

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

The financial institution or credit union shall provide a copy of any written policy developed in accordance with this subsection to the customer or member.

3. Delay of account transactions. A financial institution authorized to do business in this State or a credit union authorized to do business in this State may delay a disbursement from an account of an eligible adult if the financial institution or credit union reasonably believes that the requested disbursement may result in financial exploitation of an eligible adult and the financial institution or credit union:

A. Not more than 2 business days after the requested disbursement, provides notification of the delay, the reason for the delay and the name of the primary employee of the financial institution or credit union that should be contacted regarding the delay to the customer or member and all parties authorized to transact business on the account, unless any such party is reasonably believed to have engaged in suspected or attempted financial exploitation;

B. Provides notification of the delay to the Office of the Attorney General not more than 2 business days after the requested disbursement; and

C. Continues its internal review of the suspected or attempted financial exploitation of the eligible adult, as necessary, and reports the results of the review to the Office of the Attorney General within 7 business days after the day the financial institution or credit union first delayed disbursement of the funds.

In any communication regarding a delay under this subsection, the financial institution or credit union shall use any method of communication that may be consistent with other time-sensitive communications and that is reasonably calculated to ensure that the recipient is effectively alerted to the nature of the information.

A delay of a disbursement in accordance with this subsection may not continue past the time required by the financial institution or credit union to determine that the disbursement will not result in financial exploitation or 15 business days after the date on which the financial institution or credit union first delayed disbursement of the funds, whichever occurs earlier. A court of competent jurisdiction may enter an order extending the delay of the disbursement of funds or may order other protective relief upon the petition of the financial institution or credit union or another interested party.

4. Immunity. A financial institution authorized to do business in this State or a credit union authorized to do business in this State that, in good faith, takes any action pursuant to this section is immune from administrative or civil liability that might otherwise arise from such an action or for any failure to take such an action.

5. Report to law enforcement. In addition to notifying the Office of the Attorney General, a financial institution authorized to do business in this State or a credit union authorized to do business in this State may make a referral to law enforcement agencies upon imposition of a delay pursuant to subsection 3. A financial institution or credit union may provide access to or copies of records that are relevant to the suspected or attempted financial exploitation of an eligible adult to a law enforcement agency, either as part of a referral to law enforcement or upon request of a law enforcement agency pursuant to an investigation. The records may include historical records as well as records relating to the most recent transaction that may constitute financial exploitation of an eligible adult. Any records made available to a law enforcement agency under this section are confidential.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 216

S.P. 591 - L.D. 1450

**An Act Regarding the
Voluntary Municipal Farm
Support Program**

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §60, sub-§3, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 301, §1, is amended to read:

B. Is limited to a term of not less than ~~20~~ 10 years.

Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §60-A, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2007, c. 693, §2, is further amended to read:

1. Program. ~~¶~~ The Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program is established in order to protect and support local farms, preserve farmland and reduce the potential tax burdens from new development fiscal burden for participating municipalities that results from new development in rural areas. Under this program, a municipality may enter into farm support arrangements with the owners of qualified farmland.

A. A farm support arrangement must be approved by majority vote of the municipality’s legislative body or municipal officers or by a municipal employee appointed by the municipal officers and designated to review and approve farm support arrangements.

B. Unless approved by a 2/3 vote of the municipality’s legislative body, the municipality may not enter into farm support arrangements:

- (1) Affecting more than 3% of the total annual valuation of taxable land in the municipality; ~~and or~~

(2) In any calendar year, affecting more than 1% of the total annual valuation of taxable land in the municipality.

Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §60-A, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 301, §1, is amended to read:

4. Rules. The department shall adopt rules governing farm support arrangements. Rules adopted under this subsection are ~~major substantive~~ routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 217

H.P. 965 - L.D. 1473

An Act to Require Gas Utilities to Assess for Natural Gas Leaks and to Require Reporting of Gas Leak Information

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §4713 is enacted to read:

§4713. Assessment and report of natural gas leaks

1. Gas utilities to assess for natural gas leaks. A gas utility shall assess its natural gas system for natural gas leaks, including every natural gas main and meter under its jurisdiction, as frequently as may be required by the commission by rule, but no less frequently than every 3 years.

2. Gas utility; reporting. Each gas utility shall provide reports to the commission at a frequency as established by the commission by rule regarding the number of natural gas leaks identified by the gas utility and the actions taken by the gas utility to address the natural gas leaks. The reports must protect individually identifiable customer information by omitting customer names and addresses, except that the reports must include street location information for the identified natural gas leaks. The commission shall post the reports received from gas utilities in accordance with this subsection on the commission's publicly accessible website.

3. Commission; reporting. No later than April 1, 2026 and annually thereafter, the commission shall provide a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over utility matters. The report must list each gas utility providing service in the State and the number of natural gas leaks identified by the gas utility in the prior calendar year by street location and must describe any action taken by the gas utility to address the natural gas leaks. The report must protect individually identifiable customer information by

omitting customer names and addresses. The commission shall post the reports required by this subsection on the commission's publicly accessible website.

4. Compliance. The commission shall periodically assess gas utility compliance with the requirements of subsections 1 and 2 at a frequency determined by the commission.

5. Rules. The commission may adopt rules to carry out the purposes of this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 218

H.P. 981 - L.D. 1497

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Primary Care Reporting by the Maine Quality Forum and to Establish the Primary Care Advisory Council

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

Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §6951, sub-§12, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 244, §2, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 24-A MRSA §6951, sub-§12-A is enacted to read:

12-A. Primary care reporting. Beginning January 15, 2026 and annually thereafter, the forum shall submit to the Department of Health and Human Services and the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters and health coverage and health insurance matters a report on at least one of the following key measures reflecting the status of primary care in the State:

- A. Annual primary care expenditures as a percentage of overall health care spending and investment;
- B. Annual utilization of primary care services as a percentage of overall utilization of health care services;
- C. The capacity of the primary care provider workforce to care for all residents of the State;
- D. The ability of residents of the State to have timely access to primary care services; and
- E. The overall health of residents of the State using metrics that reflect the use of preventive and screening services.

This subsection is repealed January 15, 2031.