

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

C. Identify Maine food producers throughout the State who can provide food and food products directly to state institutions for off-contract purchase agreements pursuant to subsection 2;

D. Establish and promote guidelines to assist state institutions in procuring Maine food and food products directly from Maine food producers, including, but not limited to, guidelines for opportunity buying and other off-contract purchase agreements pursuant to subsection 2;

E. To the extent practicable and within existing resources, convene an annual meeting to explore opportunities for cooperation to increase the purchase of Maine food and food products by state institutions. The coordinator may invite representatives from appropriate state agencies and quasi-governmental entities, Maine food producers and food service professionals, for-profit and nonprofit organizations and other relevant stakeholders outside of State Government to participate in the annual meeting; and

F. Perform other duties as determined by the commissioner.

2. Off-contract purchases directly from Maine food producers. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, state institutions may negotiate directly with Maine food producers and execute agreements for off-contract purchases of food or food products by commodity type, including, but not limited to, vegetables, fruit, eggs, grain or grain products, herbs, seasonings or spices, milk or milk products, meat or meat products, poultry or poultry products, fish or fish products, seafood or seafood products, cider or juice, canned or frozen foods, honey, maple products and condiments. Food or food products purchased under this subsection may be priced up to 15% higher than the same food or food product available under contract.

4. Advisory committee. The commissioner may establish an advisory committee to assist the coordinator in advancing strategies for increasing purchases of Maine food and food products by state institutions. The commissioner may invite representatives from appropriate state agencies and quasi-governmental entities, Maine food producers and food service professionals, for-profit and nonprofit organizations and other relevant stakeholders outside of State Government to serve on the advisory committee. To the extent practicable, the advisory committee membership must reflect the diversity of the State, including, but not limited to, diversity in geographic location, background and professional experience.

5. Report. The commissioner shall include a description of the progress toward reaching the procurement goal under this section in the biennial report submitted to the Legislature pursuant to section 2, subsection 5.

Sec. 5. 7 MRSA §215-A, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 677, §9, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§215-A. Rules

The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to carry out the provisions of this subchapter.

The rules must establish guidelines for off-contract purchase agreements pursuant to section 214-A, subsection 2. The rules must establish a method and baseline to determine the percentage of Maine food or food products procured by state institutions based on dollars spent for different commodity types. The rules must establish reasonable and measurable benchmarks to achieve the overall procurement goal under this subchapter.

Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subsection 2-A.

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

Effective January 11, 2026.

CHAPTER 522

H.P. 1163 - L.D. 1745

An Act to Stabilize Residential Treatment Capacity for Children and Youth in Maine

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 must take effect immediately to ensure that the data collection required for reporting from the Department of Health and Human Services begins as soon as possible and prior to 90 days after adjournment; 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. 22 MRSA §8111 is enacted to read:

§8111. Closure notice requirements for children's residential care facilities

After October 1, 2025, the department shall notify the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters whenever a children's residential care facility ceases to

operate no later than 2 weeks after the facility has ceased operations. The notification to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters must include information about the facility, including but not limited to the name of the facility, the services provided, the number of beds, the number of employees, the stated reasons for closure and a de-identified summary of the transition and discharge plan for the children who were in the facility at the time of closure. The notification must also include a description of any actions taken by the department to prevent the closure.

Sec. 2. 34-B MRSA §15003, sub-§9, as amended by PL 2021, c. 191, §1, is further amended to read:

9. Reports. The department shall report by January 1st of each year to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters on the following matters:

A. The operation of the program, including numbers of children and families served and their residences by county; any waiting lists; the progress of the department in implementing improvement strategies; and appeals procedures requested, held and decided, including the results of decided appeals;

B. Initiatives in acquiring and using federal grant funding;

C. Barriers to improved delivery of care to children and their families and the progress of the department in overcoming those barriers; ~~and~~

D. The number of children served by crisis providers and the number of children who waited for the appropriate level of behavioral health treatment in a hospital emergency room after being cleared for discharge, along with the length of stay, and denials for services by providers of children's residential services during the preceding year. The department shall make a reasonable effort to obtain information from providers, including implementing a standardized system for the reporting of data. Data collected pursuant to this paragraph must protect the confidentiality of all persons involved to the same extent as otherwise required by state or federal law or rule;

E. The number of children in a hospital emergency department who have arrived in the hospital emergency department directly from a residential setting, including, but not limited to, a children's home as defined in Title 22, section 8101, subsection 1; a children's residential care facility as defined in Title 22, section 8101, subsection 4; or another hospital;

F. The number of children receiving services in out-of-state placements and the total cost to the

State of the out-of-state placements, including travel for the children and their families;

G. The number of children receiving services in children's residential care facilities as defined in Title 22, section 8101, subsection 4 with a length of stay that is longer than one year; and

H. The number of closures of children's residential care facilities as defined in Title 22, section 8101, subsection 4 as reported by the department to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters pursuant to Title 22, section 8111.

