

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

Whereas, without federal funding, certain state agencies may have to lay off valuable state employees; and

Whereas, if there are unavoidable layoffs, the State is bound, by contractual obligations, to give 10 days' notice of an impending layoff to any bargaining unit employee; and

Whereas, any state employee subject to a layoff due to lack of federal funding may qualify for unemployment benefits; and

Whereas, state agencies will have to fund these unemployment benefits, which were likely not accounted for in prior budgeting; and

Whereas, it is critically important that this legislation take effect before the expiration of the 90-day period; 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. Transfer from Reserve for General Fund Operating Capital to Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Departments and Agencies - Statewide program, General Fund account. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller may transfer up to \$2,500,000 from the balance available in the Reserve for General Fund Operating Capital to the Departments and Agencies - Statewide program, General Fund account within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to address funding needs related to layoff obligations for state employees affected by federal funding disruptions that are not otherwise directly chargeable to those federal funding sources.

Sec. 2. Transfer to Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Departments and Agencies - Statewide program, General Fund account; special account funding. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller may authorize the transfer of Personal Services expenditures to address funding needs related to layoff obligations for state employees affected by federal funding disruptions that are not otherwise directly chargeable to those federal funding sources from any federal fund account to the Departments and Agencies - Statewide program, General Fund account within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. Expenditures may be transferred in circumstances in which federal funding has been appropriated or awarded and has been unexpectedly removed, to help cover the 10-day notice period that is contractually required when a state employee is laid off and to cover

shortfalls in an agency's unemployment fund due to these unexpected layoffs.

Sec. 3. Transfer to Reserve for General Fund Operating Capital. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller on or before June 30, 2026 shall transfer the unobligated balance from the Departments and Agencies - Statewide program, General Fund account within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the Reserve for General Fund Operating Capital.

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

Effective July 1, 2025.

CHAPTER 436

S.P. 33 - L.D. 20

An Act Regarding the First Judicial District and the District Court Locations in the Judicial Divisions of Androscoggin and Western Aroostook

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

Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §153, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2003, c. 673, Pt. JJJ, §3, is further amended to read:

2. Androscoggin. Androscoggin consists of all municipalities in Androscoggin County. The District Court for Androscoggin must be held at Lewiston ~~or Auburn, exact site to be determined by the Chief Judge.~~

Sec. 2. 4 MRSA §153, sub-§3, as amended by PL 1995, c. 330, §1, is further amended to read:

3. Western Aroostook. Western Aroostook consists of the municipalities and unorganized territory known as Hamlin ~~Pt.~~ Plantation, Cyr ~~Pt.~~ Plantation, T17 R3, T17 R4, T16 R5, T15 R6, Winterville ~~Pt.~~ Plantation, T15 R8, T15 R9, T14 R10, T14 R11, T14 R12, T14 R13, T14 R14, T14 R15, T14 R16, and all municipalities and unorganized territory in Aroostook County lying to the west and north of these. The District Court for Western Aroostook must be held at Madawaska and Fort Kent. ~~The Chief Judge shall determine the level of service at each location.~~

Sec. 3. 4 MRSA §154, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1965, c. 228, §2, is further amended to read:

1. First District. The first district consists of the divisions of Eastern Aroostook (Caribou) and Western Aroostook (Madawaska, Fort Kent and Van Buren).

Sec. 4. 4 MRSA §154, sub-§8, as amended by PL 2003, c. 673, Pt. JJJ, §4, is further amended to read:

8. Eighth District. The 8th district consists of the ~~divisions~~ division of Androscoggin (Lewiston).

Sec. 5. Reallocation of Western Aroostook and Eastern Aroostook judicial divisions. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 4, section 153, subsections 3 and 4, for the convenience of the public, the Chief Judge of the District Court may, by order, which may from time to time be amended or repealed, reallocate any municipality or unorganized territory between the Western Aroostook and Eastern Aroostook judicial divisions. Copies of the order must be posted on the judicial branch's publicly accessible website.

Sec. 6. Report. By January 15, 2026, the Chief Judge of the District Court shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary with any recommendations for redrawing the geographic boundaries between any of the judicial divisions set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 4, section 153. The committee may report out legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Sec. 7. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

Courts - Supreme, Superior and District 0063

Initiative: Provides ongoing deappropriations due to the closure of the district court in Madawaska.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	(\$5,416)	(\$6,500)
All Other	(\$38,640)	(\$46,368)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	(\$44,056)	(\$52,868)

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 437

S.P. 35 - L.D. 22

An Act to Update the Laws Governing Education in the Unorganized Territory

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §3251, as amended by PL 2001, c. 454, §11, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§3251. Education in the unorganized territory; eligibility to enroll

Education in elementary schools and secondary schools in the unorganized territory must be provided in alignment with the system of learning results as established in section 6209 under the direction of the com-

missioner and must meet the general standards for elementary and secondary education and special education established pursuant to this Title. The following provisions apply to enrollment in elementary schools and secondary schools in the unorganized territory.

1. Eligibility to enroll; school year. A person meeting the minimum age requirements of subsection 2 or section 7001, subsection 1-B, paragraph B and who has not reached 20 years of age before the start of the school year may enroll as a full-time student or, with the permission of the commissioner, as a part-time student in the elementary school or secondary school where the student is assigned in the unorganized territory. The school year, for the purpose of this subsection, is defined as starting on July 1st and ending on the following June 30th.

2. Minimum ages. The following are minimum ages necessary for student enrollment in elementary schools in the unorganized territory.

A. A person who will be at least 5 years of age on October 15th of the school year may enroll in school.

B. A person who will be at least 4 years of age on October 15th of the school year may enroll in a public preschool program prior to kindergarten if it is offered.

3. Exceptions. The following are exceptions to this section.

A. A war veteran who has not completed high school before the veteran's 18th birthday may enroll in the elementary schools and secondary schools in the unorganized territory until the veteran graduates or until the end of the school year in which the veteran reaches 25 years of age.

B. A person who has enrolled in a public kindergarten or grade one in another state may enroll in kindergarten or grade one, as the case may be, in an elementary school in the unorganized territory.

C. A person who was enrolled in a public kindergarten in this State under paragraph B may enroll in grade one upon satisfactory completion of kindergarten.

D. A person who was enrolled in a public kindergarten in another state and was promoted to grade one may enroll in grade one in an elementary school in the unorganized territory.

E. The eligibility for a child with a disability is governed by chapter 303.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §3252, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2007, c. 541, Pt. C, §1, is further amended to read:

5. Transportation and board. The costs of transportation or board for students under this section may