

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

thereafter, a designated food waste generator shall submit to the department a report, in a format specified by the department, that includes the following information:

A. The amount, in tons, of excess edible food donated by the designated food waste generator to food rescue organizations during the prior calendar year;

B. The amount, in tons, of food waste transferred by the designated food waste generator to organics recyclers during the prior calendar year; and

C. Any other information required by the department.

5. Administration; rules; publication of information. The department shall administer the requirements of this section and shall adopt rules as necessary for the implementation, administration and enforcement of this section.

A. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A and must include, at a minimum:

(1) Provisions setting forth the methodology by which the department will determine the persons that qualify as designated food waste generators under this section; and

(2) Requirements for the temporary hardship waiver process under subsection 3.

B. Not earlier than July 1, 2035, the department may adopt rules providing that a designated food waste generator under subsection 1, paragraph A, subparagraph (3) includes a person that generates at a single location an annual average of less than one ton but greater than 100 pounds per week of food waste or that is located farther than 25 miles from an organics recycler with available capacity to accept the food waste generated by the person at the location.

If the department adopts rules pursuant to this paragraph, the department may by rule exempt from otherwise applicable reporting requirements of subsection 4 any designated food waste generator that generates at a single location an annual average of less than one ton but greater than 100 pounds per week of food waste.

C. By July 1, 2029, the department shall publish on its publicly accessible website and maintain and regularly update a list of all organics recyclers in the State known by the department to be authorized to accept food waste and all food rescue organizations in the State known by the department to accept excess edible food.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 420

H.P. 732 - L.D. 1113

An Act Regarding Fairness in Sentencing for Persons Based on Age

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

Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §1602, sub-§1, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 113, Pt. A, §2, is amended to read:

B. Second, the court shall determine the maximum term of imprisonment to be imposed by considering all other relevant sentencing factors, both aggravating and mitigating, appropriate to the case. Relevant sentencing factors include, but are not limited to, the character of the individual, the age of the individual at the time the conduct forming the basis for the conviction occurred, the individual's criminal history, the effect of the offense on the victim and the protection of the public interest.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 421

S.P. 608 - L.D. 1493

An Act to Limit Corporate Use of the Visual Media Production Credit

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13090-L, sub-§2-A, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 470, §1, is amended by amending subparagraph (5) to read:

(5) A finished production that solicits funds; ~~or~~

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §13090-L, sub-§2-A, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 470, §1, is amended by amending subparagraph (6) to read:

(6) A production for which records are required to be maintained by 18 United States Code, Section 2257;

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §13090-L, sub-§2-A, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 470, §1, is amended by enacting a new subparagraph (7) to read:

(7) A commercial or promotional production intended to advance a product or service to the benefit of an individual or organization; or

Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §13090-L, sub-§2-A, ¶D, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 470, §1, is amended by enacting a new subparagraph (8) to read:

(8) A production produced primarily for industrial, corporate or institutional purposes or for internal use.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 422

S.P. 627 - L.D. 1543

An Act to Establish the Maine Green Schools Network

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 335 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 335

MAINE GREEN SCHOOLS NETWORK

§9931. Definitions

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

1. Green school. "Green school" means a public school that shows exemplary progress in the following areas:

A. Supporting the work of school administrative units to increase efficiencies in and reduce carbon emissions from buildings, energy systems, transportation, food use and landscaping;

B. Constructing an engaging support system and framework for environmental literacy through networking and sharing curriculum units, projects and outdoor activities between educators in this State;

C. Establishing a continuous pathway for career exploration and skill development in climate-ready fields; and

D. Building strong and lasting leadership within youth, educators, administrators and community members to support the initiatives described in this subsection.

For the purposes of this subsection, "climate-ready fields" means occupational fields related to climate or clean energy.

2. Network. "Network" means the Maine Green Schools Network.

3. Student. "Student" means an individual enrolled in prekindergarten to grade 12 in a public school or school administrative unit.

§9932. Network established; administration; composition

The Maine Green Schools Network is established within the department to support environmental education and initiatives within public schools and school administrative units as described in section 9933.

1. Administration. The department shall administer the network. In administering the network, the department may collaborate with the following entities:

A. A nonprofit organization in this State that supports environmental awareness, accountability and action through fostering youth leadership, supporting educators, prioritizing research and evaluation, shifting culture and advancing transformational policy;

B. Other state agencies;

C. Tribal governments; and

D. Nonprofit organizations that support environmental, outdoor and climate learning programs, traditional ecological knowledge, local procurement and other experiential learning initiatives in public schools and school administrative units.

2. Network composition. The department may, subject to availability of funds, invite the following individuals to participate in the network:

A. The director of green schools within the department;

B. The climate education specialist within the department;

C. The Wabanaki studies specialist within the department;

D. One educator with experience teaching in a public elementary or secondary school in the State;

E. One school administrator employed at a school administrative unit in the State;

F. A member of the public;

G. A representative from a climate education nonprofit organization;

H. A representative from a career and technical school;

I. A representative from the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future with expertise in youth engagement or climate education; and

J. A representative from the Department of Environmental Protection.

The department may invite additional individuals or organizations to participate in the network.

§9933. Network duties and other activities

The following provisions govern the network's duties and authority under this chapter.

1. Duties. The network shall: