

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

15. Records. Beginning January 1, 2026, the Director of the Bureau of General Services shall preserve, consistent with applicable record retention schedules established and published by the Department of the Secretary of State, Maine State Archives, and make available on a publicly accessible website all records and documents regarding the competitive bidding process, including notices of intent to waive competitive bidding under this section and supporting documents and competitive solicitations and supporting documents, including question-and-answer summaries, evaluation team packets and award decision letters. All proposals submitted in response to a solicitation and resulting in an award are public documents, unless otherwise excepted by statute.

Sec. 2. Record recovery. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services shall to the extent possible recover and publish on a publicly accessible website all past notices of intent to waive the competitive bidding process and supporting documents.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 406

H.P. 547 - L.D. 861

An Act to Prohibit the Public Advocate and a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission from Certain Employment Activities Following Service

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §124 is enacted to read:

§124. Post-term employment restrictions; commissioners

1. Definition. As used in this section, "employment" means any full-time or part-time work performed for compensation and includes, but is not limited to, consulting and membership on a board.

2. Prohibitions. An individual serving as a commissioner on or appointed to serve as a commissioner on or after December 15, 2025 may not, until 12 months after the completion of the commissioner's service in accordance with section 105, subsection 2:

A. Solicit employment with or accept employment from a public utility in the State; or

B. Appear before the commission for compensation in a commission proceeding on behalf of a person.

3. Penalties. An individual who violates this section is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence, payable to the State.

4. Enforcement. The Office of the Attorney General may investigate alleged violations of this section and bring an action for a violation of this section.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §1715 is enacted to read:

§1715. Post-term employment restrictions

1. Definition. As used in this section, "employment" means any full-time or part-time work performed for compensation and includes, but is not limited to, consulting and membership on a board.

2. Certain employment prohibited. An individual serving as the Public Advocate on or appointed to serve as the Public Advocate on or after December 15, 2025 may not, until 12 months after the completion of the Public Advocate's service in accordance with section 1701, subsection 1-A:

A. Solicit employment with or accept employment from a public utility in the State; or

B. Appear before the commission for compensation in a commission proceeding on behalf of a person, other than a state agency or quasi-independent state entity, if that person was a party to an adjudicatory proceeding in which the Public Advocate was a party during the Public Advocate's term of service.

3. Penalties. An individual who violates this section is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence, payable to the State.

4. Enforcement. The Office of the Attorney General may investigate alleged violations of this section and bring an action for a violation of this section.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 407

H.P. 677 - L.D. 1048

An Act to Require Certain Notice Requirements for Whistleblower Protections

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §1316, sub-§10, as repealed and replaced by PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. A, §124, is amended to read:

10. Notice of rights required. A public utility and a competitive electricity provider shall notify the public utility's and the competitive electricity provider's employees, affiliated interests and utility contractors of their rights under this section. A public utility and a competitive electricity provider shall send an annual notice of the rights under this section, which must be written in plain English, be in at least 12-point type and be sent separately from any other communication, to:

A. Persons at the time of the notice performing a service for wages or other remuneration under a contract of hire, expressed or implied, for the public utility or competitive electricity provider; and

B. The public utility's and the competitive electricity provider's affiliated interests and utility contractors.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 408

H.P. 700 - L.D. 1078

An Act to Support Maine's Public Health Objectives by Increasing Access to Hypodermic Apparatus Exchange Programs

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1341, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Authorized service models. A certified hypodermic apparatus exchange program may:

A. Operate mobile sites within the municipality where the program is certified, including rotating locations, variable schedules or temporary setups, as long as the program ensures the safe collection and disposal of hypodermic apparatuses and operates within parameters preapproved by the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. For the purposes of this paragraph, "parameters" means a set of general operating conditions, such as geographic zones, time frames or site types, that allows certified hypodermic apparatus exchange programs to operate flexibly within those defined boundaries, rather than being limited to fixed locations; and

B. Provide delivery services of hypodermic apparatuses within the program's service area, as long as the delivery ensures client confidentiality, safe handling and proper disposal. The program may deliver only to locations where it has been expressly invited by an individual or entity with legal authority to authorize access to that location.

Expansion of sites under this subsection does not entitle a certified hypodermic apparatus exchange program to additional funds under an existing contract with the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 409

H.P. 713 - L.D. 1091

An Act to Reinforce Free Speech at Town Meetings by Requiring Opportunity for Public Comment

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §2608 is enacted to read:

§2608. Public comment at public meetings of municipal officers

A reasonable opportunity for public comment must be provided on matters addressed by the municipal governing body at any regularly scheduled public meeting of the municipal officers. This section does not apply to a subcommittee meeting of a municipal governing body. This section does not preempt or restrict the municipal governing body from adopting and enforcing reasonable standards governing public comment, including time limits and conduct standards.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 410

H.P. 867 - L.D. 1332

An Act to Establish the Community Schools Success Fund to Ensure the Implementation and Success of Community Schools Programs

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §9924 is enacted to read:

§9924. Community Schools Success Fund

1. Fund established. The Community Schools Success Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within the department as a nonlapsing fund to provide grants to community schools, local education providers and nonprofit organizations. The commissioner shall administer the fund to provide community schools with assistance with the following:

A. Community needs audits and community schools resources assessment;

B. Readiness plan assessments;

C. New and ongoing sustainability efforts;

D. Professional development and training; and

E. Peer support and mentoring efforts.