

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

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

certified nurse practitioners to serve the immediate health care needs of patients; 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. 32 MRSA §2102, sub-§2-A, as amended by PL 2007, c. 316, §1, is further amended by amending the 2nd blocked paragraph to read:

A. Until the board has adopted rules to establish practice standards pursuant to section 2205-B, subsection 4-A, a certified nurse practitioner who qualifies as an advanced practice registered nurse must practice, for at least 24 months, under the supervision of a licensed physician or a supervising nurse practitioner or must be employed by a clinic or hospital that has a medical director who is a licensed physician. The certified nurse practitioner shall submit written evidence to the board upon completion of the required clinical experience.

Sec. 2. 32 MRSA §2102, sub-§10, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 316, §2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

A. Met the requirements of section 2205-B, subsection 4-A specified by the board in rule;

Sec. 3. 32 MRSA §2102, sub-§10, ¶B, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 316, §2, is amended to read:

B. Practiced as an advanced practice registered nurse for a minimum of 5 years in the same ~~specialty~~ specialty;

Sec. 4. 32 MRSA §2205-B, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Approval of certified nurse practitioner. A certified nurse practitioner who qualifies as an advanced practice registered nurse must meet practice standards specified in rule by the board related to:

A. The length of time a certified nurse practitioner must practice as an advanced practice registered nurse;

B. Based on experience and licensing status, the minimum amount of time a certified nurse practitioner must practice with a supervising nurse practitioner serving in a mentorship role to the certified nurse practitioner;

C. The practice setting of a certified nurse practitioner, including consideration of 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

D. Any other factors determined necessary by the board.

A certified nurse practitioner shall demonstrate compliance with the practice standards required under this subsection in the form and manner required by the board. The board may adopt rules as necessary to implement the requirements of this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 5. State Board of Nursing rulemaking; submission of proposed practice standards. No later than March 15, 2026, the State Board of Nursing shall submit proposed practice standards for certified nurse practitioners, as required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, section 2205-B, subsection 4-A, to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services for review. The joint standing committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature relating to the practice standards for certified nurse practitioners. Notwithstanding Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2, the State Board of Nursing may not adopt any rules before May 1, 2026 relating to the practice standards for certified nurse practitioners as required by Title 32, section 2205-B, subsection 4-A.

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

Effective February 17, 2026.

CHAPTER 541

H.P. 1351 - L.D. 2021

An Act to Add an Online Option for Reporting of Suspected Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Adults

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3477, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2003, c. 653, §10, is further amended to read:

2. Reports. Reports regarding abuse, neglect or exploitation must be made immediately ~~by telephone~~ to the department ~~either by telephone or by an online portal designated by the department~~ and must be followed by a written report within 48 hours if requested by the department. The reports must contain the name and address of the involved adult; information regarding the nature and extent of the abuse, neglect or exploitation; the source of the report; ~~and the name of the person making the report;~~ that person's occupation; and where that person can be contacted. The report may contain