

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

more than one location throughout the State. It may also meet at other times at the call of the chair or the director. The office shall provide administrative and staff support for the council within existing resources.

7. Compensation. Council members are entitled to reimbursement for expenses in accordance with Title 5, chapter 379, which is paid in equal proportions from the Adult Use Cannabis Regulatory Coordination Fund established in section 1102 and the Medical Use of Cannabis Fund established in Title 22, section 2430.

Sec. 4. 28-B MRSA §1102, as amended by PL 2023, c. 679, Pt. B, §141, is further amended to read:

§1102. Adult Use Cannabis Regulatory Coordination Fund

The Adult Use Cannabis Regulatory Coordination Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a dedicated, nonlapsing Other Special Revenue Funds account in the office. The fund is administered and used by the director for the purposes of adopting rules under this chapter and, for the purposes of implementing, administering and enforcing this chapter and for the purpose of paying the reimbursement for expenses of the Cannabis Advisory Council established by Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 2-J. The director may expend money in the fund to enter into contracts with consultants and employ staff, as determined necessary by the director, conduct meetings with stakeholders and conduct any other activities related to the implementation, administration and enforcement of this chapter.

Sec. 5. Cannabis Advisory Council; staggered terms. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 28-B, section 115, subsection 4, of the initial members appointed to the Cannabis Advisory Council pursuant to Title 28-B, section 115, subsection 1, the first appointments made pursuant to subsection 1, paragraphs A, B, E and F are for one-year terms; the 2nd appointments made pursuant to subsection 1, paragraphs A, B, E and F are for 2-year terms; and all other appointments are for 3-year terms. An initial term of one year may not be considered a full term for the purposes of limiting the number of terms for which a member may serve.

Sec. 6. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Adult Use Cannabis Regulatory Coordination Fund Z264

Initiative: Provides funding for reimbursement of expenses for Cannabis Advisory Council members.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$5,877	\$5,877

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$5,877	\$5,877
FUNDS TOTAL		

Medical Use of Cannabis Fund Z265

Initiative: Provides funding for reimbursement of expenses for Cannabis Advisory Council members.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$5,877	\$5,877

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$5,877	\$5,877
FUNDS TOTAL		

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2025-26	2026-27
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OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$11,754	\$11,754
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DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$11,754	\$11,754
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See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 507

H.P. 1112 - L.D. 1677

An Act to Establish the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Prevention and Support Program

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§47-J is enacted to read:

47-J.

Human Services: Public Health	Healthy Brain Initiative Council	Not Authorized	22 MRSA §1700-H
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Sec. 2. 22 MRSA c. 279 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 279

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS PREVENTION AND SUPPORT PROGRAM

§1700-F. Definitions

For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Council. "Council" means the Healthy Brain Initiative Council established in section 1700-H.

2. Plan. "Plan" means the Alzheimer's disease and related dementias prevention and support plan described in section 1700-I.

3. Program. "Program" means the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Prevention and Support Program established in section 1700-G.

§1700-G. Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Prevention and Support Program

The Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Prevention and Support Program is established in the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention within the department. The department shall implement the requirements of this chapter within existing budgeted resources. The department shall develop its budget for the requirements of this chapter to include state matching funds for federal funds, regardless of whether federal funding is received. The department may seek and receive private grant funds to support the requirements of this chapter.

1. Administration. The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall administer the program in consultation with the office of aging and disability services within the department.

2. Program objectives. The program shall engage in activities to support the following objectives:

- A. Educating and informing the public about Alzheimer's disease and related dementias using evidence-based public health research and data;
- B. Supporting early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias;
- C. Reducing the risk of potentially avoidable hospitalizations for individuals with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias;
- D. Reducing the risk of cognitive decline in individuals with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias; and
- E. Supporting care planning and management for individuals with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias.

§1700-H. Healthy Brain Initiative Council

The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention within the department shall establish and convene the Healthy Brain Initiative Council to examine the needs of individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias, the services available in the State for those individuals and the ability of health care providers and facilities to meet those individuals' current and future needs.

1. Membership. The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall invite individuals representing the following entities and constituencies to participate as members of the council:

A. Families affected by Alzheimer's disease or related dementias;

B. Providers of long-term services and supports, which may include, but are not limited to, providers from nursing facilities, providers from assisted living facilities and providers offering home and community-based services;

C. Physicians with experience diagnosing and treating Alzheimer's disease and related dementias;

D. Primary care physicians and other primary care providers;

E. Nationwide organizations advocating for older adults or individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias;

F. Area agencies on aging;

G. Institutions with experience in biomedical research related to Alzheimer's disease or related dementias;

H. The long-term care ombudsman program established pursuant to section 5106, subsection 11-C;

I. The office of aging and disability services within the department; and

J. Any other appropriate state agency.

2. Meetings. The council shall meet no fewer than 4 times per calendar year.

3. Duties. The council shall:

A. Examine:

- (1) The needs of individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias;
- (2) The services currently available in the State for individuals under subparagraph (1) and their family caregivers; and
- (3) The current ability of health care providers and facilities to meet the present and future needs of individuals under subparagraph (1);

B. Consider and make findings and recommendations on:

- (1) Trends in the populations and service needs of individuals in the State living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias;
- (2) The existing resources and services for the diagnosis and care of individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias in this State, including the State's capacity to offer these resources and services; and
- (3) Policies and strategies designed to address:
 - (a) Increasing public awareness of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias

and promoting brain health and risk reduction strategies;

(b) Educating health care providers to increase early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias;

(c) Improving access to and quality of care for individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias;

(d) Assisting unpaid caregivers for individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias;

(e) Increasing and improving research on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias;

(f) Improving the collection of data and information related to, and the public health burdens of, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias;

(g) Improving strategies to address the safety-related needs of individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias;

(h) Improving legal protections for individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias; and

(i) Improving the ways in which the State evaluates and adopts policies to assist individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias and their families; and

C. Collaborate with the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to develop the plan described in section 1700-I.

4. Funding. The council may accept grant funding and other funding as may be available from the Federal Government; any department, office or political subdivision of the State; or any individual, foundation or corporation to be used for the purpose of performing the council's duties pursuant to this section.

§1700-I. Alzheimer's disease and related dementias prevention and support plan

The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention within the department and the Healthy Brain Initiative Council shall create the Alzheimer's disease and related dementias prevention and support plan. The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall submit the plan to the Governor and the Legislature by December 3, 2025.

1. Contents of plan. The plan must contain the findings and recommendations of the council pursuant to section 1700-H, subsection 3. The plan must be de-

veloped with significant input from the nongovernmental members of the council. The plan must include recommendations of which state agencies should be involved in implementing the plan.

2. Implementation progress reports. Beginning January 30, 2027, and annually on January 30th each year thereafter, the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall submit to the Governor and the Legislature a report on the status of the implementation of the plan. The report must be made available to the public.

3. Update plan every 5 years. Every 5 years, beginning 5 years from the date the first plan is submitted, the council shall submit to the Governor and the Legislature an updated plan.

Sec. 3. Alzheimer's disease or related dementias prevention and support plan. A plan that is in effect on the effective date of this Act that was developed by the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention within the Department of Health and Human Services, in consultation with stakeholders, to address Alzheimer's disease or related dementias prevention and support, is deemed to fulfill the requirement to create a plan by December 3, 2025 under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 1700-I. Pursuant to Title 22, section 1700-I, the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall submit the plan to the Governor and the Legislature by December 3, 2025.

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

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
DEPARTMENT OF**

Healthy Brain Initiative Council N538

Initiative: Provides allocations to establish a fund and allow expenditures.

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

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 508

H.P. 1126 - L.D. 1691

**An Act to Expand Access to
Justice in Rural Maine by
Incentivizing Attorneys to
Practice in Underserved Areas**

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 426-A is enacted to read: