

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

decision within 60 days of the date the application is filed, unless the applicant agrees in writing to further delay, the application is deemed denied and the applicant may appeal to the Superior Court as if there had been a written denial.

Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §844, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2011, c. 548, §13, is further amended to read:

2. Nonresidential property of \$1,000,000 or greater. ~~Notwithstanding subsection 1, the~~ The applicant may appeal the decision of the assessors or the municipal officers on a request for abatement with respect to nonresidential property or properties having an equalized municipal valuation of \$1,000,000 or greater, either separately or in the aggregate, to the State Board of Property Tax Review within 60 days after notice of the decision from which the appeal is taken or after the application is deemed to be denied. If the State Board of Property Tax Review determines that the applicant is over-assessed, it shall grant such reasonable abatement as it determines proper. For the purposes of this subsection, "nonresidential property" means property that is used primarily for commercial, industrial or business purposes, excluding unimproved land that is not associated with a commercial, industrial or business use.

Sec. 3. Application. This Act applies to property tax abatement appeals filed on or after January 1, 2026.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 343

S.P. 632 - L.D. 1548

An Act to Prevent the Introduction or Transfer of Invasive Fish Species in Inland Waters of the State

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10902, sub-§8, ¶E, as amended by PL 2013, c. 538, §10, is further amended to read:

E. Taking fish by explosive, poisonous or stupefying substances, in violation of section 12653; ~~or~~

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §10902, sub-§8, ¶F, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 538, §11, is amended to read:

F. Fishing or any violation of section 10906 while that person's license is revoked; ~~or~~

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §10902, sub-§8, ¶G is enacted to read:

G. Illegally possessing live fish, in violation of section 12611.

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §10902, sub-§8, as amended by PL 2013, c. 538, §§9 to 11, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

The commissioner shall suspend a person's fishing license for ~~5~~ 10 years and may suspend any other license issued under this Part and held by that person if the person is convicted or adjudicated ~~of illegally importing, transporting or possessing live freshwater fish or fish gametes of an offense under sections 12509, 12510, and 12512 and 12611~~, except that this mandatory revocation does not apply to offenses under section 12509 involving live bait fish or smelts.

Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §12509, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. C, §20, is further amended to read:

1. Permit required. Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person may not introduce, import or transport any live fish or ~~gametes fish eggs~~ into the State or receive or have in that person's possession fish or ~~gametes fish eggs~~ so introduced, imported or transported without a valid permit issued under this section.

A person who violates this subsection commits a Class E crime, except that, notwithstanding Title 17-A, section 1704, the fine may not be less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000.

Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §12509, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

2. Issuance. The commissioner may grant permits to introduce, import or transport any live fish or ~~gametes fish eggs~~ into the State or to receive or have in possession fish or ~~gametes fish eggs~~ so introduced, imported or transported if the commissioner determines that the species does not pose an unreasonable risk to any species of fish or other organism after evaluating fish health, habitat and population management issues. The commissioner may not adopt rules or issue permits governing any aspect of either the commercial aquaculture of Atlantic salmon when intended for use in commercial aquaculture in coastal waters, or in land-based aquaculture facilities, or the Atlantic salmon restoration program.

Sec. 7. 12 MRSA §12509, sub-§3, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

C. A statement from a fish health inspector certified by the American Fisheries Society, a fish pathologist certified by the American Fisheries Society or a licensed accredited veterinarian, certifying that the fish or ~~gametes fish eggs~~ are from sources that show no evidence of viral hemorrhagic septicemia, infectious pancreatic necrosis, infec-

tious hematopoietic necrosis, Myxosoma cerebralis or other diseases that may threaten fish stocks within the State; and

Sec. 8. 12 MRSA §12510, as amended by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. C, §21 and c. 263, §1, is further amended to read:

§12510. Permit to stock inland waters

1. Permit required. Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person may not introduce fish or fish eggs of any kind into any inland waters without a valid permit issued under this section. ~~A person who violates this subsection commits a Class E crime, except that, notwithstanding Title 17-A, section 1704, the fine may not be less than \$1,000 or more than \$10,000.~~

1-A. Penalty. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a Class E crime, except that, notwithstanding Title 17-A, section 1704, the fine may not be less than \$1,000 or more than \$10,000.

1-B. Restitution. In the case of a person who violates subsection 1, the court shall:

A. Order that person to pay the department an amount equal to the cost of labor, equipment, chemicals and all other related expenses directly associated with mitigating or reclaiming waters affected as a result of the violation; and

B. Direct that person to provide the commissioner, upon making full payment as ordered by the court under paragraph A, proof of that payment.

2. Issuance. The commissioner may issue a written permit allowing a person to introduce fish or fish eggs of any kind into any inland waters by means of live fish or otherwise.

3. Limited permit. The commissioner may issue a written limited permit to a local government under this subsection. A limited permit:

A. Allows the local government to introduce fish or fish eggs only into a great pond that:

- (1) Is within the jurisdiction of the local government; and
- (2) Was previously stocked by the department and in which stocking was suspended prior to January 1, 2019 and has not been resumed by the department due to inadequate public access;

B. Allows the introduction of only:

- (1) The same species of fish that was stocked at the time the department suspended stocking; and
- (2) Fish or fish eggs obtained by the local government at its own expense from an in-state commercial facility that meets testing and

health guidelines approved by the department; and

C. May be issued only if the local government identifies public access to the great pond that:

- (1) Is at least suitable for the hand carrying of boats to the water;
- (2) Includes a parking area; and
- (3) Has been marked with signage adequate to ensure public awareness of the public access.

For purposes of this subsection, "local government" means a municipality or, in the unorganized territory, a county.

Sec. 9. 12 MRSA §12511, as amended by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. C, §22, is further amended to read:

§12511. Permit to introduce fish or fish ~~spawn~~ eggs into private pond

1. Permit required. Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person may not introduce fish or fish ~~spawn~~ eggs into a private pond without a valid permit issued under this section. ~~A person who violates this subsection commits a Class E crime, except that, notwithstanding Title 17-A, section 1704, the fine may not be less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000.~~

1-A. Penalty. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a Class E crime, except that, notwithstanding Title 17-A, section 1704, the fine may not be less than \$1,000 or more than \$10,000.

1-B. Restitution. In the case of a person who violates subsection 1, the court shall:

A. Order that person to pay the department an amount equal to the cost of labor, equipment, chemicals and all other related expenses directly associated with mitigating or reclaiming waters affected as a result of the violation; and

B. Direct that person to provide the commissioner, upon making full payment as ordered by the court under paragraph A, proof of that payment.

2. Issuance. The commissioner may issue a written permit to introduce fish or fish ~~spawn~~ eggs into a private pond.

Sec. 10. 12 MRSA §12512, as amended by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. C, §23, is further amended to read:

§12512. Permit to transport live fish ~~for breeding and advertising~~

1. Permit required. Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person may not ~~take and~~ transport within the limits of the State live fish taken in the State for breeding or advertising purposes, other than baitfish, Atlantic salmon used in commercial aquaculture and smelts, without a valid permit issued under this section. A person who violates this subsection

commits a Class E crime, except that, notwithstanding Title 17-A, section 1704, the fine may not be less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000.

2. Issuance. The commissioner may issue a permit to a person permitting that person to ~~take and~~ transport within the limits of the State fish taken in the State ~~for breeding or advertising purposes.~~

Sec. 11. 12 MRSA §12557 is enacted to read:
§12557. Disposal of live baitfish or smelts

1. Prohibition. A person may not dispose of any live baitfish or smelts into inland waters of the State.

2. Penalty. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

B. A person who violates subsection 1 after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 344

H.P. 1130 - L.D. 1695

An Act to Require Law Enforcement Agencies to Adopt Written Policies Regarding Sex Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2803-B, sub-§1, ¶N, as amended by PL 2023, c. 394, Pt. A, §8, is further amended to read:

N. Unannounced execution of search warrants; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §2803-B, sub-§1, ¶O, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 394, Pt. A, §9, is amended to read:

O. By January 1, 2024, the confidentiality of attorney-client communications, which must include, at a minimum, processes to protect and ensure confidentiality of attorney-client communications and processes to be followed in the event that there is a breach of attorney-client confidentiality; ~~and~~

Sec. 3. 25 MRSA §2803-B, sub-§1, ¶P is enacted to read:

P. Persons who are believed to be experiencing sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 345

H.P. 1152 - L.D. 1725

An Act to Require Reporting Regarding County Jail Boards of Visitors

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §1651, sub-§4, ¶F, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 383, §1, is amended to read:

F. Each board of visitors shall share copies of that board's annual report with ~~the other boards of visitors of that sheriff's office~~ each other board of visitors appointed pursuant to this section.

Sec. 2. Board of visitors report. By December 3, 2025, the sheriff for each county shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety regarding the status of board of visitors vacancies for each jail or other county correctional facility under the sheriff's supervision. The report must include, at a minimum, for each jail or other county correctional facility, what actions the sheriff is taking to ensure that the board of visitors of the jail or facility is meeting its statutory membership requirements; what current difficulties the jail or facility is facing in meeting board of visitors membership requirements; how many members are currently appointed to the board of visitors; and whether the board of visitors is inactive and, if so, for how long it has been inactive. The committee may submit legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 346

S.P. 687 - L.D. 1769

An Act to Ensure Data Reporting for Temporary Nurse Agencies

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §2131, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2023, c. 434, §1, is further amended to read:

1. Registration; renewal. A temporary nurse agency shall register with the department and renew the registration annually. In the event of a change of ownership, operation or location of the temporary nurse