

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
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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

(5) Local resources available for victims of domestic violence.

A-5. "Domestic violence services provider" means a private, nonprofit or tribal organization that has as a primary function to provide services for and assistance to victims of domestic violence through crisis intervention, safety planning, legal information and educational information pertaining to domestic violence.

B. "Victim" means a victim of domestic or family violence.

Sec. 4. 16 MRSA §53-B, sub-§1-A, as amended by PL 2013, c. 588, Pt. E, §10, is further amended to read:

1-A. Confidential criminal history record information. A Maine criminal justice agency, whether directly or through any intermediary, may disseminate confidential criminal history record information to ~~an~~ a domestic violence advocate for the purpose of planning for the safety of a victim of domestic violence. ~~An~~ A domestic violence advocate who receives confidential criminal history record information pursuant to this subsection shall use it solely for the purpose authorized by this subsection and may not further disseminate the information.

Sec. 5. 16 MRSA §53-B, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 128, §1, is amended to read:

2. Privileged communication. Communications are privileged from disclosure as follows.

A. A victim may refuse to disclose and may deny permission to ~~an~~ a domestic violence advocate to disclose confidential written or oral communications between the victim and the domestic violence advocate and written records, notes, memoranda or reports concerning the victim.

B. Except as provided in subsection 3, a victim, domestic violence advocate or domestic violence advocate's agency may not be required through oral or written testimony or through production of documents to disclose to a court in criminal or civil proceedings or to any other agency or person confidential communications between the victim and the domestic violence advocate.

Sec. 6. 16 MRSA §806, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 411, §2, is amended to read:

4. A counselor or advocate. A sexual assault counselor, as defined in section 53-A, subsection 1, paragraph B, or ~~an~~ a domestic violence advocate, as defined in section 53-B, subsection 1, paragraph ~~A~~ A-4. A person to whom intelligence and investigative record information is disclosed pursuant to this subsection:

A. May use the information only for planning for the safety of the victim of a sexual assault or domestic or family violence incident to which the information relates;

B. May not further disseminate the information;

C. Shall ensure that physical copies of the information are securely stored and remain confidential;

D. Shall destroy all physical copies of the information within 30 days after their receipt;

E. Shall permit criminal justice agencies providing such information to perform reasonable and appropriate audits to ensure that all physical copies of information obtained pursuant to this subsection are maintained in accordance with this subsection; and

F. Shall indemnify and hold harmless criminal justice agencies providing information pursuant to this subsection with respect to any litigation that may result from the provision of the information to the person.

Sec. 7. 17-A MRSA §2109, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. A, §2, is amended to read:

2. To domestic violence advocate. Communications by a victim, as defined in Title 16, section 53-B, subsection 1, paragraph B, to ~~an~~ a domestic violence advocate, as defined in Title 16, section 53-B, subsection 1, paragraph ~~A~~ A-4, are privileged from disclosure as provided in Title 16, section 53-B, subsection 2, subject to exceptions in Title 16, section 53-B, subsection 3.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 140

S.P. 221 - L.D. 503

An Act Regarding the Substance Use Disorder Services Commission

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §20065, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2019, c. 432, §1, is further amended to read:

1. Members; ~~appointment~~. The Substance Use Disorder Services Commission, as established by section 12004-G, subsection 13-C, consists of ~~18~~ 19 members.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §20065, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2019, c. 432, §1, is further amended to read:

2. Qualifications. To be qualified to serve, members must have education, training, experience, knowledge, expertise and interest in substance use disorder in the areas of intervention, harm reduction, prevention, treatment and recovery. Members must reflect

experiential diversity from across the State and must have demonstrated active participation in issues related to substance use disorder.

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §20065, sub-§3, ¶C, as amended by PL 2019, c. 432, §1, is further amended to read:

C. One ~~public school administrator~~ representative from the field of education who has experience with school-based substance use disorder intervention, prevention and education programs, appointed by the Governor;

Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §20065, sub-§3, ¶D, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. LL, §12, is repealed.

Sec. 5. 5 MRSA §20065, sub-§3, ¶H, as amended by PL 2019, c. 432, §1, is further amended to read:

H. One substance use disorder intervention practitioner, one substance use disorder harm reduction practitioner, one substance use disorder prevention practitioner, one substance use disorder treatment practitioner and one substance use disorder recovery practitioner, appointed by the Governor;

Sec. 6. 5 MRSA §20065, sub-§3, ¶J, as amended by PL 2019, c. 432, §1, is further amended to read:

J. ~~Three~~ Four members of the public with experience in substance use disorder, appointed by the Governor. In appointing these ~~3~~ 4 members, the Governor shall select members who are actively involved in the areas of:

- (6) Co-occurring disorder services;
- (7) Employment; ~~and~~
- (8) Substance use disorder recovery; ~~and~~
- (9) Representation of federally recognized Indian nations, tribes or bands.

Sec. 7. 5 MRSA §20065, sub-§4, ¶A, as amended by PL 2019, c. 432, §1, is further amended to read:

A. The terms of the ~~3~~ 4 public members appointed under subsection 3, paragraph J are for terms of 3 years, except that a member appointed to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term serves only for the remainder of that term. Members hold office until the appointment and confirmation of their successors. A public member may not be appointed for more than 2 consecutive, 3-year terms.

Sec. 8. 5 MRSA §20065, sub-§6, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. LL, §12, is amended to read:

6. Officers; bylaws. The Governor shall designate one member to chair the commission. The commission

may elect other officers from its members as it considers appropriate. The commission shall adopt bylaws for the operations of the commission.

