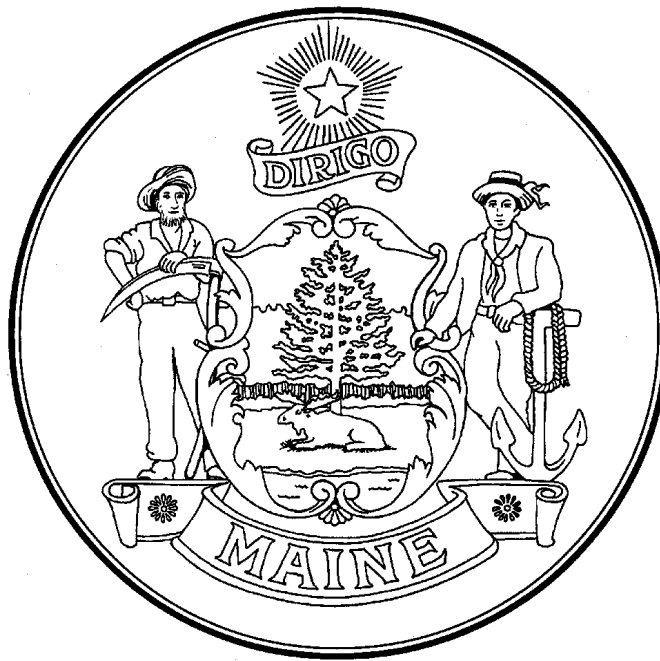


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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

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.

Sec. 5. 7 MRSA §88, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 563, §3, is amended to read:

B. The commissioner submits a certificate to the executive director of the State Harness Racing Commission stating that the commissioner has examined the claim of the licensee and determined that the licensee has complied with sections 86 and 87 and has awarded and paid as premiums ~~and gratuities~~ a sum equal to or greater than the stipend received by the licensee.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 162

S.P. 555 - L.D. 1340

An Act to Establish the Municipal Stream Crossing Fund

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

Sec. 1. 23 MRSA §4210-H is enacted to read:

§4210-H. Municipal Stream Crossing Fund; grant program

1. Fund established. The Municipal Stream Crossing Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within and is administered by the department to issue grants in accordance with this section. The fund consists of proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized for the purposes of the grant program established pursuant to subsection 2 and funds received as appropriations, allocations and contributions from public and private sources. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Interest earned by the fund must be credited to the fund. Any unexpended balances remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year do not lapse and must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

2. Grants. The department shall establish a competitive grant program to provide grants to eligible project sponsors for stream crossing replacements on municipal roads. Eligible project sponsors include local governments, municipal conservation commissions, soil and water conservation districts and private non-profit organizations.

3. Fund proceeds; uses. The department may award grants based on the extent to which the proposed project allows communities to more effectively prepare for storm and flood events and advances the goals of restoring habitat for fish, including sea-run fish and native brook trout, and wildlife. In awarding grants, the department shall consider:

A. The priority status of the stream crossing replacement for native brook trout and sea-run fish

restoration, based on available stream survey data, statewide prioritization for aquatic connectivity and presence in priority watersheds of salmon, river herring and other diadromous fish;

B. The extent to which the proposed stream crossing replacement is sized to be 1.2 times the stream's bankfull width, and the stream crossing replacement is sized to meet the department's 100-year flood standards;

C. The degree of urgency of the proposed project, including whether a stream crossing is at high risk of failure due to age, condition or location within a watershed or reach with high flood risk or severe flood history;

D. The expected contribution to reducing the frequency or severity of flooding to upstream and downstream communities and improving storm water management within the proposed project area; and

E. The extent to which the proposed project represents an efficient and cost-effective investment, including the proportion of total project funding provided from other sources and the potential avoided costs associated with the proposed project.

4. Grant proceeds; prohibited uses. Grants awarded under subsection 3 may not be used:

A. To cover all of the costs associated with a proposed project; or

B. For a stream crossing replacement on a state road or private road.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF Municipal Stream Crossing Fund N529

Initiative: Establishes the Municipal Stream Crossing Fund within the Department of Transportation with base Other Special Revenue Funds allocations and Federal Expenditures Fund allocations.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500	\$500

See title page for effective date.