Sec. 3. Provider engagement and needs assessment. The Department of Health and Human Services shall convene a stakeholder group of child residential treatment providers to identify the short-term and long-term staffing and resources needs to ensure the sustainability of child residential treatment providers. The department shall submit a report, no later than December 3, 2025, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters with its findings, a needs assessment and recommendations. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters is authorized to report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Sec. 4. Stabilizing and expanding child and youth residential capacity. The Department of Health and Human Services shall engage in outreach to providers of residential services, inpatient psychiatric services and community-based services in this State to counsel those providers on resource needs to prevent additional closures and encourage the reopening of beds for child and youth residential treatment.

Sec. 5. Children's behavioral health services data and policy report. The Department of Health and Human Services shall develop and submit a report, no later than December 3, 2025, to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services that includes data and policy efforts as follows:

1. A gap analysis that describes all of the children's residential beds and programs added since 2018 and removed since 2018;

2. Current information on waiting lists for children's programs, including the average and median wait time to access approved services;

3. The number of children who are experiencing homelessness;

4. An update on efforts to implement a so-called high fidelity wraparound service for children;

5. An update on the implementation of multidimensional treatment foster care services;

6. An update on efforts to support existing home and community treatment services, assertive community treatment services and school-based treatment services programs;

7. An update on the development of the level of care provided by a psychiatric residential treatment facility for children in this State;

8. An update on the federal certified community behavioral health clinic Medicaid demonstration program;

9. An update on the development of crisis receiving centers for children; and

10. An update on the services that are needed and unavailable, causing children to remain in hospital emergency departments and inpatient settings awaiting behavioral health services after they are cleared for discharge.

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

Effective January 11, 2026.

CHAPTER 523

S.P. 62 - L.D. 15

An Act to Modify the Excise Tax on Camper Trailers

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

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §1482, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 2013, c. 263, §1, is further amended to read:

C. For the privilege of operating a motor vehicle ~~or camper trailer~~ on the public ways, each motor vehicle, other than a stock race car, ~~or each camper trailer~~ to be so operated is subject to excise tax as follows, except as specified in subparagraph (3), (4) or (5): a sum equal to 24 mills on each dollar of the maker's list price for the first or current year of model, 17 1/2 mills for the 2nd year, 13 1/2 mills for the 3rd year, 10 mills for the 4th year, 6 1/2 mills for the 5th year and 4 mills for the 6th and succeeding years. The minimum tax is \$5 for a motor vehicle other than a bicycle with motor attached, and \$2.50 for a bicycle with motor attached, ~~\$15 for a camper trailer other than a tent trailer and \$5 for a tent trailer.~~ The excise tax on a stock race car is \$5.

(1) On new registrations of automobiles, trucks and truck tractors, the excise tax payment must be made prior to registration and is for a one-year period from the date of registration.

(2) Vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan are subject to an excise tax determined on a monthly proration basis if their registration period is less than 12 months.

(3) For commercial vehicles manufactured in model year 1996 and after, the amount of excise tax due for trucks or truck tractors registered for more than 26,000 pounds and for Class A special mobile equipment, as defined in Title 29-A, section 101, subsection 70, is based on the purchase price in the original year of title rather than on the list price. Verification of purchase price for the application of excise tax is determined by the initial bill of sale or the state sales tax document provided at point of purchase. The initial bill of sale is that issued by the dealer to the initial purchaser of a new vehicle.

(4) For buses manufactured in model year 2006 and after, the amount of excise tax due is based on the purchase price in the original year of title rather than on the list price. Verification of purchase price for the application of excise tax is determined by the initial bill of sale or the state sales tax document provided at point of purchase. The initial bill of sale is that issued by the dealer to the initial purchaser of a new vehicle.

(5) For trucks or truck tractors registered for more than 26,000 pounds that have been reconstructed using a prepackaged kit that may include a frame, front axle or body but does not include a power train or engine and for which a new certificate of title is required to be issued, the amount of excise tax due is based on the maker's list price of the prepackaged kit.

For motor vehicles being registered pursuant to Title 29-A, section 405, subsection 1, paragraph C, the excise tax must be prorated for the number of months in the registration.

Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §1482, sub-§1, ¶C-1 is enacted to read:

C-1. For the privilege of operating a camper trailer on the public ways, each camper trailer is subject to an annual excise tax as specified in this paragraph.

(1) The excise tax is based on the overall length of the camper trailer as follows:

(a) For a camper trailer less than 13 feet in length, \$6;

(b) For a camper trailer at least 13 feet but less than 14 feet in length, \$7;

(c) For a camper trailer at least 14 feet but less than 15 feet in length, \$8;