

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

cessful placement and enrollment of and completion by individuals from historically marginalized communities in registered apprenticeship programs;

B. Consistently placed individuals in registered apprenticeship programs that result in a total package value of no less than \$35 per hour upon graduation from the registered apprenticeship program, based on Maine Apprenticeship Program evaluations as required pursuant to section 3204, subsection 2. On January 15, 2026 and each January 15th thereafter, the minimum total package value amount under this paragraph must be increased by the increase, if any, in the cost of living. The increase in the cost of living is 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 total package value increase rounded to the nearest multiple of 5¢; and

C. Demonstrated the provision of strong, comprehensive support services essential to ensure success, either through the use of funds provided under this subsection or through workforce funds provided by a different source.

Certified preapprenticeship training programs that cannot produce proof that graduates are employed in the field of their preapprenticeship after a period of 6 months following successful completion of their certified preapprenticeship training program or are represented by a labor organization are ineligible for grants under this subsection.

Funding for grants to support preapprenticeship training programs must be awarded to certified preapprenticeship training programs with strong direct entry links with registered apprenticeship programs through a competitive process administered by the department through the Maine Apprenticeship Program and to certified preapprenticeship training programs that train individuals for priority sectors for high-wage, in-demand jobs.

Funding for grants to support certified preapprenticeship training programs may also be used for program development, support and staffing for grantees.

Sec. 2. Department of Labor; study. The Department of Labor shall, within existing resources, conduct a study reviewing certified preapprenticeship training programs and registered apprenticeship programs in the State and in other states. The study must include an analysis of the programs reviewed, including but not limited to the funding methods of the programs.

The department shall invite relevant stakeholders to participate in the study. The department shall report its findings, including any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor by December 3, 2025. The joint standing committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature based on the report.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 307

H.P. 818 - L.D. 1243

An Act Regarding the Licensing of Assisted Living Facilities

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, placement in assisted living facilities is limited, resulting in waiting lists; and

Whereas, existing facilities that are constructing new facilities should be licensed as quickly as possible; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §7851, sub-§3-A, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 176, §7, is amended to read:

B. The department may issue more than one license at the same license level to an applicant for an assisted living facility license or a residential care facility license that, on October 1, 2023, held more than one license at the same license level for services offered in the same location. The department may also issue more than one license at the same license level to an applicant for an assisted living facility license or a residential care facility license if the applicant received municipal approval and permits and project financing approvals prior to March 1, 2023 and began construction, prior to October 1, 2023, on a facility at the same license level for services offered in the same location as long as there were no quality of care and services or resident rights violations of the license substantiated prior to October 1, 2023.

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

Effective June 15, 2025.

CHAPTER 308

S.P. 24 - L.D. 11

An Act Regarding Temperature Standards for School Buildings

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1001, sub-§23 is enacted to read:

23. Temperature standards for school buildings. A school board shall adopt and implement a written policy establishing standards for minimum temperatures and maximum temperatures for school buildings. The policy must be posted on the school board's school administrative unit's publicly accessible website. A school board shall seek guidance from the department prior to adopting and implementing the written policy.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 309

S.P. 50 - L.D. 124

An Act to Protect the Right to Food

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

Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §902, sub-§1-B, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 153, §1, is amended to read:

1-B. Edible landscaping, food forests and community gardens. The commission shall arrange for and oversee the development and implementation of a plan to incorporate food-producing plants, shrubs or trees into the landscaping of a portion of Capitol Park. Use of edible landscaping must be consistent with the overall plan for the park under section 902-A, subsection 2 and is subject to available funding for the park.

The commission may seek and accept money and food-producing seeds, plants, shrubs or trees from public and private sources for the development and maintenance of edible landscaping throughout Capitol Park and may collaborate with local, state or regional public or private entities with expertise in the design and maintenance of permaculture, edible landscaping, food forests or community gardens.

For the purposes of this subsection, "food forest" has the same meaning as in Title 7, section 292, subsection 1 and "permaculture" has the same meaning as in Title 7, section 292, subsection 2.

Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §2, sub-§6, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 677, §1, is amended to read:

D. Focusing on collective responsibility to amplify the voices of persons experiencing food insecurity; ~~and~~

Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §2, sub-§6, ¶E, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 677, §1, is amended to read:

E. Closing the equity gap in household food insecurity by addressing underlying structural inequities; ~~and~~

Sec. 4. 7 MRSA §2, sub-§6, ¶F is enacted to read:

F. Protecting the right to food as declared in the Constitution of Maine, Article I, Section 25.

Sec. 5. 7 MRSA §282, as amended by PL 2023, c. 420, §1, is further amended to read:

§282. Definitions

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

1. Direct producer-to-consumer transaction. "Direct producer-to-consumer transaction" means an exchange of food or food products directly between a food producer and a consumer by barter, trade or purchase on the property or premises owned, leased or rented by the food producer; at roadside stands, fundraisers, farmers' markets and community social events; or through buying clubs, deliveries or community-supported agriculture programs, herd-share agreements and other private arrangements.

1-A. Consumer. "Consumer" means an individual who acquires food or food products directly from a food producer of the individual's choosing solely for consumption by the individual or the individual's family.

2. Food or food products. "Food or food products" means food or food products that are grown, produced, processed or prepared for human consumption, including, but not limited to, vegetables, fruit, eggs, grain or grain products, herbs, seasonings or spices, milk or milk products, meat or meat products, poultry or poultry products, fish or fish products, seafood or seafood products, cider or juice, acidified foods or, canned fruits or vegetables, honey, nuts, maple products or condiments or any combination of those items, such as baked goods, sandwiches or other meals, and that are provided in a direct producer-to-consumer transaction.