

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

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
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PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2025

CHAPTER 246
S.P. 549 - L.D. 1319

**An Act to Amend the Law
Regarding the Suspension of
Licenses Issued by the
Department of Marine
Resources for Failure to
Comply with Reporting
Requirements**

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6412, sub-§1-B is enacted to read:

1-B. Process for suspension for failing to comply with daily reporting by harvesters of marine organisms that have daily reporting requirements. If the commissioner determines that an individual licensed or certified to fish for marine organisms under this Part has failed to comply with a daily reporting requirement established in rule adopted by the department pursuant to section 6173, the commissioner may notify the individual by e-mail at the e-mail address provided on the application for the license or certificate. If the individual has not complied with the reporting requirements within 2 days of the requirement to submit the report, the commissioner may mail a notice to the individual. The notice is deemed received 3 days after the mailing. The notice must:

A. Describe the information that the individual is required to provide that the department has not received; and

B. State that, unless all the information described in paragraph A is provided to the department or the individual requests a hearing, the license or certificate will be suspended 3 business days after the individual's receipt of the notice.

Notwithstanding subsection 4, if the individual has not complied with the reporting requirements or requested a hearing within 3 business days after receipt of the notice, the commissioner shall suspend the license or certificate.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 247
H.P. 961 - L.D. 1469

**An Act to Clarify the Quality
Rating System for Child Care
Services in Maine**

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3737, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2021, c. 138, §1, is further amended to read:

3. Quality differential. To the extent permitted by federal law, the department shall pay a differential rate for child care services that meet or that make substantial progress toward meeting nationally recognized quality standards, such as those standards required by the Head Start program or required for accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and shall do so from the Child Care Development Fund 25% Quality Set-aside funds or by other acceptable federal practices. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. The rules must establish a child care quality rating system with a minimum of 3 steps and must provide for graduated quality differential rates for steps that demonstrate that a child care provider meets or makes substantial progress toward meeting nationally recognized quality standards. The rules must provide that child care providers accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the American Montessori Society, the National Association for Family Child Care or the Council on Accreditation, or any of their successor organizations, or a Head Start program that meets national Head Start standards, receive the highest rating under the child care quality rating system.

~~Nothing in this subsection requires~~ This subsection does not require the department to pay a quality differential rate for child care services provided through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 248
H.P. 970 - L.D. 1478

**An Act to Amend the Laws
Governing Baitfish
Wholesaler's Licenses**

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12551-A, sub-§6, ¶B, as amended by PL 2023, c. 431, §§18 and 19 and affected by §23, is further amended by repealing subparagraph (3) and enacting the following in its place:

(3) Attempt to take from the inland waters live baitfish for resale using drop nets through the ice unless the license holder marks all holes made in the ice by that license holder for that purpose. The holes must be marked either by evergreen boughs placed around the hole or by suspending at least one strand of fluorescent biodegradable tape at least 3 feet above the ice around the entire perimeter of the hole so that the tape is visible from all sides;

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §12551-A, sub-§6, ¶B, as amended by PL 2023, c. 431, §§18 and 19 and affected by §23, is further amended by amending subparagraph (4) to read:

(4) Take eels; or

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §12551-A, sub-§6, ¶B, as amended by PL 2023, c. 431, §§18 and 19 and affected by §23, is further amended by repealing subparagraph (5).

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 249

H.P. 1053 - L.D. 1595

An Act to Strengthen Working Waterfronts Against Nuisance Complaints Regarding Aquaculture

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

Sec. 1. 17 MRSA §2807, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 99, §1, is amended to read:

A. "Commercial fishing activity" means an activity directly related to a commercial ~~fishing~~ fisheries business as defined in Title 12, section 6001, subsection 6-A or a commercial activity commonly associated with or supportive of commercial fishing or aquaculture, such as the manufacture or sale of ice, bait, traps, cages or nets or the manufacture, installation or repair of boats, engines or other equipment commonly used on boats or in facilities that involve the catching, transporting, buying, selling or processing of seafood for commercial purposes.

Sec. 2. 17 MRSA §2807, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 99, §1, is repealed.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 250

H.P. 1116 - L.D. 1681

An Act to Consider Municipal Shelter Facilities and Housing Projects Essential for Public Health, Welfare and Safety by Updating the Definition of "Public Service Infrastructure"

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §5903, sub-§8-A, as amended by PL 2001, c. 90, §3, is further amended to read:

8-A. Public service infrastructure. "Public service infrastructure" means those facilities that are essential for public health, welfare and safety. Those facilities include, without limitation, sewage treatment facilities, municipal water supply and treatment facilities, solid waste facilities, public safety equipment and facilities, roads, traffic control devices and other transportation facilities, sidewalks, trees, buried utility lines and other streetscape improvements, parks and other open space or recreational areas, public access to coastal and inland waters, geographic information systems, municipal shelter facilities and housing projects managed and operated by a municipality or a municipal housing authority, as defined in section 4702, subsection 10-A, and any other public facility that benefits the public.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 251

H.P. 1143 - L.D. 1708

An Act to Create the Commercial Fishing Safety Fund to Further Develop Training and Provide Equipment to Recover Ships and Other Watercraft and Persons in Distress or Lost at Sea

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6035-A is enacted to read:

§6035-A. Commercial Fishing Safety Fund

The Commercial Fishing Safety Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within the department.

1. Sources. The commissioner may receive donations and funding from any source on behalf of the fund. All money received into the fund must be used for the purposes of the fund.

2. Use of fund. The commissioner shall use the fund to support activities related to improving safety in the commercial fishing industry and improving the department's ability to conduct search and rescue and recovery operations, including the acquisition of necessary equipment. The commissioner shall consult with the Commercial Fishing Safety Council established in section 6034 in making expenditures from the fund.

3. Interest and balances credited to fund. Any interest earned on the money in the fund must be credited to the fund. Unexpended balances in the fund at the