

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

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;

B. An unusually large concentration of persons who fish might deplete the supply of any marine organism;

C. Immediate action is necessary to comply with changes to federal or interstate fisheries management plans; ~~or~~

D. Immediate action is necessary pursuant to section 6302-B, subsection 4 to prohibit elver fishing; ~~or~~

E. Immediate action is necessary to add up to a total of 5 limited-access area days during the scallop season under section 6722 if the commissioner determines that additional days are necessary to counteract the inability to fish for or take scallops on certain days due to inclement weather and that the scallop population is sufficient to allow additional fishing for or taking of scallops in those limited-access areas.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 161

S.P. 502 - L.D. 1213

An Act Regarding Apportionment of Stipends to Agricultural Fairs

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §81, sub-§10, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 563, §3, is amended to read:

10. Premium. "Premium" means a ribbon, trophy or monetary amount or a service or object with monetary value awarded as a prize in a competition or event.

Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §85, first ¶, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 563, §3, is amended to read:

The Treasurer of State shall establish the Fair Fund and shall annually credit a sum of money equal to 5% of the total amount designated as state share in accordance with Title 8, section 286 to the Fair Fund. The commissioner shall make distributions from the Fair Fund only to licensees eligible for a stipend under section 86, subsections 5 and 6. Distributions are prorated according to the amount of premiums ~~and gratuities~~ actually paid by those licensees in full and in cash or valuable equivalent. Restrictions on premiums ~~and gratuities~~ used to determine apportionment of a stipend under section 86, subsection 5 apply to distribution from the Fair Fund.

Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §86, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 563, §3, is amended to read:

5. Distribution to all eligible licensees. The amount remaining in the Stipend Fund after distributions in accordance with subsections 2, 3 and 4 must be divided among fair licensees meeting the eligibility criteria in subsection 6, prorated according to the amount of premiums ~~and gratuities~~ actually paid by those licensees in full and in cash or valuable equivalent.

In determining distribution under this subsection, ~~no an~~ allowance ~~is~~ may not be made on premiums offered and paid by a licensee at any competition or event held other than during the period ~~at in~~ which its annual fair is held. Allowance may not be made or consideration given for lump sums, payments or premiums previously arranged and agreed upon for the presentation and display of any animals or products without regard to competition or event.

Premiums ~~and gratuities~~ used to determine apportionment under this subsection are limited to those paid for:

A. Livestock and poultry;

B. Vegetables, grains, fruits and flowers;

C. Products derived from livestock and dairy products;

D. Home-canned, home-cooked and home-baked goods;

E. Grange and farm exhibits;

~~F. Boys' and girls' club exhibits;~~

F-1. Youth agriculture events;

G. Mechanical arts exhibits;

H. ~~Domestic and fancy articles~~ Arts and crafts produced in the home;

I. Pulling contests for equines and oxen; ~~and~~

J. Pulling contests for farm tractors and pickup trucks;

K. Educational agricultural talks, workshops and demonstrations; and

L. Any other agricultural event approved by the commissioner.

Sec. 4. 7 MRSA §86, sub-§8, as amended by PL 2021, c. 681, Pt. J, §1, is further amended to read:

8. Maximum allowed distribution from Stipend Fund. A licensee may not receive a stipend from the Stipend Fund greater than the amount actually raised and spent by the licensee on premiums ~~and gratuities~~ in the classes provided in subsection 5. A licensee may not receive a stipend from the Stipend Fund in excess of \$10,000, except that this limitation does not apply to any additional stipend provided for by Title 8, section 287 or to funds distributed from the Fair Fund in accordance with section 85, the Agricultural Fair Support Fund in accordance with section 91 or the Agricultural Fair Promotion Fund in accordance with section 103.