

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

2. Advertising permitted. Notwithstanding any provision of this Title to the contrary, a wholesale licensee or certificate of approval holder, including on behalf of a brand the wholesale licensee or certificate of approval holder supplies or manufactures, may engage in advertising or sponsorship activities with a licensee described in subsection 3, subject to the conditions and limitations set forth in this section.

3. Eligible licensees. This section applies only to a venue licensee under section 1070.

4. Permitted activities. A wholesale licensee or certificate of approval holder, including on behalf of a brand the wholesale licensee or certificate of approval holder supplies or manufactures, may enter into a written agreement with an eligible licensee in accordance with subsection 5 for:

A. The purchase of advertising space or time on or within the licensed premises, including, but not limited to, physical signage, digital media and naming rights to portions of the venue;

B. The sponsorship of events, event series or designated areas within the venue, including lounges, beverage stations and hospitality zones; and

C. The co-branding or cross-promotion of events in conjunction with the licensee, as long as the co-branding or cross-promotion does not result in direct or indirect control over the operations of the licensee.

5. Conditions of authorization. A written agreement under subsection 4 is permitted only if:

A. The agreement is in writing and retained by the licensee and made available to the bureau upon request;

B. The written agreement is not conditioned upon the purchase, placement, promotion or exclusion of a particular brand or product by the licensee;

C. The wholesale licensee or certificate of approval holder, including on behalf of a brand the wholesale licensee or certificate of approval holder supplies or manufactures, does not exert, or attempt to exert, control over the retail operations, purchasing decisions or beverage menu of the licensee;

D. The written agreement complies with federal law; and

E. The written agreement does not result in the exclusion, in whole or in part, of another person's product.

6. Reporting. A licensee that enters into an agreement authorized by this section shall:

A. Submit to the bureau, upon request, a list of all agreements entered into pursuant to this section;

B. Retain a copy of the written agreement for a period of not less than 3 years and make the agreement available to the bureau;

C. Annually post a notice indicating that advertising and sponsorship opportunities are generally available to a wholesale licensee or certificate of approval holder and the brands the wholesale licensee or certificate of approval holder supplies or manufactures; and

D. Provide to the bureau, upon license renewal, a list of the licensee's sponsors.

Sec. C-5. 28-A MRSA §709, sub-§1, ¶A, as amended by PL 2019, c. 404, §14, is further amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read:

(2) Deliver more than 4 1/2 ounces of spirits over 15% alcohol by volume, a carafe containing more than one liter or 33.8 ounces of wine or any serving or pitcher containing more than one liter or 33.8 ounces of malt liquor to one person at one time;

Sec. C-6. Effective date. That section of this Part that amends the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 28-A, section 707, subsection 2 takes effect January 1, 2026.

PART D

Sec. D-1. 28-A MRSA §710, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2019, c. 404, §15, is further amended by repealing the first blocked paragraph.

Sec. D-2. 28-A MRSA §710, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1987, c. 342, §46, is repealed.

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

Effective June 10, 2025, unless otherwise indicated.

**CHAPTER 231
H.P. 345 - L.D. 526**

**An Act to Reduce the Time
Period for Challenging the
Validity of a Property Tax Lien
on Commercial Real Estate**

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

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §946-B, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Tax liens on commercial real estate. Notwithstanding subsection 1, a person may not commence an action against the validity of a governmental taking of commercial real estate for nonpayment of property

taxes upon the expiration of a 2-year period immediately following the expiration of the period of redemption. For the purposes of this subsection, "commercial real estate" means real estate that is either used or held for use primarily for a business purpose including, without limitation, apartment buildings with 5 or more rental or lease units, mobile home parks, office buildings and recreational facilities. This subsection applies to a tax lien recorded on commercial real estate after June 30, 2026.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 232
S.P. 273 - L.D. 589**

**An Act to Establish a State
Minimum Hourly Wage for
Agricultural Workers**

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA c. 7, sub-c. 2-B is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 2-B

AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYEE MINIMUM HOURLY WAGE AND RELATED PROVISIONS

§651. Definitions

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

1. Employ. "Employ" means to suffer or permit to work.

2. Employee. "Employee" means an individual employed to perform agricultural labor as defined in the Employment Security Law and the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, except that members of the family of the employer who reside with and are dependent upon the employer are exempt from this subchapter.

3. Employer. "Employer" means a person or entity that directly or indirectly engages the services or permits the work of an individual employed to perform agricultural labor or an individual employed in certain activities related to agriculture.

4. Wages. "Wages" means compensation paid to an employee in the form of legal tender of the United States and checks on banks convertible into cash on demand and includes the reasonable cost to the employer that furnishes the employee board or lodging. "Wages" also includes compensation paid through a direct deposit system, automated teller machine card or other means of electronic transfer as long as the employee can make an initial withdrawal of the entire net pay without additional cost to the employee or the employee can

choose another means of payment that involves no additional cost to the employee.

§652. Minimum hourly wage

An employer may not employ an employee at a rate less than the rates required by this section.

Beginning January 1, 2026, the minimum hourly wage for an employee is \$14.65 per hour, increased by the increase, if any, in the cost of living, measured by the percentage increase, if any, as of August of 2025 over August of 2024 in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, CPI-W, for the Northeast Region, or its successor index, as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics or its successor agency, with the amount of the minimum hourly wage increase rounded to the nearest multiple of 5¢. On January 1, 2027 and each January 1st thereafter, the minimum hourly wage then in effect must be increased by the increase, if any, in the cost of living. The increase in the cost of living must be measured by the percentage increase, if any, as of August of the previous year over the level as of August of the year preceding that year in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, CPI-W, for the Northeast Region, or its successor index, as published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics or its successor agency, with the amount of the minimum hourly wage increase rounded to the nearest multiple of 5¢. If the highest federal minimum hourly wage is increased in excess of the minimum hourly wage in effect under this section, the minimum hourly wage under this section is increased to the same amount, effective on the same date as the increase in the federal minimum hourly wage, and must be increased in accordance with this section thereafter.

§653. Records; retention, examination, copies

An employer subject to this subchapter shall keep a true and accurate record of the hours worked by each employee and of the wages paid, such records to be preserved by the employer for a period of at least 3 years, and shall furnish to each employee with each payment of wages a statement that clearly shows the date of the pay period, the hours, total earnings and itemized deductions. An employer making payment by direct deposit or other means of electronic transfer shall provide each employee with an accurate record of the transfer, including the date of the pay period, the hours, total earnings and itemized deductions, when the transfer is made. If the record is provided in an electronic format, the employer shall provide a method by which the employee may have ready access to the information and print it without cost to the employee. The director or the director's authorized representative may, and upon written complaint shall, enter the place of business or employment of an employer or employee for the purpose of examining and inspecting such records and copy any such records as the director or the director's