

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

~~D. An individual who possesses a current guide license for tidewater fishing as provided by rule pursuant to section 12853.~~

A person who holds a recreational fishing operator's license shall collect data from persons who engage in saltwater recreational fishing and report the data to the commissioner as specified by the commissioner by rule.

There is no fee for a recreational fishing operator's license.

Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §6313 is enacted to read:

§6313. For-hire charter boat operator's license

1. License required. A person may not engage in the activities authorized under this section without a current for-hire charter boat operator's license.

2. Licensed activity. The holder of a for-hire charter boat operator's license may take paying passengers recreationally fishing for fish in the coastal waters of the State on the vessel identified on that for-hire charter boat operator's license. The license does not authorize the holder or the holder's passengers to sell any fish taken under this license.

3. Agent fees. A fee may not be charged for a for-hire charter boat operator's license under this section. A person seeking a license through an agent may be charged an agent fee of \$2. A person seeking a license through a publicly accessible online electronic system for licensing may be charged an agent fee of \$1. A person seeking a license at an office of the department from a department employee may be charged an agent fee of \$1.

4. Eligibility. A for-hire charter boat operator's license may be issued only to an individual. A for-hire charter boat operator's license may be issued to an individual only if the individual:

A. Possesses a valid United States merchant marine document issued by the United States Coast Guard for an operator of uninspected passenger vessel or master or mate captain's license; or

B. Holds a current guide license for tidewater fishing as provided by rule pursuant to section 12853.

5. Violation. A person who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

Sec. 6. Effective date. This Act takes effect January 1, 2026.

Effective January 1, 2026.

CHAPTER 156
H.P. 473 - L.D. 731

**An Act to Prohibit
Municipalities from Barring
the Creation of Homeless
Shelters**

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §4357-B is enacted to read:

§4357-B. Homeless shelters

1. Definition. As used in this section, "homeless shelter" means a housing facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary overnight accommodations to persons experiencing homelessness who are guests in either a dormitory-style or dwelling-unit-style arrangement or any combination of such arrangements.

2. Homeless shelters may not be prohibited. A municipality may not prohibit homeless shelters in the municipality. This prohibition does not limit a municipality's home rule authority to reasonably regulate homeless shelters.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 157
H.P. 516 - L.D. 809

**An Act to Allow a Motion to
Extend a Protection from
Abuse Order After Expiration
of the Original Order**

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

Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §4110, sub-§5, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 647, Pt. A, §3 and affected by Pt. B, §65, is amended to read:

A. A final protection order issued under this chapter must be for a fixed period not to exceed 2 years, unless extended or reinstated by the court pursuant to section 4111.

Sec. 2. 19-A MRSA §4111, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Extension after expiration. The court may reinstate and extend a final protection order issued under this chapter after expiration, upon motion of the plaintiff, only if the court finds:

A. That the plaintiff has shown good cause for filing the motion to extend a final protection order after expiration of the order, which may include that the filing was not timely due to a dismissal of a

prior motion to extend because of an inability to serve the defendant; and

B. That the filing under this subsection was made within a reasonable amount of time based upon the underlying circumstances.

If the court makes findings for the plaintiff under paragraphs A and B, the court may reinstate the final protection order that has expired until a hearing under section 4109, subsection 1 on the motion to extend and shall apply the standard in subsection 1 to determine whether an extension of the final protection order is necessary to protect the plaintiff or minor child from abuse or conduct specified in section 4103.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 158

S.P. 405 - L.D. 950

An Act to Increase Access to Protection from Abuse Orders by Allowing Children to File Protection from Abuse Orders on Their Own Behalf

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

Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §4103, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2023, c. 298, §§4 to 6, is further amended to read:

2. ~~Minor child~~ Child. A ~~child~~, a person responsible for a child, as defined in Title 22, section 4002, subsection 9, or a representative of the department when a ~~minor~~ child has been:

A. A victim of abuse as defined in section 4102, subsection 1 by a family or household member, a dating partner or an individual related by consanguinity or affinity; or

B. A victim of conduct:

- (1) Described as stalking in Title 17-A, section 210-A;
- (2) Constituting any crime described in Title 17-A, chapter 11;
- (3) Described as unauthorized dissemination of certain private images in Title 17-A, section 511-A;
- (4) Described as aggravated sex trafficking or sex trafficking in Title 17-A, section 852 or 853, respectively;
- (5) Described as sexual exploitation of a minor or dissemination of sexually explicit material in Title 17-A, section 282 or 283, respectively;

(6) Described as harassment by telephone or by electronic communication device in Title 17-A, section 506, subsection 1, paragraph A-1 or A-2; or

(7) Constituting a civil cause of action under Title 14, section 8305.

For purposes of this paragraph, the conduct need not have been perpetrated by a family or household member, a dating partner or an individual related by consanguinity or affinity;

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 159

H.P. 748 - L.D. 1129

An Act to Clarify Standards for Defendants' Post-judgment Motions for Relief from Protection from Abuse Orders

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

Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §4111, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Action by defendant. A defendant may not file a motion to extinguish a final order issued under this chapter. The court may dismiss a motion to extinguish filed by a defendant without a hearing and before opposition is filed.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 160

H.P. 828 - L.D. 1253

An Act to Authorize the Commissioner of Marine Resources to Add Limited-access Area Fishing Days During the Scallop Season

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6171, sub-§3, as corrected by RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. B, §35, is amended to read:

3. Emergency rules. The commissioner may adopt or amend rules under the emergency procedures provided in Title 5, chapter 375 in the following circumstances:

A. Immediate action is necessary to protect or conserve any marine organism from unusual damage or imminent depletion;