

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

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Sec. 2. 17 MRSA §2807, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 99, §1, is repealed.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

end of the fiscal year do not lapse but must be carried forward to the next fiscal year and credited to the fund to be used for the purposes of this section.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF
Commercial Fishing Safety Fund N534**

Initiative: Provides baseline allocation to establish the account.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$500	\$500
FUNDS TOTAL		

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 252

H.P. 1194 - L.D. 1783

**An Act to Clarify Municipal
Affordable Housing Tax
Increment Financing**

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §5248, sub-§2, ¶G, as amended by PL 2013, c. 312, §3, is further amended to read:

G. The duration of the program, which ~~may start~~ starts and ends during any the tax year years specified in the approval of the affordable housing development program by a municipal legislative body, except that the program duration may not exceed the earlier of 30 years after the tax year in which the affordable housing is placed in service, as evidenced by issuance of a municipal certificate of occupancy, and 35 years after the tax year in which the designation of the district is approved by the director as provided in section 5250, subsection 3; and

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §5250-E, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 426, §1, is amended to read:

1. Reports. The legislative body of a municipality ~~must shall~~ report annually to the director regarding the status of an affordable housing development district. The legislative body of the municipality may delegate the annual reporting requirement to a municipal officer in the initial designation of the affordable housing development district. The report must:

A. Certify that the public purpose of the affordable housing district, as outlined in this subchapter, is being met;

B. Account for any sales of property within the district; and

C. Certify that rental units within the affordable housing development district have remained affordable.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 253

H.P. 1245 - L.D. 1874

**An Act to Enable the Maine
Pilotage Commission to
Oversee Pilots Operating in
Portland Harbor**

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §85-B, sub-§3, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 355, §4, is amended to read:

3. Coastal zones. "Coastal zones" means the 3 areas of Maine coastal waters relevant to the commission membership, Calais to Schoodic Point, Schoodic Point to ~~Port Clyde, Southport Island and Port Clyde Southport Island~~ to Kittery, ~~excepting the port of Portland and Casco Bay.~~

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §86-A, sub-§3, as repealed and replaced by PL 1987, c. 689, §1, is amended to read:

3. Portland harbor Harbor. Those waters specifically governed by the Board of Harbor Commissioners for ~~the Portland Harbor of Portland, except that the commission retains those duties set forth in section 90 as they relate to pilots operating in such waters. This section is not intended to confer jurisdiction or duties upon the commission with respect to the activities of docking masters overseen by the Board of Harbor Commissioners for Portland Harbor.~~

Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §87-A, sub-§1, ¶E, as amended by PL 2011, c. 14, §2, is further amended to read:

E. All military ships navigating the Kennebec River to and from the Bath Iron Works Corporation for the purpose of accomplishing overhaul, repair, post shakedown availability and sea trials; ~~and~~

Sec. 4. 38 MRSA §87-A, sub-§1, ¶F, as amended by PL 2015, c. 14, §1, is further amended to read:

F. Noncommercial foreign vessels with overall length of under 253 feet, ~~except in the case of Portland Harbor; and~~

Sec. 5. 38 MRSA §87-A, sub-§1, ¶G is enacted to read: