

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

shall conduct a background check on the transferee pursuant to 18 United States Code, Section 922(t) or Title 15, section 395. If the transfer is denied pursuant to the background check, the federal firearms licensee shall deliver the firearm or frame or receiver to a law enforcement agency for disposition. The law enforcement agency shall provide the federal firearms licensee with a receipt on agency letterhead for the firearm or frame or receiver.

5. Manufacturers of frames or receivers. A person who manufactures a frame or receiver, including by a 3-dimensional printer or computer numerical control milling machine, shall cause the frame or receiver to be imprinted with a serial number by a federal firearms licensee pursuant to federal law and this section.

6. Exceptions for manufacturers of frames or receivers. Subsection 4 does not apply to:

A. A federally licensed firearms manufacturer acting within the scope of the manufacturer's license;

B. The transfer of a frame or receiver for the purpose of having the frame or receiver imprinted with a serial number pursuant to federal law or this section; or

C. A person who:

(1) Is in possession of a frame or receiver that has been without a serial number for no more than 48 hours; and

(2) Has an appointment with a federal firearms licensee to have the frame or receiver imprinted with a serial number pursuant to section 2039, subsection 1, paragraph C.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 538

H.P. 769 - L.D. 1164

An Act to Create Economic Opportunity for the Wabanaki Nations Through Internet Gaming

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

Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §1205, sub-§1, ¶E, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 681, Pt. J, §6, is amended by amending subparagraph (3) to read:

(3) Has engaged in conduct in this State or any other jurisdiction that would constitute a violation of this chapter; chapter 11 involving gambling; chapter 31; chapter 33; chapter 39; Title 17, chapter 13-A or 62; Title 17-A, chapter 39; or substantially similar offenses in other jurisdictions;

Sec. 2. 8 MRSA §1210, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 681, Pt. J, §6, is amended to read:

1. License required. A person may not be employed by an operator to be engaged directly in sports wagering-related activities or otherwise to conduct or operate sports wagering without a valid occupational license issued by the director under this section. The director shall issue an occupational license to a person who meets the requirements of this section, section 1204 and section 1205. The director shall by rule establish a process for issuance of occupational licenses that is, as far as possible, identical to the process for occupational licenses issued under section 1409 and for licensing employees of a casino under section 1015.

Sec. 3. 8 MRSA §1210, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 681, Pt. J, §6, is amended to read:

5. Exception. An individual who is actively licensed under section 1015 as an employee of a casino that has a facility sports wagering license or who is actively licensed under section 1409 as an employee of an Internet gaming operator may obtain or renew a license under this section without paying an initial license fee or a renewal license fee under this section.

Sec. 4. 8 MRSA c. 39 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 39

REGULATION OF INTERNET GAMING

§1401. Authorization of Internet gaming; license required

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the operation of Internet gaming and ancillary activities are lawful when conducted in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter.

A person or entity may not engage in any activities in this State that require a license under this chapter unless all necessary licenses have been obtained in accordance with this chapter and rules adopted under this chapter.

§1402. Definitions

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

1. Adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts. "Adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts" means an operator's gross receipts from Internet gaming less the total of all winnings paid to patrons, which includes the cash equivalent of any merchandise or thing of value awarded as a prize, and less excise tax payments remitted to the Federal Government.

2. Commissioner. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Safety.

3. Department. "Department" means the Department of Public Safety.

4. Director. "Director" means the director of the Gambling Control Unit within the department.

5. Internet gaming. "Internet gaming" means a card game, dice game or other game of chance approved by the director, including but not limited to blackjack, poker, dice, craps, roulette or baccarat, offered through an approved mobile application or other digital platform that involves, at least in part, the use of the Internet. "Internet gaming" does not include a table game or slot machine under chapter 31; the sale of pari-mutuel pools authorized under chapter 11; the operation of fantasy contests as defined in section 1101, subsection 4; mobile sports wagering under chapter 35; or advance deposit wagering as defined in section 1001, subsection 1-A. Internet gaming is not a game of chance under Title 17, section 1831, subsection 5.

6. License. "License" means any license applied for or issued by the director under this chapter, including but not limited to:

A. An Internet gaming license under section 1406 to permit an operator to operate Internet gaming through an approved mobile application or other digital platform that involves, at least in part, the use of the Internet;

B. A supplier license under section 1407 to sell goods and services to be used in connection with Internet gaming, but not to directly accept wagers;

C. A management services license under section 1408 to manage Internet gaming on behalf of an Internet gaming licensee; and

D. An occupational license under section 1409 to be employed by an Internet gaming licensee to operate Internet gaming when the employee performs duties in furtherance of or associated with the operation of Internet gaming.

7. Operator. "Operator" means a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in this State that conducts Internet gaming.

8. Person. "Person" means an individual or an entity, including but not limited to a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in this State.

9. Wager. "Wager" means a sum of money or thing of value risked on an uncertain occurrence.

§1403. Powers and duties of director

1. Powers and duties. In administering and enforcing this chapter, the director:

A. Has the power to regulate the conduct of Internet gaming;

B. Shall determine the eligibility of a person to hold or continue to hold a license, shall issue all

licenses and shall maintain a record of all licenses issued under this chapter;

C. Shall levy and collect all fees, civil penalties and tax on adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts imposed by this chapter, except as otherwise provided under this chapter;

D. May sue to enforce any provision of this chapter or any rule of the director by civil action or petition for injunctive relief;

E. May hold hearings, administer oaths and issue subpoenas or subpoenas duces tecum in the manner provided by applicable law; and

F. May exercise any other powers necessary to effectuate the provisions of this chapter and the rules of the director.

2. Rules. The director shall adopt rules governing the conduct of Internet gaming in the State, which must, at a minimum, include the following:

