

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

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

Augusta, Maine
2026

rules it considers necessary for the conduct of its business. The commission shall keep minutes of all proceedings, which are a public record available and on file in the office of the commission. Members of the commission are compensated as provided in Title 5, chapter 379. Commission members must receive an orientation and annual continuing education on this chapter, commission rules and planning and regulatory processes. A quorum of the commission for the transaction of business is ~~5 members. No action may be taken by the commission unless upon approval by a vote of 5 members a simple majority of commission members.~~

Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

Maine Land Use Planning Commission Z236

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for laptops and other technology items for 2 additional board members.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$6,850	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$6,850	\$0

Maine Land Use Planning Commission Z236

Initiative: Provides funding for associated administrative overhead for additional board members.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$9,960	\$9,960
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$9,960	\$9,960

Maine Land Use Planning Commission Z236

Initiative: Provides funding for per diem expenses of additional board members.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$990	\$990
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$990	\$990

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$17,800	\$10,950
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$17,800	\$10,950

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 535
H.P. 616 - L.D. 957**

An Act to Integrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander History into the Statewide System of Learning Results

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §4706, as amended by PL 2023, c. 537, §§1 and 2, is further amended to read:

§4706. Instruction in American history, African American studies, Maine studies, Wabanaki studies and the history of genocide and Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history

Instruction in American history, African American studies, government, citizenship, Maine studies ~~and~~, the history of genocide ~~and Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history~~ must be aligned with the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements established under section 6209.

1. American history. American history, government and citizenship, including the United States Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the importance of voting and the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship, must be taught in and required for graduation from all elementary and secondary schools, both public and private. African American studies ~~and Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history~~ must be included in the review of content standards and performance indicators of the system of learning results conducted in accordance with section 6209, subsection 4.

2. Maine studies. Maine history, including the Constitution of Maine, Maine geography and environment and the natural, industrial and economic resources of Maine and Maine's cultural and ethnic heritage, must be taught. A required component of Maine studies is Wabanaki studies, and Wabanaki studies may be taught as a component of other content areas, as appropriate, including but not limited to the content areas of English language arts, mathematics, science and fine arts. ~~Wabanaki studies, Maine Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history and Maine African American studies~~ must be included in the review of content standards and performance indicators of the learning results conducted in accordance with section 6209, subsection 4. Wabanaki studies must address the following topics:

A. Wabanaki governments and political systems and their relationship with local, state, national and international governments;

B. Wabanaki cultural systems and the experience of tribal people throughout history;

C. Wabanaki territories; and

D. Wabanaki economic systems.

3. History of genocide. The history of genocide, including the Holocaust, must be included in the review of content standards and performance indicators of the system of learning results conducted in accordance with section 6209, subsection 4.

4. Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history. Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history instruction pursuant to subsections 1 and 2 must consider, but is not limited to:

A. The history of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the State, the region and the United States; and

B. The contributions of:

(1) Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders toward advancing civil rights from the 19th century to the present day;

(2) Individual Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in government, the arts, humanities and sciences; and

(3) Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities to the economic, cultural, social and political development of the United States.

As used in this section, "Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history" includes, but is not limited to, the history of Americans of East Asian, Southeast Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander descent.

Sec. 2. Resource development; advisory group; curriculum audit; report. The Department of Education is responsible for fulfilling the requirements of this section.

1. Development of resources. The department shall identify and make available to schools resources and materials for teaching Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history, including Maine Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4706, subsection 4.

2. Advisory group. The department shall, within 30 days after the effective date of this Act, convene a volunteer advisory group to collect information and prepare materials for the teaching of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history. The advisory group must include scholars of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history and cul-

ture; representatives from Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander civil rights organizations in the State; Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history and cultural organizations; the State Archivist; and members of the public with personal experience that would inform the collection of information and the preparation of materials under this section. The department shall include at least one member from the advisory group in any group or committee convened to review the parameters for essential instruction and graduation requirements for social studies pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 6209, subsection 4.

