

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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~~(2) Nothing in subparagraph (1) precludes the board or the Supreme Judicial Court from considering a conviction as a basis for disqualification under this paragraph;~~

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 183

S.P. 202 - L.D. 550

An Act to Support Outdoor, Agricultural-based and Hands- on Experiential Learning in Public Schools

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA c. 10-E is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 10-E

MAINE EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION PRO- GRAM

§320-T. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Farm and sea to school learning program. "Farm and sea to school learning program" means a program that incorporates agricultural-based education, hands-on learning through school gardens and increased access to local foods through local procurement by school meal programs; improves access to local seafood sourcing by school meal programs; and provides seafood education in schools.

2. Fund. "Fund" means the Maine Experiential Education Program Fund established in section 320-V.

3. Program. "Program" means the Maine Experiential Education Program established in section 320-U.

4. Public school. "Public school" has the same meaning as in Title 20-A, section 1, subsection 24.

5. School administrative unit. "School administrative unit" has the same meaning as in Title 20-A, section 1, subsection 26.

6. Student. "Student" means an individual enrolled in prekindergarten to grade 12 in a public school or school administrative unit.

§320-U. Maine Experiential Education Program

The Maine Experiential Education Program is established to support the outdoor, experiential and farm and sea to school learning program needs of public schools and school administrative units.

1. Program administration. The department shall administer the program. In administering the program, the department may collaborate with the Department of Education and other state agencies and non-profit organizations that support farm and sea to school learning programs, local food procurement and other experiential learning initiatives in public schools and school administrative units.

2. Purposes. The program shall:

A. Develop and manage a grant program to help public schools and school administrative units create staff positions that support:

(1) The learning and academic development of students by ensuring that public schools and school administrative units interested in the program have the capacity necessary to provide experiential hands-on learning;

(2) The health and physical development of students by ensuring that public schools and school administrative units interested in the program have the capacity necessary to help students build connections between the food that students and their communities produce and the food that they prepare and eat; and

(3) The emotional and behavioral development of students by ensuring that public schools and school administrative units interested in the program have the capacity necessary to build, expand and maintain school gardens and other experiential learning spaces; and

B. Provide ongoing support to public school educators engaged in experiential hands-on education initiatives for continuing education and professional development opportunities.

§320-V. Maine Experiential Education Program Fund

1. Fund established. The Maine Experiential Education Program Fund is established within the department. The fund is nonlapsing and may be invested in the same manner as permitted for investment of other state funds. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

2. Use of fund. The department shall use money in the fund to:

A. Provide multiyear grants to public schools and school administrative units to help establish experiential education positions and outdoor educator positions within the public schools and school administrative units through a cost-sharing agreement in accordance with the following provisions.

(1) In the first grant year, the fund covers the full cost of salary and benefits, or stipend, of a position; in the 2nd grant year, the fund covers 2/3 of the cost of salary and benefits, or stipend, for the same position and the public school or school administrative unit covers 1/3 of the cost; in the 3rd grant year, the fund covers 1/3 of the cost of salary and benefits, or stipend, for the same position and the public school or school administrative unit covers 2/3 of the cost; and, in subsequent grant years, the public school or school administrative unit covers the full cost of salary and benefits, or stipend, for the same or similar position.

(2) Grants must be made to public schools and school administrative units in a manner that ensures the public schools and school administrative units create experiential education positions and outdoor educator positions that meet the outdoor, experiential or farm and sea to school education learning program needs of the public schools and school administrative units.

(3) Grants must be developed and dispersed so that public schools and school administrative units gradually assume full financial responsibility for the positions as described in subparagraphs (1) and (2) over a period not to exceed 3 years from the awarding of the grant for any individual public school or school administrative unit.

In dispersing grant money from the fund, the department shall prioritize opportunities to expand the range of positions funded by the fund, including such positions as stipend garden coaches, educational technicians and teachers; and

B. Provide for a staff position within the department to administer the program and the fund.

3. Fund sources. The following must be paid into the fund:

A. All money appropriated or allocated by the Legislature for inclusion in the fund;

B. All interest earned from investments of the fund; and

C. All money designated for deposit into the fund from any source, public or private.

§320-W. Evaluation and reporting

The department shall monitor and evaluate the program and submit an annual report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having ju-

risdiction over education matters describing the successes and challenges of instituting experiential education in public schools and school administrative units.

§320-X. Rules

The department shall adopt rules to implement this chapter. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. Maine Farm and Sea to School Institute support. As part of the Maine Experiential Education Program established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, chapter 10-E, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may provide support to the Maine Farm and Sea to School Institute in collaboration with the Maine Farm and Sea to School Network, other appropriate state agencies and nonprofit organizations that support farm and sea to school learning programs as defined in Title 7, section 320-T, subsection 1 and local food procurement initiatives in the State's public schools and school administrative units. Support under this section includes, but is not limited to, ensuring that public schools and school administrative units, including those participating in the Maine Experiential Education Program, have access to professional learning opportunities and coaching designed to ensure the creation of achievable goals for the purposes of:

1. Enhancing the learning and academic development of students by ensuring that public schools and school administrative units have the capacity necessary to provide the deeper learning and knowledge gained through experiential hands-on learning; and

2. Enhancing access to high-quality products grown and harvested in the State through increased local procurement and connections between schools, students and local farms and fisheries.

Sec. 3. First annual report. The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall submit its first annual report pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 320-W within one year from the effective date of this Act.

Sec. 4. Contingent effective date. This Act does not take effect unless:

1. The United States Congress, United States Department of Agriculture or other public or private entity creates an opportunity for the State to access funding for the purpose of implementing and managing the Maine Experiential Education Program established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, chapter 10-E; and

2. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry notifies the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House of Represent-

atives and the Revisor of Statutes that the funding opportunity under subsection 1 exists and that funding has been secured.

In no event may this Act become effective until 90 days after adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

See title page for effective date, unless otherwise indicated.

CHAPTER 184

H.P. 763 - L.D. 1158

An Act to Expand Appliance Energy and Water Standards

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §1616, sub-§1, ¶A-1 is enacted to read:

A-1. Except as provided in subsection 2, beginning January 1, 2027, a person may not sell or offer for sale in the State any of the following appliances and products manufactured on or after January 1, 2027 that are prohibited from sale in rules adopted by the department in accordance with subsection 3:

- (1) Commercial battery chargers;
- (2) Commercial dishwashers;
- (3) Commercial food steamers;
- (4) Commercial fryers;
- (5) Commercial ovens;
- (6) Computer server power supplies; and
- (7) Residential ventilating fans.

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §1616, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 433, §1 and reallocated by RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. A, §135, is amended to read:

B. In determining a person's compliance with ~~paragraph paragraphs A and A-1~~, the department shall, to the greatest extent practicable and where consistent with the requirements of this subsection, use information available from other states that regulate the same appliances and products.

Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §1616, sub-§1, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 433, §1 and reallocated by RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. A, §135, is amended to read:

C. A person who violates paragraph A or A-1 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$100 may be adjudged.

Sec. 4. 38 MRSA §1616, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 433, §1 and reallocated by RR 2021, c. 2,

Pt. A, §135, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. Exclusions; federal preemption. This section does not apply to any appliances and products:

A. Listed in subsection 1, paragraph A, subparagraphs (1) to (8) that are manufactured before January 1, 2023;

B. Listed in subsection 1, paragraph A-1, subparagraphs (1) to (7) that are manufactured before January 1, 2027; or

C. Listed in subsection 1, paragraph A or A-1 that are sold or offered for sale in the State in used condition.

An appliance or product listed in subsection 1, paragraph A or A-1 is exempt from the prohibitions in this section and the rules adopted pursuant to this section if state regulation of the appliance or product is preempted by federal statute or regulation, for as long as that federal preemption remains in effect.

Sec. 5. 38 MRSA §1616, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 433, §1 and reallocated by RR 2021, c. 2, Pt. A, §135, is amended to read:

3. Rules. The department may adopt rules to prohibit the sale or offering for sale in the State of appliances or products described in subsection 1, ~~paragraph paragraphs A and A-1~~. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 185

H.P. 1034 - L.D. 1576

An Act to Extend a One-year Lobbying Prohibition to Partisan and Nonpartisan Staff of the Legislature

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

Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §318-B, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 337, §2, is amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§318-B. Former executive branch or legislative branch employee lobbying prohibited

Sec. 2. 3 MRSA §318-B, sub-§1, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 337, §2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

C. "Former employee from the executive branch or legislative branch" means:

- (1) An employee who was employed in the executive branch of this State;