A. The methods of operation of Internet gaming, including but not limited to the permitted systems and methods of wagers; the use of credit and checks by persons making wagers; the types of wagering receipts that may be used; the method of issuing receipts; the protection of patrons placing wagers; and the promotion of social responsibility and responsible gaming and display of information on resources for problem gambling;

B. Standards for the adoption of comprehensive house rules governing Internet gaming by operators and the approval of house rules by the director as required under section 1410;

C. Minimum design and security requirements for applications and digital platforms for the acceptance of wagers by operators, including required methods for verifying the age and identity of a person who places a wager with an operator, for verifying that the person making the wager is physically located in the State and is not prohibited from making a wager under section 1412 and for requiring the refund of any wager determined to have been placed by a person prohibited from making a wager under section 1412;

D. The types of interested parties from whom operators are prohibited from accepting wagers under section 1412, subsection 3;

E. Minimum design, security, testing and approval requirements for Internet gaming equipment, systems or services sold by suppliers licensed under section 1407;

F. Minimum requirements for a contract between a management services licensee under section 1408 and an operator on whose behalf the management services licensee conducts Internet gaming, including but not limited to requirements that the person

providing management services be licensed prior to entering a contract; that the contract be approved by the director prior to the conduct of Internet gaming; that, if the management services licensee contracts with more than one operator, the contract include a condition requiring the management services licensee to employ a method approved by the director for separately accounting for each operator's gross receipts from Internet gaming and adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts; and that the contract not authorize the person providing management services to receive more than 30% of the operator's adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts, except that the director may approve a contract authorizing the management services licensee to receive up to 40% of the operator's adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts if the director determines that the management services licensee has demonstrated that the fee is commercially reasonable given the management services licensee's capital investments and the operator's projected adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts;

G. Provisions allowing individuals to restrict themselves from Internet gaming upon request by placing themselves on the list pursuant to section 1003, subsection 3, paragraph I. The rules adopted under this paragraph must define the standards for involuntary placement on the list and for removal from the list;

H. Minimum internal control standards for operators and management services licensees, including but not limited to procedures for safeguarding assets and revenues; the recording of cash and evidence of indebtedness; the maintenance of reliable records, accounts and reports of transactions, operations and events; required audits; and the content and frequency of reports of Internet gaming activities and revenues that must be made to the director; and

I. Restrictions on the advertisement and marketing of Internet gaming, including but not limited to prohibiting misleading, deceptive or false advertisements; requiring an operator to disclose its status as a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in this State or a business entity wholly owned by a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in this State; and restricting, to the extent permissible, advertising that has a high probability of reaching persons under 21 years of age or that is specifically designed to appeal particularly to persons under 21 years of age.

3. Rulemaking. Rules adopted by the director pursuant to this chapter are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

§1404. Application; criminal history record check

1. Application. An application for a license or for renewal of a license required under this chapter must be submitted on a form or in a format approved by the director. An application submitted to the director must, at a minimum, include the following:

A. The full name, current address and contact information of the applicant;

B. Disclosure of each person that has control of the applicant as described in subsection 2;

C. Consent to permit the director to conduct a criminal history record check in accordance with subsection 3 of the applicant and each person disclosed under paragraph B in accordance with procedures established by the director;

D. For the applicant and each person disclosed under paragraph B, a record of previous issuances and denials of or any adverse action taken against a gambling-related license or application under this Title or in any other jurisdiction. For purposes of this paragraph, "adverse action" includes, but is not limited to, a condition resulting from an administrative, civil or criminal violation, a suspension or revocation of a license or a voluntary surrender of a license to avoid or resolve a civil, criminal or disciplinary action; and

E. Any additional information required by the director by rule.

2. Persons that have control. The following persons are considered to have control of an applicant or a licensee:

A. Each corporate holding company, parent company or subsidiary company of a corporate applicant or licensee and each person that owns 10% or more of the corporate applicant or licensee and that has the ability to control the activities of the corporate applicant or licensee or elect a majority of the board of directors of that corporate applicant or licensee, except for a bank or other licensed lending institution that holds a mortgage or other lien acquired in the ordinary course of business;

B. Each person associated with a noncorporate applicant or licensee that directly or indirectly holds a beneficial or proprietary interest in the noncorporate applicant's or licensee's business operation or that the director otherwise determines has the ability to control the noncorporate applicant or licensee; and

C. Key personnel of an applicant or licensee, including any executive, employee or agent, having the power to exercise significant influence over decisions concerning any part of the applicant's or licensee's relevant business operation.

3. Criminal history record check. The director shall request a criminal history record check in accordance with this subsection for each applicant for initial licensure and each person required to be disclosed by the applicant for initial licensure under subsection 1, paragraph B. The director may require a criminal history record check in accordance with this subsection from a licensee seeking to renew a license, from any person the licensee is required to disclose under subsection 1, paragraph B as part of the license renewal application and from any person identified by the licensee under subsection 4. A criminal history record check conducted pursuant to this subsection must include criminal history record information obtained from the Maine Criminal Justice Information System established in Title 16, section 631 and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

A. Criminal history record information obtained from the Maine Criminal Justice Information System pursuant to this subsection must include a record of public criminal history record information as defined in Title 16, section 703, subsection 8.

B. Criminal history record information obtained from the Federal Bureau of Investigation pursuant to this subsection must include other state and national criminal history record information.

C. An individual required to submit to a criminal history record check under this subsection shall submit to having the individual's fingerprints taken. The State Police, upon payment by the individual of the fee required under paragraph E, shall take or cause to be taken the individual's fingerprints and shall immediately forward the fingerprints to the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police, State Bureau of Identification. Any person who fails to transmit criminal fingerprint records to the State Bureau of Identification pursuant to this paragraph is subject to the provisions of Title 25, section 1550.

D. The Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police, State Bureau of Identification shall conduct the state and national criminal history record checks required under this subsection. Except for the portion of a payment, if any, that constitutes the processing fee for a criminal history record check charged by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, all money received by the State Police under this subsection must be paid to the Treasurer of State, who shall apply the money to the expenses incurred by the Department of Public Safety in the administration of this subsection.

E. The director shall by rule set the amount of the fee to be paid for each criminal history record check required to be performed under this subsection.

F. The subject of a Federal Bureau of Investigation criminal history record check may obtain a copy of the criminal history record check by following the procedures outlined in 28 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 16.32 and 16.33. The subject of a state criminal history record check may inspect and review the criminal history record information pursuant to Title 16, section 709.

G. State and national criminal history record information obtained by the director under this subsection may be used only for the purpose of screening an applicant for a license or a license renewal under this chapter.

H. All criminal history record information obtained by the director pursuant to this subsection is confidential, is for the official use of the director only and may not be disseminated by the director or disclosed to any other person or entity except as provided in paragraph F.

I. The director, after consultation with the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police, State Bureau of Identification, shall adopt rules to implement this subsection.

4. Material change to application. A person licensed under this chapter shall give the director written notice within 30 days of any material change to any information provided in the licensee's application for a license or renewal, including any change in the identity of persons considered to have control of the licensee as described in subsection 2.

5. Gambling Control Unit employees prohibited. An employee of the Gambling Control Unit within the department may not be an applicant for a license issued under this chapter.

§1405. Denial of license; administrative sanctions

1. Grounds for denial of license or imposition of administrative sanctions. The following are grounds for the director to deny a license or license renewal or for the imposition of administrative sanctions, in accordance with this section, on a person licensed under this chapter:

A. If the applicant or licensee has knowingly made a false statement of material fact to the director;

B. If the applicant or licensee has not disclosed the existence or identity of other persons that have control of the applicant or licensee as required by section 1404, subsections 1 and 4;

C. If the applicant or licensee has had a license revoked by any government authority responsible for regulation of gaming activities;

D. If the applicant, the licensee or a person having control of the applicant or licensee under section 1404, subsection 2 is not of good moral character. In determining whether the applicant, licensee or

person is of good moral character, the director shall consider qualities that include but are not limited to honesty, candor, trustworthiness, diligence, reliability, observance of fiduciary and financial responsibility and respect for the rights of others;

E. If the applicant, the licensee or a person having control of the applicant or licensee under section 1404, subsection 2:

(1) Has, in any jurisdiction, been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to a crime punishable by one year or more of imprisonment;

(2) Has, in any jurisdiction, been adjudicated of committing a civil violation or been convicted of a criminal violation involving dishonesty, deception, misappropriation or fraud;

(3) Has engaged in conduct in this State or any other jurisdiction that would constitute a violation of this chapter; chapter 11 involving gambling; chapter 31; chapter 33; chapter 35; Title 17, chapter 13-A or 62; Title 17-A, chapter 39; or substantially similar offenses in other jurisdictions;

(4) Is a fugitive from justice, a drug user, a person with substance use disorder, an undocumented noncitizen or a person who was dishonorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States; or

(5) Is not current in filing all applicable tax returns and in the payment of all taxes, penalties and interest owed to this State, any other state or the United States Internal Revenue Service, excluding items under formal appeal;

F. If the applicant or licensee has not demonstrated to the satisfaction of the director sufficient financial assets to meet the requirements of the licensed business or proposed business and to meet any financial obligations imposed by this chapter;

G. If the applicant, the licensee or a person having control of the applicant or licensee under section 1404, subsection 2 has not demonstrated financial responsibility. For the purposes of this paragraph, "financial responsibility" means a demonstration of a current and expected future condition of financial solvency sufficient to satisfy the director that the applicant, the licensee or the person can successfully engage in business without jeopardy to the public health, safety and welfare. Financial responsibility may be determined by an evaluation of the total history concerning the applicant, the licensee or the person, including past, present and expected condition and record of financial solvency, business record and accounting and managerial practices;

H. If the applicant or licensee has not met the requirements of this chapter; or

I. If the applicant or licensee has violated any provision of this chapter or of the rules adopted under this chapter.

2. Denial of initial license or renewed license; notice; hearing. The director may deny an application for a license or for renewal of a license for the reasons set forth in subsection 1. The director shall notify the applicant or the licensee in writing of the decision and of the opportunity to request a hearing conducted by the commissioner.

If the applicant or licensee fails to request a hearing within 30 days of the date that the notice was mailed under this subsection, the director may issue a final decision denying the application for a license or for renewal of a license. If the applicant or licensee makes a timely request for a hearing, the commissioner shall conduct an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 4. The director's decision to deny the license or license renewal stands until the commissioner issues a decision to uphold, modify or overrule the director's decision.

After hearing, if the commissioner finds grounds for denying a license or license renewal under subsection 1, the commissioner may deny the application for a license or for renewal of a license.

3. Investigation of complaints; notice; hearing. The director or the director's designee shall investigate a complaint on the director's own motion or upon receipt of a written complaint regarding noncompliance with or violation of this chapter or of any rules adopted under this chapter. Following the investigation, the director may mail the licensee a notice of violation informing the licensee of the administrative sanction under subsection 4 the director proposes to impose and of the licensee's opportunity to request a hearing.

If the licensee fails to request a hearing within 30 days of the date that a notice was mailed under this subsection, the director may issue a final decision imposing the sanction proposed in the notice. If the licensee makes a timely request for a hearing, the commissioner shall conduct an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 4. If, after the hearing, the commissioner finds that the factual basis of the complaint is true and is of sufficient gravity to warrant further action, the commissioner may impose an administrative sanction under subsection 4.