3. Guidance; best practices; exemplar modules. The department shall develop guidance, best practices and exemplar modules to support the integration of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history into the instruction of American history and Maine history.

4. Curriculum audit. The department shall develop a process that supports and enables a local school administrative unit to conduct an internal audit of its curriculum to ensure an equitable representation of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander voices and an accurate historical account of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history and culture.

5. Reporting. The department shall submit a report on the progress of the implementation of this Act to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs matters no later than April 1, 2030.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Innovative Teaching and Learning Z394

Initiative: Provides one-time funds for the cost of convening the advisory group to collect information and prepare materials for the teaching of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander history.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$15,000	\$0
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$15,000	\$0

Sec. 4. Effective date. That section of this Act that amends the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 4706 takes effect July 1, 2029 or at the start of the next major substantive rule review initiated pursuant to Title 20-A, section 6209, subsection 4 following the general effective date of laws enacted during the First Special Session of the 132nd Legislature, whichever is sooner. The Commissioner of Education shall notify the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Revisor of Statutes of the date of the start of the next major substantive rule review initiated pursuant to Title 20-A, section

6209, subsection 4 following the general effective date of laws enacted during the First Special Session of the 132nd Legislature.

See title page for effective date, unless otherwise indicated.

CHAPTER 536
S.P. 429 - L.D. 1012

**An Act to Fund the Operations
of the University of Maine
Cooperative Extension Tick
Laboratory**

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA c. 421 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 421

**UNIVERSITY OF MAINE COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION TICK LABORATORY
OPERATIONS FUND**

§2481. Fund established

The University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory Operations Fund, referred to in this chapter as "the fund," is established. The fund consists of revenues received pursuant to Title 8, section 374, subsection 6 and any funds received as contributions from private and public sources. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Eligible investment earnings credited to the assets of the fund become part of the assets of the fund. Any balance remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year must be carried forward to the next fiscal year. The fund is administered by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

§2482. Expenditures from fund; distribution

Funds in the fund must be distributed as provided under this section.

1. Funds received from State. All funds received from the State dedicated to the fund must be expended on the operations of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension tick laboratory or successor laboratory, including, but not limited to, supplies, educational materials development, salaries, equipment and travel.

2. Funds received from private or public sources. All funds received from private or public sources that were directed to the fund by the donating source must be spent on the operations of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension tick laboratory or successor laboratory, including, but not limited to, supplies, educational materials development, salaries, equipment and travel.

Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §374, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Tick laboratory lottery game. No later than July 1, 2026, the commission, in consultation with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, shall develop and initiate a tick laboratory instant lottery game designed to raise funds for the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory Operations Fund established in Title 7, section 2481. Tickets for the instant lottery game established under this subsection must be sold for \$4 and must be changed by the commission periodically throughout the year. The commission shall annually provide 20% of the net proceeds of the lottery game established in accordance with this subsection to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory Operations Fund and 80% to the General Fund.

Sec. 3. 8 MRSA §387, sub-§1, ¶C, as amended by PL 1995, c. 494, §5, is further amended to read:

C. For payment to the General Fund; ~~and~~

Sec. 4. 8 MRSA §387, sub-§1, ¶D, as amended by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. B, §18 and affected by c. 614, §9, is further amended to read:

D. For payment to the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund pursuant to Title 12, section 10302-; ~~and~~

Sec. 5. 8 MRSA §387, sub-§1, ¶E is enacted to read:

E. For payment to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory Operations Fund pursuant to Title 7, section 2481.

Sec. 6. Report. By December 15, 2028, the State Liquor and Lottery Commission shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over lottery matters detailing the status of the tick laboratory instant lottery game established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8, section 374, subsection 6, including revenues received by the General Fund and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory Operations Fund established in Title 7, section 2481. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over lottery matters may report out legislation related to the report to the 134th Legislature in 2029.

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

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory Operations Fund N532

Initiative: Provides allocations to authorize expenditures of funds received from the tick laboratory lottery game.