

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

providing or maintaining naloxone hydrochloride containers or containers of another opioid overdose-reversing medication under subsection 4, paragraph C.

Sec. 6. 22 MRSA §2353, sub-§5, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 154, §2, is amended to read:

D. A person not described in this section as being authorized to possess, obtain, store, administer or dispense naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid overdose-reversing medication or a person, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, acting in good faith and with reasonable care, is immune from criminal and civil liability and is not subject to professional or other disciplinary action for providing to another person naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid overdose-reversing medication, or for administering naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid overdose-reversing medication to an individual whom the person believes in good faith is experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose or for any outcome resulting from such actions.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 146

S.P. 348 - L.D. 788

An Act to Promote an Innovation-driven Economy by Increasing Research and Development Spending

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §929-C, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 420, §6, is amended to read:

§929-C. Research and development budgetary recommendations

The Maine Economic Growth Council, established in section 929-A, with input from the Office of Innovation, established pursuant to Title 5, section 13105, and the Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board, under section 949, shall ~~review the innovation economy action plan, as described in Title 10, chapter 107-D, and develop specific annual budgetary recommendations to support the plan's vision and goals. These recommendations must include specific bonding and General Fund appropriations investment levels. By June 1st of each year, the council shall submit its recommendations, along with an annual accountability update that summarizes the State's commitment to research and development investments in the prior year, to the Governor, the Legislature and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business, research and economic development issues support and~~

track progress toward the goal of increasing the State's research and development spending as a percentage of the State's gross domestic product to meet the national average by 2030 and maintaining that national average each year thereafter. By December 1st of each year, the council shall submit an annual accountability update that summarizes the State's aggregate commitment to research and development investments and provides data on the commercialization of laboratory-based innovation projects that occurred in the most recently available year to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over research and economic development matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs.

After reviewing the annual accountability update, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over research and economic development matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs may each report out legislation to implement any recommendations contained in the update or to address any other issues identified in the update.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 147

H.P. 534 - L.D. 848

An Act Regarding the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §286-M, sub-§12, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 636, Pt. A, §3, is amended to read:

12. Report. The division shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over insurance and financial services matters in the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature, and biennially thereafter, on the status of the program, program participation, including enrollment data, and the financing of the program, including the status of the fund, expenditures from the fund, current and projected premium costs to the program and to program enrollees and a projection of funding needs for the next 5 years. The report must provide options, based on projections of future need, for changing the method of funding any state-paid premium subsidy, if such a subsidy is authorized by law, and employee contributions.

Sec. 2. Open enrollment of Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program for current employees. Notwithstanding the

Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 286-M, subsection 5, from October 1, 2025 to November 30, 2025, a county or municipal law enforcement officer or a municipal firefighter who is employed in the position of a county or municipal law enforcement officer or a municipal firefighter, who has held the position for longer than 5 years and who previously elected not to enroll in the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program established in Title 5, section 286-M, subsection 1 may elect to enroll in the program. If the eligible person enrolls in the program 5 or more years following the effective date of hire, the eligible person shall contribute to the fund 3% of the eligible person's gross wages since the eligible person's effective date of hire to that person's date of enrollment in the program.

For the purposes of this section, "county or municipal law enforcement officer" and "municipal firefighter" have the same meanings as in Title 5, section 286-M, subsection 2, paragraphs A and H, respectively.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 148

H.P. 671 - L.D. 1042

An Act to Require a Person Operating a Watercraft for Recreational Purposes to Ensure All Children Under 13 Years of Age Wear United States Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation Devices

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §13068-A, sub-§4, ¶A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 228, §§13 and 14, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (2-A) to read:

(2-A) Fails to ensure that a child who has not attained 13 years of age, including the operator, is wearing an appropriate United States Coast Guard approved personal flotation device while the watercraft is underway and used for recreational purposes unless the child who has not attained 13 years of age is below decks or in an enclosed cabin. This subparagraph does not apply to a watercraft with a United States Coast Guard certificate of inspection.

Sec. 2. Effective date. This Act takes effect January 1, 2026.

Effective January 1, 2026.

CHAPTER 149

H.P. 703 - L.D. 1081

An Act to Support Access to General Assistance at Municipal General Assistance Offices and Designated Places

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4304, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2023, c. 575, §2, is further amended to read:

1. Local office. There must be in each municipality a general assistance office or designated place where any person may ~~apply~~ obtain an application for general assistance during the municipality's regular business hours. ~~Notice must be posted of these times, the name of the overseer available to take applications in an emergency at all other times, the fact that the municipality must issue a written decision on all applications within 24 hours and the department's toll-free telephone number for reporting alleged violations in accordance with section 4321. A municipality shall designate the daily hours when an application for general assistance will be accepted and processed. These designated hours may not total less than 50% of the municipality's regular business hours.~~

At all times the local office or designated place must display in a prominent location a posted notice that includes the following information:

A. The regular business hours when an application may be obtained;

B. The daily business hours when an application may be accepted and processed;

C. The name of the overseer available to take applications in an emergency at all times, including times outside the daily business hours under paragraph B;

D. The fact that the municipality must issue a written decision on all applications within 24 hours; and

E. The department's toll-free telephone number for reporting alleged violations in accordance with section 4321.

See title page for effective date.