

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 7, 2026 to APRIL 29, 2026

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JULY 29, 2026

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2026

PUBLIC LAWS OF THE STATE OF MAINE
AS PASSED AT
THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
2025

CHAPTER 500
H.P. 871 - L.D. 1336

**An Act to Establish the Maine-
Aomori Sister-state Advisory
Council**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-K, sub-§10-B is enacted to read:

10-B.

State Government	Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council	Not Authorized	10 MRSA §31
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Sec. 2. 10 MRSA c. 1-C is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 1-C

**MAINE-AOMORI SISTER-STATE ADVISORY
COUNCIL**

§31. Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council

The Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council, referred to in this chapter as "the council," is established by Title 5, section 12004-K, subsection 10-B to promote and cultivate a cooperative sister-state relationship between this State and the Prefecture of Aomori, Japan in order to benefit the citizens of the sister states.

1. Members; terms. The council consists of the president of the Maine International Trade Center, established pursuant to section 945, or the president's designee and 11 members who are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor, including:

A. One member with knowledge and experience in kindergarten to grade 12 education;

B. One member with knowledge and experience in public postsecondary education;

C. One member with knowledge and experience in private postsecondary education;

D. One member with knowledge and experience in business and international trade;

E. One member with knowledge and experience in the humanities, including performing or visual arts;

F. One member with knowledge and experience in the sciences, including natural resources;

G. One member with knowledge and experience in tourism;

H. One member representing a nonprofit corporation based in the State supporting the Maine-Aomori cooperative sister-state relationship;

I. One member with knowledge and experience in international exchanges; and

J. Two members representing the general public.

Appointed members of the council serve 3-year terms.

2. Chair; meetings; compensation. The chair of the council, who is elected by the members of the council, shall preside at, set the agenda for and schedule council meetings. The council shall meet at least 3 times per year. Meetings must be open to the public. Members of the council serve without compensation.

3. Duties. The council serves in an advisory capacity and has the following duties.

A. The council shall identify and assess existing activities and exchanges with the Prefecture of Aomori and devise strategies to develop cultural, educational and commercial opportunities between the sister states.

B. The council shall identify sources of support for sister-state exchanges, programs, projects and administrative assistance for the council. The council may seek and accept in-kind support from outside sources and funding from outside sources to fully fund its operations.

4. Report. The council shall submit a report to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters by February 1, 2026 and annually thereafter regarding the activities of the council during the preceding calendar year. The report must include recommendations as determined appropriate by the council to effectuate its purpose under this section. After reviewing the report under this subsection, the joint standing committee may report out legislation relating to the report.

5. Official contact. The president of the Maine International Trade Center, or the president's designee, shall serve as the official Maine contact for the Maine-Aomori cooperative sister-state relationship.

Sec. 3. Staggered terms. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 31, subsection 1, of the initial appointed members of the Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council, 4 members serve

one-year terms, 4 members serve 2-year terms and 3 members serve 3-year terms.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**

Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council N558

Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize expenditures for funds received from outside sources to support the Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$500	\$500
FUNDS TOTAL		

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 501
H.P. 911 - L.D. 1389**

**An Act to Create the Building
Opportunity Through Out-of-
school Time Program**

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA c. 1083 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 1083

OUT-OF-SCHOOL PROGRAM

§4100-A. Definitions

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

1. At-risk school-age youth. "At-risk school-age youth" means a school-age youth who is at risk of educational failure because of limited English proficiency, community factors, academic difficulties or economic disadvantage.

2. Community-based nonprofit organization. "Community-based nonprofit organization" means a qualified nonprofit organization incorporated under federal law or under the laws of this State and subject to the provisions of Title 13, chapter 81 or the Maine Nonprofit Corporation Act that provides out-of-school programming to school-age youth. "Community-based nonprofit organization" includes the following entities:

A. A community-based nonprofit organization that is not a member of a statewide youth-serving nonprofit organization;

B. A statewide youth-serving nonprofit organization; and

C. A coalition of at least 3 nonprofit organizations that provide youth services in a specific geographic region.

3. Eligible provider. "Eligible provider" means a community-based nonprofit organization, a library or a statewide youth-serving nonprofit organization.

4. Out-of-school programming. "Out-of-school programming" means structured programs or activities with engaged adults, mentors and evidence-based or evidence-informed outcomes provided to school-age youth before school, after school or during the summer and relating to one of more of the following:

A. Improving social, emotional, academic or vocational competencies;

B. Preventing teenage pregnancies;

C. Reducing negative behaviors, such as violence and crime; tobacco, alcohol and other substance use; disengagement from school; behaviors leading to school suspension; truancy; and other health-compromising behaviors;

D. Providing a safe out-of-school environment;

E. Engaging in career exploration or formal or informal apprenticeships; and

F. Any other programming approved by the department.

5. Program. "Program" means the Building Opportunity Through Out-of-school Time Program.

6. School-age youth. "School-age youth" means a child 5 to 13 years of age and attending a kindergarten, elementary school or secondary school at which the compulsory attendance requirements of the State can be met pursuant to Title 20-A, section 5001-A.

7. Statewide youth-serving nonprofit organization. "Statewide youth-serving nonprofit organization" means a statewide, qualified nonprofit organization incorporated under federal law or under the laws of this State and subject to the provisions of Title 13, chapter 81 or the Maine Nonprofit Corporation Act that serves community-based nonprofit organizations and supports facility-based out-of-school programming designed for recreational, educational and character-building purposes for school-age youth.

§4100-B. Building Opportunity Through Out-of-school Time Program

The Building Opportunity Through Out-of-school Time Program is established in the department as a competitive grant program to expand out-of-school programming by increasing or enhancing current programming, reducing barriers for access to out-of-school programming and creating new programming.