

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

used as year-round primary residences that are located along or only accessible over one or more public easements, may request the legislative body of the town or village corporation to vote to provide a minimum level of year-round repairs and maintenance for the public easement or easements. The minimum level of year-round repairs and maintenance for a public easement or easements that may be provided by a town or village corporation under this subsection:

A. May be provided up to the driveway of the last year-round primary residence that is located along or only accessible over the public easement and that is furthest from the nearest public way;

B. Must be lower than the standard for maintenance of highways, town ways and streets under section 3651;

C. May include annual grading, repair, maintenance, snowplowing and replacement of drains and culverts as required to keep the public easement reasonably passable for residential access as determined by the town or village corporation; and

D. If approved by a vote of the legislative body of the town or village corporation, must continue to be provided until the legislative body votes to discontinue providing year-round repairs and maintenance.

2. Required signage. A town or village corporation that votes to provide a minimum level of year-round repairs and maintenance of a public easement pursuant to subsection 1 shall, at each intersection of such public easement with a public way or private road, install and maintain a sign reasonably visible to drivers at the entrance to the public easement that reads: "Minimum Maintenance Road - Travel at Your Own Risk." The sign required under this subsection must conform to the requirements of the most recent Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways published by the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, including, but not limited to, the requirement that the sign be a minimum 24-inch-by-24-inch diamond shape with black lettering at least 3 inches high on a yellow retroreflective background.

3. Liability. A town or village corporation that votes to provide a minimum level of year-round repairs and maintenance of a public easement pursuant to subsection 1 is immune from liability relating to that repairs and maintenance under the Maine Tort Claims Act and under Title 23, chapter 313.

Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §2395, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2017, c. 25, §1, is further amended to read:

4. Designation by counties and municipalities. County commissioners and municipal officers may designate public ways, other than those in subsection 3, and

public easements, regardless of whether the county or municipality maintains or repairs the public easement, and impose restrictions within their respective jurisdictions similar to those made by the Department of Transportation under subsection 3. Any vehicle delivering home heating fuel or organic animal bedding material and operating in accordance with a permit issued by the Department of Transportation pursuant to this section may travel over any county or town way or public easement without a specific municipal or county permit. A municipality may impose additional restrictions for a vehicle delivering home heating fuel or organic animal bedding material to operate on public ways and public easements within that municipality but may not require a permit to operate according to those restrictions. As used in this subsection, "public easement" has the same meaning as in Title 23, section 3021, subsection 2 and as described in Title 23, section 3022.

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

ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE

Road Commission Fund Z353

Initiative: Provides ongoing appropriations of \$6,500 to the Road Commission Fund program to provide expense reimbursement for members and to support the work of the Maine Abandoned and Discontinued Roads Commission.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$6,500	\$6,500
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$6,500	\$6,500

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 519

H.P. 10 - L.D. 46

An Act to Establish a Grant Program to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities for Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this legislation establishes the Inclusive Higher Education Grant Program to support programs at institutions of higher education designed to increase postsecondary educational opportunities for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder; and

Whereas, the Department of Health and Human Services is currently designing a Medicaid home and community-based services waiver, known as the Lifespan Waiver, to support individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder; and

Whereas, the grant program established by this legislation could constructively inform the design of the Lifespan Waiver and should therefore be initiated as soon as possible before the Lifespan Waiver is expected to go into effect in 2025; 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. 20-A MRSA c. 408 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 408

INCLUSIVE HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

§10601. Definitions

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

1. Developmental disability. "Developmental disability" means a disability attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments that:

A. Is manifested before the person reaches 22 years of age;

B. Is likely to continue indefinitely;

C. Results in substantial functional limitations in 3 or more of the following areas of major life activity:

(1) Self-care;

(2) Receptive and expressive language;

(3) Learning;

(4) Mobility;

(5) Self-direction;

(6) Capacity for independent living; and

(7) Economic self-sufficiency; and

D. Reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary or generic care, treatment or other services that are of a life-long or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

2. Grant program. "Grant program" means the Inclusive Higher Education Grant Program established in section 10602.

3. Inclusive higher education. "Inclusive higher education" means a program of higher education that offers students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder, to the greatest extent possible, the same rights, privileges, experiences, benefits and outcomes that result in a higher education experience similar to students without disabilities.

4. Intellectual disability. "Intellectual disability" means a condition of significantly subaverage intellectual functioning resulting in or associated with concurrent impairments in adaptive behavior that manifested during the person's developmental period.

5. Program plan. "Program plan" means an inclusive higher education plan developed by an institution of higher education in the State.

§10602. Inclusive Higher Education Grant Program established; administration; qualifications; scholarships; reports

The Inclusive Higher Education Grant Program is established in the department to support postsecondary educational opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder. Under the grant program, the department shall award competitive grants to institutions of higher education in the State to develop and implement program plans.

1. Administration. The department shall administer the grant program. To carry out the purposes of the grant program, the department shall:

A. Include in the administration of the grant program a representative of at least one of the following offices within the department: the office supporting special education and inclusive education services, the office supporting innovation in education and policy implementation and the office supporting workforce development;

B. Develop and send to each institution of higher education in the State the following materials related to the grant program:

(1) Materials describing the purpose and goals of the grant program;

(2) An application for the grant program;

(3) Compliance requirements and information concerning available funding; and

(4) Information outlining the requirements for qualifying as a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program under the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, 20 United States Code, Section 1140 (2010);

C. Designate a person to be available to answer questions from institutions of higher education in the State concerning grant program qualifications and funding;

D. Develop application requirements consistent with subsection 2;

E. Review and approve applications and award grants to institutions of higher education in the State on a competitive basis; and

F. Adopt rules as necessary for the operation of the grant program. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

2. Qualifications. To qualify for a grant under the grant program, a proposed program plan must:

A. Offer the supports necessary to allow students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder to have the same rights, privileges, experiences, benefits and outcomes as students without disabilities;

B. Ensure that students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder have access to a wide array of academic courses that students without disabilities attend;

C. Ensure that students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder have access to and support for participation in campus life, including social activities and organizations, institution facilities and other institution resources, including technological resources, available to students without disabilities;

D. Provide students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder with the supports and experiences necessary to seek and sustain competitive employment;

E. Develop and promote the self-determination skills of students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder;

F. Offer peer mentoring;

G. Adopt admissions standards that do not require students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder to possess a high school diploma or to participate in a curriculum-based achievement college entrance examination that is administered nationwide. For the purposes of this paragraph, "curriculum-based achievement college entrance examination" means a college entrance examination composed of questions directly related to high school curricula. "Curriculum-based achievement college entrance examination" does not include an examination primarily designed to measure scholastic aptitude;

H. Include the development of one or more meaningful credentials for students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder to earn on successful completion of the program plan; and

I. Use as a model the requirements for a comprehensive transition and postsecondary program under the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, 20 United States Code, Section 1140 (2010) to the extent practicable and to the extent that those requirements do not conflict with any provision of this chapter.

A grant application must show that the institution of higher education has engaged stakeholders in the development of the program plan.

3. Scholarships required. An institution of higher education awarded funding under the grant program shall use 25% of the funds received to provide scholarships to students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder participating in the program plan. A scholarship recipient under this subsection is not required to possess a high school diploma.

4. Reports. An institution of higher education participating in the grant program and the department shall submit the following reports.

A. Beginning January 1, 2026, and every 6 months thereafter, an institution of higher education awarded a grant under the grant program shall submit to the department a report that includes:

(1) A strategy for the sustainability of the institution of higher education's program plan, including enrollment projections;

(2) Any needs for training, technical assistance and any other support necessary to provide for continuation of the program plan; and

(3) An evaluation by the institution of higher education of the program plan and identification of best practices with the goal of promoting the development of a statewide model program plan for use by other institutions of higher education in the State.

B. On or before March 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the department shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters on the effectiveness and success of the grant program.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Inclusive Higher Education Grant Program N487

Initiative: Provides one-time funds for the initial start-up costs associated with implementing the grant program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$50,000	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$50,000	\$0

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

Effective January 11, 2026.

CHAPTER 520

S.P. 111 - L.D. 245

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, Resolve 2023, chapter 99 reestablished the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State, which was directed to examine and make recommendations on the structure, support and delivery of emergency medical services in the State; and

Whereas, the commission included in its published final report critical recommendations to ensure appropriate funding to cover the cost of sustaining emergency medical services in the State, to provide for necessary regulation and oversight of the emergency medical services system and to better support the resilience and sustainability of that system; and

Whereas, the expedient and efficient implementation of the commission's recommendations is necessary to support the short-term and long-term future of the emergency medical services system at a time when many emergency medical services entities are at immediate or future risk of failing and leaving their service areas without adequate access to emergency medical services; 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. 5 MRSA §12004-J, sub-§22 is enacted to read:

22.

Emergency Medical Services	Maine Emergency Medical Services Commission	Legislative Per Diem and Expenses	32 MRSA §99
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Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA c. 154 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 154

MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

§3171. Definitions

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

1. Ambulance service. "Ambulance service" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 83, subsection 5.

2. Transporting emergency medical services. "Transporting emergency medical services" means emergency medical services provided by an ambulance service.

§3172. Municipal emergency medical services

1. Adoption of plan. The municipal officers of a municipality shall adopt a plan stipulating the method by which transporting emergency medical services will be delivered within the municipality. A municipality is not required under this subsection to directly or indirectly provide or fund the delivery of transporting emergency medical services within the municipality. The municipal officers may as necessary amend a plan adopted pursuant to this subsection.

2. Posting and submission of plan. When a municipality adopts or amends a plan pursuant to subsection 1, the municipal officers shall ensure that the plan is posted in the same manner as ordinances are posted and shall submit the plan or amended plan for the purpose of collecting data to the Department of Public Safety, Maine Emergency Medical Services and the Maine Emergency Medical Services Commission established in Title 32, section 99, subsection 1.

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §99 is enacted to read:

§99. Maine Emergency Medical Services Commission

1. Commission established. The Maine Emergency Medical Services Commission, referred to in this section as "the commission," is established pursuant to Title 5, section 12004-J, subsection 22 to monitor and evaluate the State's emergency medical services system and to provide recommendations to the appropriate state