

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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(a) In the unclassified service, as defined in Title 5, section 7032, subsection 6-A;

(b) In the classified service;

(c) In a position for which the salary is subject to adjustment by the Governor under Title 2, section 6; or

(d) In a major policy-influencing position under Title 5, chapter 71; and

(2) An employee who was employed in the Legislature, including a partisan legislative employee, nonpartisan legislative employee, committee clerk or employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the House.

Sec. 3. 3 MRSA §318-B, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 337, §2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

2. Lobbying prohibited. Beginning January 1, 2026, a former officer or former employee from the executive branch or legislative branch may not engage in compensated lobbying until one year after the termination of the employee's executive branch or legislative branch employment.

Sec. 4. Effective date. This Act takes effect January 1, 2026.

Effective January 1, 2026.

CHAPTER 186

H.P. 1203 - L.D. 1797

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning Denials of Public Records Requests

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

Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §408-A, sub-§4, as repealed and replaced by PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. A, §1, is amended to read:

4. Refusals; denials. If a body or an agency or official having custody or control of any public record refuses permission to inspect or copy or abstract a public record, the body or agency or official shall provide, within 5 working days of the receipt of the request for inspection or copying, written notice of the denial, stating the reason for the denial or the expectation that the request will be denied in full or in part following a review. A written notice of a denial must contain a citation to the statutory authority used as the basis for the denial. A request for inspection or copying may be denied, in whole or in part, on the basis that the request is

unduly burdensome or oppressive if the procedures established in subsection 4-A are followed. Failure to comply with this subsection is considered failure to allow inspection or copying and is subject to appeal as provided in section 409.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 187

H.P. 1214 - L.D. 1813

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning State Boards and Commissions

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

Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §412, as amended by PL 2021, c. 313, §§5 to 7, is further amended to read:

§412. Public records and proceedings training for certain officials, board members and public access officers

1. Training required. A public access officer, a board member and an official subject to this section shall complete a course of training on the requirements of this chapter relating to public records and proceedings. The official, board member or public access officer shall complete the training not later than the 120th day after the date the official or board member assumes the person's duties as an official or board member or the person is designated as a public access officer pursuant to section 413, subsection 1.

2. Training course; minimum requirements. The training course under subsection 1 must be designed to be completed by an official, a board member or a public access officer in less than 2 hours. At a minimum, the training must include instruction in:

- A. The general legal requirements of this chapter regarding public records and public proceedings;
- B. Procedures and requirements regarding complying with a request for a public record under this chapter; and
- C. Penalties and other consequences for failure to comply with this chapter.

An official, a board member or a public access officer meets the training requirements of this section by conducting a thorough review of all the information made available by the State on a publicly accessible website pursuant to section 411, subsection 6, paragraph C regarding specific guidance on how a member of the public can use the law to be a better informed and active participant in open government. To meet the requirements of this subsection, any other training course must