4. Administrative sanctions. The director or the commissioner may, pursuant to subsection 3, impose the following administrative sanctions on a licensee:

A. A written reprimand;

B. Conditions of probation of a license;

C. A license suspension;

D. A license revocation; or

E. A civil penalty of up to \$25,000 per violation of any provision of this chapter or rule adopted pursuant to this chapter.

5. Appeals. A person aggrieved by the final decision of the commissioner under subsection 2 or 3 may appeal the commissioner's decision to the Superior Court in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 7.

§1406. Internet gaming license

1. Issuance of license. The director shall issue an Internet gaming license upon finding that the applicant meets all requirements of this section, sections 1404 and 1405 and rules adopted under this chapter. The provisions of Title 30, Part 5 apply to the issuance of licenses under this chapter. The director shall by rule establish a process for issuance of an Internet gaming license under this chapter that is, to the extent practicable, identical to the process for a mobile sports wagering license under section 1207.

2. Eligibility; transfer to wholly owned entity. To be eligible to receive an Internet gaming license, an applicant must be a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in this State. Each federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in this State may receive only one Internet gaming license under this section. An Internet gaming license may not be transferred or assigned, except that a federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band in this State may transfer its Internet gaming license to a business entity with a principal place of business in the State that is wholly owned by that federally recognized Indian nation, tribe or band.

3. Authority to conduct Internet gaming; management services permitted. An Internet gaming license granted by the director pursuant to this section grants a licensee lawful authority to conduct Internet gaming in which wagers are placed by persons who are physically located in the State through any applications or digital platforms approved by the director within the terms and conditions of the license and any rules adopted under this chapter. An Internet gaming licensee may contract with no more than one management services licensee under section 1408.

4. Fees. The fee for an initial or renewed Internet gaming license is \$50,000 and must be retained by the director for the costs of administering this chapter. In addition to the license fee, the director may charge a processing fee for an initial or renewed license in an amount equal to the projected cost of processing the application and performing any background investigations. If the actual cost exceeds the projected cost, an additional fee may be charged to meet the actual cost. If the projected cost exceeds the actual cost, the difference may be refunded to the applicant or licensee.

5. Term of license. Except as provided in subsection 6, a license granted or renewed under this section is valid for one year unless sooner revoked by the director or the commissioner under section 1405.

6. Temporary license. An applicant for an Internet gaming license may submit with the application a request for a temporary license. A request for a temporary license must include the initial license fee under subsection 4. If the director determines that the applicant meets the requirements established by rule for a temporary license and has paid the initial license fee and the director is not aware of any reason the applicant is ineligible for a license under this section, the director may issue a temporary Internet gaming license. A temporary license issued under this subsection is valid for the length of the term of the license under subsection 5 or until a final determination on the Internet gaming license application is made, whichever is sooner. If after investigation the director determines that the applicant is eligible for an Internet gaming license under this chapter, the director shall issue the initial Internet gaming license, at which time the temporary license terminates. The initial Internet gaming license is valid for one year from the date that the temporary license was issued by the director. Internet gaming conducted under authority of a temporary license must comply with the operator's house rules adopted under section 1410.

7. Occupational license required. An Internet gaming licensee, including a temporary licensee under subsection 6, may conduct Internet gaming only through persons holding a valid occupational license under section 1409.

§1407. Supplier license

1. Issuance of license; eligibility. The director shall issue a supplier license upon finding that the applicant meets all requirements of this section, sections 1404 and 1405 and rules adopted under this chapter. The director shall by rule establish a process for issuance of a supplier license under this chapter that is, to the extent practicable, identical to the process for a supplier license under section 1208.

2. Equipment. An applicant for a supplier license shall demonstrate that the equipment, systems or services that the applicant plans to offer to an operator conform to standards established by rule by the director. The director may accept approval by another jurisdiction that is specifically determined by the director to have similar equipment standards as evidence the applicant meets the standards established by the director by rule.

3. Authority to supply operators. A supplier license granted by the director pursuant to this section grants a licensee lawful authority to sell or to lease Internet gaming equipment, systems or services to operators in the State within the terms and conditions of the license and any rules adopted under this chapter.

4. Fees. The fee for an initial or renewed supplier license is \$10,000 and must be retained by the director for the costs of administering this chapter. In addition to the license fee, the director may charge a processing fee for an initial or renewed license in an amount equal to the projected cost of processing the application and performing any background investigations. If the actual cost exceeds the projected cost, an additional fee may be charged to meet the actual cost. If the projected cost exceeds the actual cost, the difference may be refunded to the applicant or licensee.

5. Term of license. Except as provided in subsection 6, a license granted or renewed under this section is valid for one year unless sooner revoked by the director or the commissioner under section 1405.

6. Temporary license. An applicant for a supplier license may submit with the application a request for a temporary license. A request for a temporary license must include the initial license fee under subsection 4. If the director determines that the applicant is qualified under subsection 1, meets the requirements established by rule for a temporary license and has paid the initial license fee and the director is not aware of any reason the applicant is ineligible for a license under this section, the director may issue a temporary supplier license. A temporary license issued under this subsection is valid for the length of the term of the license under subsection 5 or until a final determination on the supplier license application is made, whichever is sooner. If after investigation the director determines that the applicant is eligible for a supplier license under this chapter, the director shall issue the initial supplier license, at which time the temporary license terminates. The initial supplier license is valid for one year from the date that the temporary license was issued by the director.

7. Inventory. A supplier licensee shall submit to the director a list of all Internet gaming equipment, systems and services sold or leased to, delivered to or offered to an operator in this State as required by the director, all of which must be tested and approved by an independent testing laboratory approved by the director. An operator may continue to use supplies acquired from a licensed supplier if the supplier's license subsequently expires or is otherwise revoked, unless the director finds a defect in the supplies.

