

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. 1. 24-A MRSA §2436, sub-§1-A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 232, §1, is further amended to read:

1-A. A claimant, including a health care provider, may submit simultaneously a claim for payment with all carriers potentially liable for payment of the claim whether primary or secondary. Payment or denial of a claim by each carrier must be made within 30 calendar days after the carrier has received all information needed to pay or deny the claim whether or not another carrier with which it is attempting to coordinate has acted on the claim. Upon request by a health care provider, a carrier shall provide the health care provider a method for making a claims payment using an electronic funds transfer through the automated clearing-house network. Any payment made must be in accordance with rules adopted by the superintendent relative to coordination of benefits. For the purposes of this subsection, "health care provider" includes a person licensed to provide dental care services under Title 32, chapter 143, subchapter 3 and "carrier" includes an insurer that provides dental insurance.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 301

S.P. 728 - L.D. 1858

An Act to Promote Local Seafood in Schools

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§12, as amended by PL 2023, c. 101, §1, is further amended to read:

12. Local Foods Fund. The Local Foods Fund is established within the department. The fund is authorized to receive revenue from public and private sources. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year must be carried forward to the next fiscal year. The fund must be used to match \$1 for every ~~\$3~~ \$2 a school administrative unit pays for produce, value-added dairy, protein, including seafood, or processed foods purchased directly from a farmer, person who fishes commercially, aquaculture farmer, farmers' cooperative, aquaculture farmers' cooperative, local food hub, local food processor or food service distributor in the State, to a maximum state contribution of ~~\$5,000~~ \$10,000 per school administrative unit in fiscal year ~~2021-22~~ 2025-26 and subsequent years or ~~\$5,500~~ \$11,000 per school administrative unit if funding is received and the school administrative unit sends a food service employee to local foods training administered by the department under subsection 13. All foods purchased using the fund must be grown,

caught or produced in the State, with the exception of processed and value-added food products produced in the State, which must meet standards set by the department. The department shall create standards for allowable processed and value-added food products produced in the State and provide guidance to school administrative units regarding which of those products are allowable for reimbursement under this subsection and subsection 12-A. At the end of the fiscal year, the school administrative unit may provide the department with receipts documenting purchases pursuant to this subsection during that year. Reimbursement or partial reimbursement to school administrative units may only be made up to the amount available in the fund. Failure to reimburse does not constitute an obligation on behalf of the State to a school administrative unit. The department shall apply for federal grant funding to provide state contributions in excess of \$5,000 per school administrative unit in fiscal year 2021-22 and subsequent years pursuant to this subsection if applicable grant funding is available. The department may accept grant funding from hospitals and other sources to provide state contributions in excess of \$5,000 per school administrative unit in fiscal year 2021-22 and subsequent years pursuant to this subsection. Any available unexpended balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year may be used for training and materials related to the Local Foods Fund programs.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§12-A, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 426, §2, is amended to read:

12-A. Local Foods Fund reimbursement. Reimbursement or partial reimbursement to school administrative units may be made only up to the amount appropriated to support the provisions of the Local Foods Fund as established in subsection 12. Funds appropriated for this purpose do not lapse but must be carried forward to the next fiscal year to be used for the same purpose or for training and materials related to the Local Foods Fund programs.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§13, as enacted by PL 2015, c. 267, Pt. OOO, §2, is amended by enacting at the end a new last blocked paragraph to read:

Funds received for the purposes of this subsection may be used to contract with 3rd-party entities to provide training.

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§13-A is enacted to read:

13-A. Data collection; annual report to Legislature. The department shall collect data on the usage of the Local Foods Fund under subsection 12 and the local foods training program under subsection 13 by school administrative units, including the procurement of seafood. Beginning January 1, 2026 and annually thereafter, the department shall report to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over

education matters and marine resources matters on program participation, seafood purchases made by school administrative units and recommendations for program improvement. Each of the joint standing committees may report out legislation related to the content of the report.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 302

H.P. 1257 - L.D. 1886

An Act to Include Serious Bodily Injury in the Law Governing Motor Vehicle Violations Resulting in Death

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

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2413-A, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 182, §1, is amended to read:

§2413-A. Motor vehicle violation resulting in death or serious bodily injury

1. Offense. A person commits the civil violation of motor vehicle violation resulting in death or serious bodily injury if that person, while operating a motor vehicle and committing a traffic infraction, causes the death or serious bodily injury of another person.

2. Pleading and proof. The State must prove that the defendant's committing a traffic infraction while operating a motor vehicle caused the death or serious bodily injury under subsection 1. The court shall apply Title 17-A, section 33 in assessing any causation under this section.

3. Penalties. A person who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not more than \$5,000 may be adjudged. Any portion of the fine adjudged may be satisfied by a court-ordered requirement of community service work. The court shall also impose a license suspension of no less than 14 days and up to 4 years.

4. Definition. As used in this section, "serious bodily injury" has the same meaning as in Title 17-A, section 2, subsection 23.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 303

H.P. 1271 - L.D. 1900

An Act to Bring Parity to the State's Recognition of the Wabanaki Nations' Authority to Provide Electric Power Districts and Child Support Enforcement

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

Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §2201-A, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 300, §1, is amended to read:

§2201-A. Notice to licensing boards and obligor; judicial review; Penobscot Nation; Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Board" means any bureau, board or commission listed in Title 10, section 8001 or 8001-A, any other licensor that is affiliated with or is a part of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

B. "Support obligor" or "obligor" means an individual who owes a duty of support and over whom the Penobscot Nation and the Penobscot Nation Tribal Court have jurisdiction or over whom the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and the Maliseet Tribal Court have jurisdiction.

C. "Support order" or "order of support" means a judgment, decree or order, whether temporary, final or subject to modification, issued by the Penobscot Nation Tribal Court or the Maliseet Tribal Court for the support and maintenance of a child or a child and the parent with whom the child is living that provides for monetary support, health care, arrearages or reimbursement and may include related costs and fees, interest and penalties, income withholding, attorney's fees and other relief.

2. Notice. The Penobscot Nation or the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians may serve notice upon a support obligor who is not in compliance with an order of support that informs the obligor of the Penobscot Nation's or the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians' intention to submit the obligor's name to the appropriate board as a licensee who is not in compliance with an order of support. The notice must inform the obligor that:

A. The obligor may request a court hearing in the Penobscot Nation Tribal Court or the Maliseet Tribal Court to contest the issue of compliance;