

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

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the records, dated at least 10 days prior to filing the complaint for an order of protection under this subsection.

B. Any appeal that may be filed by the requesting party under section 409 may be consolidated with an action under this subsection.

C. An action for protection may be advanced on the docket and receive priority over other cases when the court determines that the interests of justice so require upon the request of any party.

D. If the court finds that the body, agency or official has demonstrated good cause to limit or deny the request or series of requests, the court shall enter an order making such findings and establishing the terms upon which production, if any, must be made. If the court finds that the body, agency or official has not demonstrated good cause to limit or deny the request or series of requests, the court shall establish a date by which the records must be provided to the requesting party.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 176
S.P. 38 - L.D. 121**

**An Act to Amend the Maine
Litter Control Act**

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

Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §2263, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2021, c. 510, §2, is further amended to read:

2. Litter. "Litter" means all waste materials including, but not limited to, bottles; glass; crockery; cans; scrap metal; junk; paper; garbage; rubbish; brush and yard debris; offal, except waste parts or remains resulting from the normal field dressing of lawfully harvested wild game or the lawful use of waste parts or remains of wild game as bait; feathers, except feathers from live birds while being transported; abandoned ice-fishing shacks; old automobiles or parts of automobiles or similar refuse; or disposable packages or containers thrown or deposited as prohibited in this chapter, but not including the wastes of the primary processes of mining, logging, sawmilling, farming or manufacturing. "Litter" includes waste materials resulting from or associated with the use of tobacco products, including, but not limited to, cigarette butts; all waste materials resulting from the outdoor release or abandonment of a balloon; and all waste materials resulting from the use of consumer fireworks.

For the purposes of this subsection, "tobacco product" has the same meaning as in Title 22, section 1551, subsection 3 and "consumer fireworks" has the same meaning as in Title 8, section 221-A, subsection 1-A.

For the purposes of this subsection, "brush and yard debris" does not include slash, as defined in Title 12, section 9331, generated by or on behalf of a public utility, as defined in Title 35-A, section 102, subsection 13.

Sec. 2. 17 MRSA §2263-A, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2021, c. 374, §2, is further amended to read:

1. Prohibited acts. A person may not intentionally throw, drop, deposit, discard, dump or otherwise dispose of litter in any manner or amount:

A. In or on public highway, road, street, alley, public right-of-way or other public lands, except in a container or receptacle or on property that is designated for disposal of garbage and refuse by the State or its agencies or political subdivisions;

B. In freshwater lake, river, stream, tidal or coastal water or on ice over the water. When any litter is thrown or discarded from a watercraft, a person is in violation of this section if that person is:

(1) The operator of the watercraft, unless it is a watercraft being used for the carriage of passengers for hire; or

(2) The person actually disposing of the litter.

This paragraph does not prohibit persons who fish, lobster or otherwise harvest from the water from returning to the water harvested products, bait and similar materials that naturally originate in the water;

C. In or on any private property, unless:

(1) Prior consent of the owner has been given; and

(2) The litter is not a public nuisance or in violation of any state law or local rule;

D. From a trailer or vehicle that is constructed, loaded or uncovered in such a way that the load may drop, sift, leak or otherwise escape. This paragraph applies to vehicles or trailers carrying trash, rubbish or other materials that may be construed as "litter"; or

E. From a vehicle. When any litter is thrown or discarded from a vehicle, a person is in violation of this section if that person is:

(1) The operator of the vehicle, unless it is a vehicle being used for the carriage of passengers for hire; or

(2) The person actually disposing of the litter.

It is a violation of this chapter for a person to intentionally release outdoors a balloon that is inflated or filled with a gas that is lighter than air, except that it is not a violation of this chapter for a person to intentionally release outdoors a balloon carrying scientific instrumentation, a balloon used for meteorological observation by

a governmental or scientific organization or a hot air balloon that is recovered after launching.

In addition to any penalty under section 2264-A, violation of this subsection is a traffic infraction under Title 29-A, chapter 23, subchapter ~~VI~~ 6.

A record of a violation of this subsection must be forwarded to the Secretary of State who, in accordance with Title 29-A, section 2607, shall add the violation to the department's point system. The violation is counted in determining an individual's total points under the point system of the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 177
S.P. 71 - L.D. 135**

**An Act to Provide
Compensation to Members of
the Permanent Commission on
the Status of Women to
Enhance Equitable
Commission Participation from
Across the State**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §7030-E, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 191, §1, is amended to read:

§7030-E. Meetings; compensation

The commission shall meet at the call of the chair not less than 4 times each year. Mileage and toll reimbursement for commission members are authorized for up to 2 meetings per year.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§88-A, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 191, §2, is amended to read:

88-A.

Women	Permanent Commission on the Status of Women	Not Authorized <u>Mileage and toll reimbursement for up to 2 meetings per year</u>	5 MRSA §7029
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Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF
Bureau of Corporations, Elections and
Commissions 0692**

Initiative: Provides allocations to provide mileage and toll reimbursement for up to 2 meetings per year for members of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$3,290	\$3,290
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$3,290	\$3,290
FUNDS TOTAL		

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 178
H.P. 170 - L.D. 267**

**An Act Regarding the Remote
Appearance of Counsel in
Pretrial Nontestimonial
Criminal Matters**

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

Sec. 1. 15 MRSA §458 is enacted to read:

§458. Appearance of counsel by remote methods

Unless the court orders otherwise in the interests of justice, the court shall schedule pretrial nontestimonial criminal matters in a manner that permits the appearance of counsel by remote methods to the greatest extent possible. As used in this section, "remote methods" has the same meaning as in Title 1, section 403-B, subsection 1.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 179
S.P. 247 - L.D. 567**

**An Act to Designate the 2nd
Week of May and the 2nd
Week of September as Dark
Sky Week**

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

Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §150-W is enacted to read:

§150-W. Dark Sky Week

The 2nd full week in May and the 2nd full week in September of each year is designated as Dark Sky Week to celebrate the dark skies of the State and to bring attention to the effects of artificial light on spring bird migration and the importance of curbing artificial light pollution. The Governor shall issue annually a proclamation inviting and urging citizens and schools to observe each week with appropriate activities and study.

See title page for effective date.