§1408. Management services license

1. Issuance of license; eligibility. The director shall issue a management services license upon finding that the applicant meets all requirements of this section, sections 1404 and 1405 and rules adopted under this chapter and that the applicant has sufficient knowledge and experience in the business of operating Internet gaming to effectively conduct Internet gaming in accordance with this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter. The director shall by rule establish a process for issuance of a management services license un-

der this chapter that is, to the extent practicable, identical to the process for a management services license under section 1209.

2. Authority to enter contract with operator. A management services licensee may contract with an operator to manage Internet gaming operations on behalf of the operator in accordance with rules adopted under this chapter.

3. Contract approval; material change in written contract. A person may not contract with an operator to conduct Internet gaming on behalf of the operator unless the person is licensed under this section and the director approves the written contract. A management services licensee shall submit to the director any proposed material change to the written contract that has been approved by the director under this subsection. A management services licensee may not transfer, assign, delegate or subcontract any portion of the management services licensee's responsibilities under the contract or any portion of the management services licensee's right to compensation under the contract to any other person who does not hold a management services license.

4. Fees. The fee for an initial or renewed management services license is \$10,000 and must be retained by the director for the costs of administering this chapter. In addition to the license fee, the director may charge a processing fee for an initial or renewed license in an amount equal to the projected cost of processing the application and performing any background investigations. If the actual cost exceeds the projected cost, an additional fee may be charged to meet the actual cost. If the projected cost exceeds the actual cost, the difference may be refunded to the applicant or licensee.

5. Term of license. Except as provided in subsection 6, a license granted or renewed under this section is valid for one year unless sooner revoked by the director or the commissioner under section 1405.

6. Temporary license. An applicant for a management services license may submit with the application a request for a temporary license. A request for a temporary license must include the initial license fee under subsection 4. If the director determines that the applicant is qualified under subsection 1, meets the requirements established by rule for a temporary license and has paid the initial license fee and the director is not aware of any reason the applicant is ineligible for a license under this section, the director may issue a temporary management services license. A temporary license issued under this subsection is valid for the length of the term of the license under subsection 5 or until a final determination on the management services license application is made, whichever is sooner. If after investigation the director determines that the applicant is eligible for a management services license under this chapter, the director shall issue the initial management services license, at which time the temporary license

terminates. The initial management services license is valid for one year from the date that the temporary license was issued by the director.

§1409. Occupational license

1. License required. A person may not be employed by an operator to be engaged directly in Internet gaming-related activities or otherwise to conduct or operate Internet gaming without a valid occupational license issued by the director under this section. The director shall issue an occupational license to a person who meets the requirements of this section, section 1404 and section 1405. The director shall by rule establish a process for issuance of occupational licenses that is, to the extent practicable, identical to the process for occupational licenses issued under section 1210 and for licensing employees of a casino under section 1015.

2. Authority to be employed in Internet gaming. An occupational license authorizes the licensee to be employed by an operator in the capacity designated by the director while the license is active. The director may establish, by rule, job classifications with different requirements to recognize the extent to which a particular job has the ability to affect the proper operation of Internet gaming.

3. Application and fee. Except as provided in subsection 5, an applicant shall submit any required application forms established by the director and pay a nonrefundable application fee of \$250. The fee may be paid on behalf of an applicant by the operator. Fees paid under this subsection must be retained by the director for the costs of administering this chapter.

4. Renewal fee and form. An occupational licensee must pay a fee of \$25 to renew the license for a one-year term or a fee of \$50 to renew the license for a 3-year term. The fee may be paid on behalf of the occupational licensee by the operator. In addition to a renewal fee, an occupational licensee must annually submit a renewal application on a form or in a format approved by the director. Fees paid under this subsection must be retained by the director for the costs of administering this chapter.

5. Exception. An individual who is actively licensed under section 1015 as an employee of a casino that has a facility sports wagering license or who is actively licensed under section 1210 as an employee of a facility sports wagering licensee or mobile sports wagering licensee may obtain or renew a license under this section without paying an initial license fee or a renewal license fee under this section.

§1410. Internet gaming house rules

1. Adoption of house rules. An operator shall adopt comprehensive house rules for game play governing Internet gaming transactions with its patrons. House rules must be approved by the director prior to

implementation and meet the minimum standards established by the director by rule, including but not limited to requiring that the house rules specify the amounts to be paid on winning wagers, the circumstances under which the operator will void a wager and treatment of errors, late wagers and related contingencies.

2. Advertisement of house rules. The house rules, together with any other information the director determines to be appropriate, must be advertised as required by the director by rule and must be made readily available to patrons.

§1411. Access to premises and equipment

A licensee under this chapter shall permit the director, the department or a designee of the director unrestricted access, during regular business hours, including access to locked or secured areas, to inspect any facility and any equipment, prizes, records or other items to be used in the operation of Internet gaming.

§1412. Persons prohibited from making wagers

An operator and a management services licensee conducting Internet gaming on behalf of an operator may not accept a wager from the following persons:

1. Persons under 21 years of age. A person who has not attained 21 years of age;

2. Operators and employees. An operator or management services licensee; directors, officers and employees of an operator or management services licensee; or a relative living in the same household as any of these persons. This subsection does not prohibit a relative living in the same household as a director, officer or employee of an operator or management services licensee from making a wager with an unaffiliated operator or management services licensee;

3. Interested parties. A person with an interest in the outcome of the Internet gaming event identified by the director by rule;

4. Unauthorized persons. A person on a list established by rule by the director under section 1403, subsection 2, paragraph G of persons who are not authorized to make wagers;

5. Third parties. A person making a wager on behalf of or as the agent or custodian of another person; and

6. Regulatory staff. An employee of the Gambling Control Unit within the department.

§1413. Abnormal wagering activity

1. Duty to report. An operator shall, as soon as practicable, report to the director any information relating to abnormal wagering activity or patterns that may indicate a concern with the integrity of the Internet gaming event.

2. Cooperation efforts. An operator shall use commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with investigations conducted by law enforcement agencies, including but not limited to using commercially reasonable efforts to provide or facilitate the provision of wagering information.

3. Information confidentiality. The director and operators shall maintain the confidentiality of information provided by entities involved in the Internet gaming event for purposes of investigating or preventing the conduct described in this section, unless disclosure is otherwise required by the director or by law or unless the entity consents to disclosure.

4. Information use and disclosure. With respect to any information provided by an operator to an entity involved in the Internet gaming event relating to conduct described in this section, the entity:

A. May use such information only for integrity-monitoring purposes and may not use the information for any commercial or other purpose; and

B. Shall maintain the confidentiality of the information, unless disclosure is otherwise required by the director or by law or unless the operator consents to disclosure, except that the entity may make disclosures necessary to conduct and resolve integrity-related investigations and may publicly disclose such information if necessary to maintain the actual or perceived integrity of the Internet gaming event. Prior to any public disclosure that would identify the operator by name, the entity shall provide that operator with notice of the disclosure and an opportunity to object to the disclosure.

§1414. Security, maintenance and sharing of wagering records

1. Records maintenance. An operator shall maintain for 3 years after an Internet gaming event occurs at least the following records of all wagers placed with respect to that Internet gaming event:

A. Personally identifiable information of each person placing a wager;

B. The amount and type of each wager;

C. The time each wager was placed;

D. The location of each wager, including the Internet protocol address if applicable;

E. The outcome of each wager; and

F. Instances of abnormal wagering activity.

An operator shall make the records required to be maintained under this subsection available for inspection upon request of the director or as required by court order.

2. Anonymized information. An operator shall use commercially reasonable efforts to maintain, in real time and at the account level, anonymized information regarding a person who places a wager; the amount and type of the wager; the time the wager was placed; the location of the wager, including the Internet protocol address if applicable; the outcome of the wager; and records of abnormal wagering activity. The director may request that information in the form and manner required by rule. Nothing in this subsection requires an operator to provide any information that is prohibited by federal or state law, including without limitation laws and rules relating to privacy and personally identifiable information.

3. Records monitoring. If an entity involved in the Internet gaming event has notified the director that access to the information described in subsection 2 for wagers placed on Internet gaming events of that entity is necessary to monitor the integrity of that Internet gaming event, and the entity represents to the director that it specifically uses that data for the purpose of monitoring the integrity of the Internet gaming event, an operator shall share, in a commercially reasonable frequency, form and manner, with the entity or its designee the same information the operator is required to maintain under subsection 2 with respect to the Internet gaming event. An entity and its designee may use information received under this subsection only for integrity-monitoring purposes and may not use information received under this subsection for any commercial or other purpose. Nothing in this subsection requires an operator to provide any information if prohibited by federal or state law, including without limitation laws and rules relating to privacy and personally identifiable information.

4. Security. An operator shall use commercially reasonable methods to maintain the security of wagering data, customer data and other confidential information from unauthorized access and dissemination. Nothing in this chapter precludes the use of Internet-based or so-called cloud-based hosting of that data and information or disclosure as required by law.

§1415. Interception of Internet gaming winnings to pay child support debt

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Child support debt" means child support debt that has been liquidated by judicial or administrative action.

B. "Department" means the Department of Health and Human Services.

C. "Licensee" means an operator or a management services licensee under section 1408.

D. "Registry operator" means the department or an entity with which the department enters into a contract to maintain the registry pursuant to subsection 3.

E. "Winner" means an Internet gaming patron to whom cash is returned as winnings for placement of a wager.

2. Interception. A licensee shall intercept Internet gaming winnings to pay child support debt in accordance with this section.

3. Registry. The department shall create and maintain, or shall contract with a private entity to create and maintain, a secure, electronically accessible registry containing information regarding individuals with outstanding child support debt. The department shall regularly enter into the registry information including:

A. The name and social security number of each individual with outstanding child support debt;

B. The account number or identifier assigned by the department to the outstanding child support debt;

C. The amount of the outstanding child support debt; and

D. Any other information necessary to effectuate the purposes of this section.

4. Electronic access to information; procedures. A licensee shall electronically access the registry in accordance with this subsection.

A. Before making a payout of winnings of an amount equal to or greater than the amount for which the licensee is required to file a Form W-2G or substantially equivalent form with the United States Internal Revenue Service, the licensee shall obtain the name, address, date of birth and social security number of the winner and shall electronically submit this information to the registry operator.

B. Upon receipt of information pursuant to paragraph A, the registry operator shall electronically inform the licensee whether the winner is listed in the registry. If the winner is listed in the registry, the registry operator shall inform the licensee of the amount of the winner's outstanding child support debt and the account number or identifier assigned to the outstanding child support debt and shall provide the licensee with a notice of withholding that informs the winner of the right to an administrative hearing.

C. If the registry operator informs the licensee that the winner is not listed in the registry or if the licensee is unable to obtain information from the registry operator on a real-time basis after attempting in good faith to do so, the licensee may make payment to the winner.

D. If the registry operator informs the licensee that the winner is listed in the registry, the licensee may not make payment to the winner unless the amount of the payout exceeds the amount of outstanding child support debt, in which case the licensee may make payment to the winner of the amount of winnings that is in excess of the amount of the winner's outstanding child support debt.

5. Lien against winnings. If the registry operator informs a licensee pursuant to this section that a winner is listed in the registry, the department has a valid lien upon and claim of lien against the winnings in the amount of the winner's outstanding child support debt.

6. Withholding of winnings. The licensee shall withhold from any winnings an amount equal to the amount of the lien created under subsection 5 and shall provide a notice of withholding to the winner. Within 7 days after withholding an amount pursuant to this subsection, the licensee shall transmit the amount withheld to the department together with a report of the name, address and social security number of the winner, the account number or identifier assigned to the debt, the amount withheld, the date of withholding and the name and location of the licensee.

7. Licensee costs. Notwithstanding subsection 6, the licensee may retain \$10 from an amount withheld pursuant to this section to cover the cost of the licensee's compliance with this section.

8. Administrative hearing. A winner from whom an amount was withheld pursuant to this section has the right, within 15 days of receipt of the notice of withholding, to request from the department an administrative hearing. The hearing is limited to questions of whether the debt is liquidated and whether any post-liquidation events have affected the winner's liability. The administrative hearing decision constitutes final agency action.

9. Authorization to provide information. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the licensee may provide to the department or registry operator any information necessary to effectuate the intent of this section. The department or registry operator may provide to the licensee any information necessary to effectuate the intent of this section.

10. Confidentiality of information. The information obtained by the department or registry operator from a licensee pursuant to this section and the information obtained by the licensee from the department or registry operator pursuant to this section are confidential and may be used only for the purposes set forth in this section. An employee or prior employee of the department, the registry operator or a licensee who knowingly or intentionally discloses any such information commits a civil violation for which a fine not to exceed \$1,000 may be adjudged.

11. Effect of compliance; noncompliance. A licensee, the department and the registry operator are not liable for any action taken in good faith to comply with this section. A licensee who fails to make a good faith effort to obtain information from the registry operator or who fails to withhold and transmit the amount of the lien created under subsection 5 is liable to the department for the greater of \$500 and the amount the person was required to withhold and transmit to the department under this section, together with costs, interest and reasonable attorney's fees.

12. Biennial review. The department shall include in its report to the Legislature under section 1066 the following information:

A. The number of names of winners submitted by licensees to the registry operator pursuant to this section in each of the preceding 2 calendar years;

B. The number of winners who were found to be listed in the registry in each of the preceding 2 calendar years;

C. The amount of winnings withheld by licensees pursuant to this section in each of the preceding 2 calendar years; and

D. The amount of withheld winnings refunded to winners as the result of administrative hearings requested pursuant to this section in each of the preceding 2 calendar years.

§1416. Allocation of funds

1. Tax imposed; allocation of funds. An operator shall collect and distribute 18% of the adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts to the director to be forwarded by the director to the Treasurer of State for distribution as follows:

A. Two percent of the adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts must be deposited in the Gambling Control Unit administrative expenses Other Special Revenue Funds account, which is a nonlapsing dedicated account;

B. Two percent of the adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts must be deposited in the Gambling Addiction Prevention and Treatment Fund established under Title 5, section 20006-B;

C. Two and one-half percent of the adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts must be deposited in the dairy stabilization tier program under Title 7, chapter 611;

D. One and one-half percent of the adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts must be deposited in the Opioid Use Disorder Prevention and Treatment Fund established under Title 5, section 20010;

E. Two percent of the adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts must be deposited in the Emergency

Housing Relief Fund established under Title 30-A, section 4765;

F. Five percent of the adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts must be deposited in the Maine Veterans' Homes Stabilization Fund established under Title 37-B, section 613;

G. One percent of the adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts must be deposited in the Fund for a Healthy Maine established under Title 22, section 1511; and

H. Two percent of the adjusted gross Internet gaming receipts must be deposited in the School Revolving Renovation Fund established under Title 30-A, section 6006-F.

2. Due dates; late payments. The director may adopt rules establishing the dates on which payments required by this section are due. All payments not remitted when due must be paid together with interest on the unpaid balance at a rate of 1.5% per month.

§1417. Applicability of other laws

1. Authorized conduct. The provisions of Title 17, chapter 62 and Title 17-A, chapter 39 do not apply to Internet gaming conducted in accordance with this chapter and the rules adopted under this chapter.

2. Unlicensed conduct. A person who engages in an activity for which a license is required under this chapter and who does not possess the required license to engage in that activity is subject to any criminal or civil penalties that may be imposed pursuant to Title 17-A, chapter 39.

3. Unauthorized conduct by licensees. In addition to any penalties that may be imposed pursuant to section 1405, a licensee who conducts Internet gaming in violation of this chapter or the rules adopted under this chapter is subject to any criminal or civil penalties that may be imposed pursuant to Title 17-A, chapter 39.

Sec. 5. 17 MRSA §1831, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. KKKKK, §8, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

For the purposes of this subsection, "an event the result of which is determined by chance" includes but is not limited to a shuffle of a deck of cards, a roll of a die or dice or a random drawing or generation of an object that may include, but is not limited to, a card, a die, a number or simulations of any of these. A shuffle of a deck of cards, a roll of a die, a random drawing or generation of an object or some other event the result of which is determined by chance that is employed to determine impartially the initial order of play in a game, contest, scheme or device does not alone make a game, contest, scheme or device a game of chance. For purposes of this chapter, beano, bingo and table games as defined in Title 8, section 1001, subsection 43-A and Internet

gaming as defined in Title 8, section 1402, subsection 5 are not games of chance.

Sec. 6. 17-A MRSA §951, as amended by PL 2021, c. 681, Pt. J, §7, is further amended to read:

§951. Inapplicability of chapter

Any person licensed or registered by the Gambling Control Unit as provided in Title 17, chapter 13-A or chapter 62; or authorized to operate or conduct a raffle pursuant to Title 17, section 1837-A or licensed to operate sports wagering pursuant to Title 8, chapter 35 or Internet gaming pursuant to Title 8, chapter 39 is exempt from the application of the provisions of this chapter insofar as that person's conduct is within the scope of the license or registration.