Sec. 9. 5 MRSA §20065, sub-§7, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. LL, §12, is amended to read:

7. Subcommittees. The commission may appoint from its membership subcommittees relating to particular problem areas or other matters, ~~provided that as long as~~ the commission functions as an integrated committee as set forth in the bylaws.

Sec. 10. 5 MRSA §20066, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. LL, §12, is amended to read:

§20066. Meetings; compensation; quorum

1. Calling meetings. The commission shall meet at the call of the chair or at the call of at least 1/4 of the members appointed and currently holding office.

2. Frequency of meetings. The commission shall meet at least ~~12~~ 6 times a year and at least once ~~a~~ every other month.

3. Minutes. The commission shall keep minutes of all full commission meetings, including a list of people in attendance. The commission shall ~~immediately send post~~ copies of the approved minutes to the Governor and the leadership of the Legislature, who shall provide for their appropriate distribution and retention in a place of safekeeping a publicly accessible website.

4. Compensation. Members of the commission are entitled to compensation under chapter 379.

5. Quorum; council action. A majority of the commission members constitutes a quorum for the purpose of conducting the business and exercising all the powers of the commission. A vote of a majority of the members present is sufficient for all actions of the commission.

Sec. 11. 5 MRSA §20067, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §44, is further amended to read:

2. Advise, consult and assist. The commission shall advise, consult and assist the Governor, the executive and legislative branches of State Government and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court with activities of State Government related to substance use disorder prevention, intervention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery.

Sec. 12. 5 MRSA §20067, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2019, c. 432, §2, is further amended to read:

3. Serve as advocate; review and evaluate; inform the public. The commission shall serve as an advocate and resource for the State on substance use disorder intervention, harm reduction, prevention, treatment and recovery. The commission shall promote and assess activities designed to meet and remediate challenges of substance use disorder in the State. With the

support of the department, the commission shall review and evaluate on a continuing basis state and federal policies and programs relating to substance use disorder. In cooperation with the department, the commission shall keep the public informed by collecting and disseminating information, by conducting or commissioning studies and publishing the results of those studies, by issuing publications and reports and by providing public forums, including conferences and workshops. The commission, based on its activities pursuant to this subsection, shall make recommendations relating to substance use disorder to the department and the Governor and the Legislature.

Sec. 13. 5 MRSA §20067, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2019, c. 432, §2, is further amended to read:

4. Report to the Legislature. The commission shall report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs on or before the last business day of each year. The report must include developments and needs related to substance use disorder intervention, harm reduction, prevention, treatment and recovery in the State.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 141

H.P. 347 - L.D. 528

An Act to Address the Rise in Rabies in Animals by Appointing Certified Rabies Vaccine Administrators

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §1808-A, 2nd ¶, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 308, §1, is amended to read:

An animal vaccinated against rabies by a person who is not a licensed veterinarian ~~or under the direct, a~~ certified rabies vaccinator appointed and certified pursuant to section 3920 or a licensed veterinary technician under the direct supervision or indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian may not be certified as vaccinated against rabies and must be treated as an unvaccinated animal under Title 22, chapter 251, subchapter 5 and rules adopted pursuant to that chapter. For purposes of this section, "direct supervision" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 4853, subsection 4-A, "indirect supervision" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 4853, subsection 4-B; "licensed veterinarian" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 4853, subsection 5; and "licensed veterinary technician" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 4853, subsection 11.

Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §3906-B, sub-§18 is enacted to read:

18. Training of person appointed by commissioner to vaccinate animals. The commissioner, in consultation with veterinarians employed by the State, shall develop a program to train a person appointed by the commissioner as provided under section 3920 to vaccinate animals. The program must include, but is not limited to, training relating to properly storing and administering rabies vaccines; issuing rabies certificates; and providing information to an owner or keeper of an animal to be vaccinated.

The commissioner shall certify a person who satisfactorily completes the training program.

Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §3907, sub-§9-C is enacted to read:

9-C. Certified rabies vaccinator. "Certified rabies vaccinator" means a person appointed and certified to administer rabies vaccine to animals pursuant to section 3920.

Sec. 4. 7 MRSA §3916, as amended by PL 2021, c. 99, §§6 and 7, is further amended to read:

§3916. Rabies vaccinations

1. Required for cats. Except as provided in subsection 4, an owner or keeper of a cat over 3 months of age ~~must shall~~ have that cat vaccinated against rabies. ~~Rabies~~ The rabies vaccine must be administered by a licensed veterinarian or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian, a licensed veterinary technician under the direct supervision or indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian or a certified rabies vaccinator. Upon receiving an initial vaccination, a cat is considered protected for one year and an owner or keeper of that cat ~~must shall~~ get a booster vaccination for that cat one year after the initial vaccination and subsequent booster vaccinations at intervals that do not exceed the intervals recommended by a national association of state public health veterinarians for the type of vaccine administered.

1-A. Required for dogs. Except as provided in subsection 4, an owner or keeper of a dog, within 30 days after the dog attains ~~the age of~~ 3 months of age, shall have that dog vaccinated against rabies. The rabies vaccine must be administered by a licensed veterinarian ~~or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian, a licensed veterinary technician under the direct supervision or indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian or a certified rabies vaccinator.~~ Upon receiving an initial vaccination, a dog is considered protected for one year and an owner or keeper of that dog shall get a booster vaccination for that dog one year after the initial vaccination and subsequent booster vaccinations at intervals that do not exceed the intervals recommended by a national association of state public health veterinarians for the type of vaccine administered. A wolf hybrid