

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

deputy harbor master as described in subsection 1, paragraph B, subparagraph (24) to be equipped with a siren in addition to authorized lights pursuant to this subparagraph.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective June 9, 2025.

CHAPTER 191 S.P. 12 - L.D. 3

An Act to Adopt Eastern Daylight Time Year-round Contingent on Federal Approval

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

Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §151, as repealed and replaced by PL 2019, c. 268, §1, is amended to read:

§151. Standard time

1. Standard time. The standard time for the State is the time as determined by 15 United States Code, Sections 260 to 267 except that the standard time year-round for the State is the time commonly known as eastern daylight time or eastern daylight saving time, referred to in this section as "eastern daylight time," if federal law or regulation permits the year-round observation of daylight time.

~~A. Federal law permits the year round observation of eastern daylight time; and~~

~~B. All the states in the eastern time zone and the District of Columbia observe eastern daylight time year round.~~

2. Secretary of State to monitor and provide public notice. The Secretary of State shall monitor whether the conditions condition under subsection 1, paragraphs A and B has been met and provide public notice when each has been met. When both conditions the condition under subsection 1, ~~paragraphs A and B~~ has been met, the Secretary of State shall issue a public notice announcing the effective date of year-round eastern daylight time as established in subsection 3.

3. Effective date. Year-round eastern daylight time is effective immediately upon the fulfillment of both conditions the condition in subsection 1, ~~paragraphs A and B~~ if the State is observing eastern daylight time on the date both conditions are the condition is met. Year-round eastern daylight time is effective on the next start date of eastern daylight time after both conditions the condition in subsection 1, ~~paragraphs A and B~~ has been met if the State is not observing

eastern daylight time on the date ~~both of the conditions are condition~~ is met.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 192 H.P. 30 - L.D. 66

An Act to Expand Access to the Maine Wage Assurance Fund

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §632, as corrected by RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §21, is amended to read:

§632. Fund for unpaid wages and certain liquidated damages

1. Fund established. There is established the Maine Wage Assurance Fund to be used by the Bureau of Labor Standards within the Department of Labor for the purpose of assuring that all former employees of employers within the State receive payment for wages and liquidated damages, in an amount equal to the wages, for a maximum of ~~2~~ 4 weeks for the work they have performed. The Legislature intends that payment of earned wages and liquidated damages from the fund be limited to those cases when the employer has terminated the employer's business and there are no assets of the employer from which earned wages may be paid or when the employer has filed under any provision of the Federal Bankruptcy Act. An officer or director in the case of a corporation, partner in the case of a partnership or owner in the case of a sole proprietorship may not be considered an employee for purposes of this section.

2. Administration. The fund ~~shall~~ must be administered by the Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards. Applications for payment from the fund and disbursements from the fund ~~shall~~ must be in accordance with ~~regulations promulgated~~ rules adopted by the director. The State ~~shall~~ must be subrogated to any claims against an employer for unpaid wages and liquidated damages, in an amount equal to the wages, by an employee who has received payment from the fund. Subrogation to these claims ~~shall~~ must be to the extent of payment from the fund to the employee.

3. Amount in fund. The Maine Wage Assurance Fund is a nonlapsing, revolving fund limited to a maximum of \$200,000. All money collected from an employer pursuant to a claim for unpaid wages and liquidated damages, in an amount equal to the wages, by an employee who has received payment from the fund, or by the State as the employee's subrogee, is credited to the fund.

The fund must be established and augmented periodically as necessary.