B. A person with a researcher identification card under Title 22, section 2706, subsection 8 is permitted to inspect records and may be issued a non-certified copy of an application.

Sec. 2. 19-A MRSA §652, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2001, c. 354, §3 and PL 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §6, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 19-A MRSA §653, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2019, c. 340, §12, is further amended to read:

1. Filing; enter notice. A person who believes that parties are about to contract marriage when either

of them ~~can not~~ cannot lawfully do so may file a caution and the reasons for the caution in the office of the clerk where notice of their intentions is required to be filed or with the State Registrar of Vital Statistics. If either party applies to enter notice of their intentions, the clerk or State Registrar of Vital Statistics shall withhold the license until the judge of probate from the county involved approves the marriage. If the license has already been issued and the parties have not yet been married, the office of the clerk or the State Registrar of Vital Statistics shall notify the parties that they may not marry until the judge of probate from the county involved approves the marriage.

Sec. 4. 19-A MRSA §654, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2019, c. 340, §13, is further amended to read:

2. Return of marriage license. The parties or the person who solemnized the marriage shall return the marriage license to the State Registrar of Vital Statistics or the clerk who issued the license within 7 15 working days following the date on which the marriage is solemnized ~~by that person~~. The clerk and the State Registrar of Vital Statistics each shall retain a copy of the license. If a marriage license is returned later than 15 working days following the date on which the marriage is solemnized, the marriage must be marked as a late filing.

Sec. 5. 19-A MRSA §654, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2019, c. 340, §13, is further amended to read:

4. Recorded by clerk or State Registrar of Vital Statistics. The clerk or State Registrar of Vital Statistics shall ~~record all~~ attach electronic copies of the completed marriage licenses returned under this section in the electronic system specified by the State Registrar of Vital Statistics.

Sec. 6. 19-A MRSA §656, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2021, c. 49, §2, is further amended to read:

2. Completed license; ceremony performed. Each marriage license issued must be completed and the certification statement signed by both parties to the intended marriage. The parties' signatures may be obtained at issuance or at the time the marriage is solemnized. The completed license or licenses must be delivered by the parties to the person solemnizing the marriage. Upon completion of the solemnization, which must be performed in the presence of at least 2 witnesses other than the person officiating, the person officiating and the 2 witnesses shall sign the license or licenses, which are then known as the marriage certificate or certificates, and the parties are considered legally married.

Sec. 7. 19-A MRSA §660, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 193, §1, is amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§660. ~~Late filed application for certificate of Delayed marriage registration~~