Sec. 7. 25 MRSA §1542-A, sub-§1, ¶CC is enacted to read:

CC. Who is required to have a criminal history record check under Title 8, section 1404.

Sec. 8. 25 MRSA §1542-A, sub-§3, ¶BB is enacted to read:

BB. The State Police shall take or cause to be taken the fingerprints of the person named in subsection 1, paragraph CC at the request of that person or the director of the Gambling Control Unit within the Department of Public Safety and upon payment of the fee established by the director of the Gambling Control Unit pursuant to Title 8, section 1404, subsection 3.

Sec. 9. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Fund for a Healthy Maine 0921

Initiative: Provides allocation for expenditures authorized in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 1511.

FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$100,000	\$200,000
FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE TOTAL	\$100,000	\$200,000
ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE	\$100,000	\$200,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$100,000	\$200,000

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF

Milk Commission 0188

Initiative: Provides allocation for expenditures authorized in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 3153-B.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$250,000	\$500,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$250,000	\$500,000

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
	\$250,000	\$500,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$250,000	\$500,000

DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Maine Veterans' Homes Stabilization Fund Z358

Initiative: Allocates funds to support the operations of the Maine Veterans' Homes.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$500,000	\$1,000,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$500,000	\$1,000,000

DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
	\$500,000	\$1,000,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$500,000	\$1,000,000

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention 0143

Initiative: Provides allocation for expenditures authorized in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 20006-B.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$200,000	\$400,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$200,000	\$400,000
FUNDS TOTAL		

Opioid Use Disorder Prevention and Treatment Fund Z289

Initiative: Allocates funds to support opioid use disorder prevention and treatment in the State.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$150,000	\$300,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$150,000	\$300,000
FUNDS TOTAL		

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$350,000	\$700,000
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DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$350,000	\$700,000
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HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE

Emergency Housing Relief Fund Program Z340

Initiative: Allocates funds to support housing emergencies in the State.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$200,000	\$400,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$200,000	\$400,000
FUNDS TOTAL		

HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE DEPARTMENT TOTALS

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$200,000	\$400,000
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DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$200,000	\$400,000
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MUNICIPAL BOND BANK, MAINE

Maine Municipal Bond Bank 0671

Initiative: Allocates funds for the School Revolving Renovation Fund established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 6006-F.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$200,000	\$400,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$200,000	\$400,000
FUNDS TOTAL		

MUNICIPAL BOND BANK, MAINE

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
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OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$200,000	\$400,000
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DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$200,000	\$400,000
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PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF

Gambling Control Board Z002

Initiative: Provides funding for 2 Auditor II positions, 2 Criminal Intelligence Analyst positions, one Public Service Coordinator II position and one Public Safety Inspector I position.

GENERAL FUND POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	6,000	6,000
	\$645,354	\$668,001

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$645,354	\$668,001
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Gambling Control Board Z002

Initiative: Provides funding for position costs associated with 2 Auditor II positions, 2 Criminal Intelligence Analyst positions, one Public Service Coordinator II position and one Public Safety Inspector I position.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$70,000	\$70,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$70,000	\$70,000
FUNDS TOTAL		

Gambling Control Board Z002

Initiative: Provides allocations for expenditures related to administrative expenses.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$200,000	\$400,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$200,000	\$400,000
FUNDS TOTAL		

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

GENERAL FUND	\$645,354	\$668,001
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$270,000	\$470,000

DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$915,354	\$1,138,001
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SECTION TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
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GENERAL FUND	\$645,354	\$668,001
FUND FOR A HEALTHY MAINE	\$100,000	\$200,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$1,770,000	\$3,470,000
SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$2,515,354	\$4,338,001

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 539

H.P. 840 - L.D. 1265

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Public Employee Market Pay Studies and Comprehensive Reviews of the Classification Plan for State Service Positions

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §7061, sub-§4, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. UUU, §1, is amended to read:

B. The procedure must provide for a market pay study every 4 years that compares the salaries of state employees with employees performing comparable work for a sampling of private and public employees in this State, other New England states and other states as appropriate. The bureau shall issue a request for proposals and contract with an experienced contractor to complete a market pay study conducted pursuant to this paragraph. The bureau shall submit the market pay study and a report on the market pay study to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters and the bargaining agents that represent a bargaining unit of state employees no later than September 30, 2024 and every 4 years thereafter.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §7061, sub-§4, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. UUU, §1, is amended to read:

C. Beginning in 2024, the procedure must provide for a comprehensive review of the classification plan every 10 years to make modifications and improvements as determined necessary. The bureau shall issue a request for proposals and contract with an experienced contractor to complete these reviews.

Sec. 3. Funds transfer. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer \$2,000,000 on or before June 30, 2027 from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Salary Plan program, General Fund account to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to provide funding to contract with contractors to complete

market pay studies and reviews pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 7061, subsection 4, paragraphs B and C.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Administration - Human Resources 0038

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to contract with a consultant to complete market pay studies and reviews prior to the report deadline of September 30, 2028.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,000,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$2,000,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 540

H.P. 620 - L.D. 961

An Act to Address Maine's Health Care Workforce Shortage and Improve Access to Care

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

Whereas, certified nurse practitioners are highly qualified to meet the physical and mental health care needs of patients and are uniquely positioned to assist patients; and

Whereas, Maine recognizes 4 categories of nurses that may qualify to provide advanced practice registered nursing, but only certified nurse practitioners are subject to a 2-year supervision requirement; and

Whereas, that supervision requirement restricts the ability of highly qualified certified nurse practitioners to practice at the highest level of their license as advanced practice registered nurses; and

Whereas, this legislation authorizes the State Board of Nursing to modernize the current licensing requirements by establishing practice standards including the length of time a certified nurse practitioner must practice as an advanced practice registered nurse and any requirements for employment by a clinic or hospital that has a supervising nurse practitioner within the clinic or hospital serving in a mentorship role to a certified nurse practitioner; and

Whereas, these practice standards must be adopted as soon as possible to recognize the ability of