

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

(1) Short-term needs resulting from financial dislocations associated with the dissolution of the marriage; or

(2) Reentry or advancement in the work force, including, but not limited to, physical or emotional rehabilitation services, vocational training and education.

C. Reimbursement support may be awarded to achieve an equitable result in the overall dissolution of the parties' financial relationship in response to exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances include, but are not limited to:

(1) Economic misconduct by a spouse;

(2) Substantial contributions a spouse made towards the educational or occupational advancement of the other spouse during the marriage; and

(3) Economic abuse by a spouse. For the purposes of this subparagraph, "economic abuse" has the same meaning as in section 4102, subsection 5.

Reimbursement support may be awarded only if the court determines that the parties' financial circumstances do not permit the court to fully address equitable considerations through its distributive order pursuant to section 953.

D. Nominal support may be awarded to preserve the court's authority to grant spousal support in the future.

E. Interim support may be awarded to provide for a spouse's separate support during the pendency of an action for divorce or judicial separation.

Sec. 3. 19-A MRSA §951-A, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Award at expiration of child support obligation. If a child support obligation for the minor child or children of the marriage will terminate within 3 years of the anticipated date of a final judgment awarding general support, the court may establish a separate general support award that will take effect upon the termination of the child support obligation.

Sec. 4. 19-A MRSA §951-A, sub-§5, ¶H, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 634, §3, is amended to read:

H. The ~~tax~~ consequences of the division of marital property, including the tax consequences ~~of the sale of the marital home~~ resulting from division of the marital property, if applicable;

Sec. 5. 19-A MRSA §951-A, sub-§5, ¶P, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 634, §3, is amended to read:

P. The effect of the following on a party's need for spousal support or a party's ability to pay spousal support:

(1) Actual or potential income from marital or nonmarital property awarded or set apart to each party as part of the court's distributive order pursuant to section 953; ~~and~~

~~(2) Child support for the support of a minor child or children of the marriage pursuant to chapter 63; and~~

Sec. 6. 19-A MRSA §951-A, sub-§5, ¶P-1 is enacted to read:

P-1. Whether the spousal support award combined with a child support obligation for the support of a minor child or children of the marriage would be inequitable or unjust;

Sec. 7. 19-A MRSA §951-A, sub-§5, ¶P-2 is enacted to read:

P-2. Whether the spousal support incomes of the parties are sufficiently low or sufficiently high that application of the presumptive calculation in subsection 2, paragraph A, subparagraph (1-B) would be inequitable or unjust; and

Sec. 8. Application. This Act applies to all actions pending on or after January 1, 2027. If a party files a motion to modify a general spousal support award that was issued before January 1, 2027, the following provisions apply.

1. The court may not use the rebuttable presumption in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 19-A, section 951-A, subsection 2, paragraph A, subparagraph (1-B) as the basis for finding a substantial change in financial circumstances under Title 19-A, section 951-A, subsection 4.

2. If a party establishes a substantial change in financial circumstances through means other than application of the presumption under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 19-A, section 951-A, subsection 2, paragraph A, subparagraph (1-B) and it appears to the court that justice requires the award to be modified, the court may consider the presumption in determining the amount of the modified general support award.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 572

H.P. 1159 - L.D. 1741

An Act Regarding Vacancies in the Office of Sheriff

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §371-B, sub-§2, as repealed and replaced by PL 1997, c. 562, Pt. D, §6 and affected by §11, is amended to read:

2. Filling vacancies. Vacancies in the office of sheriff caused by death, resignation, removal from the county, permanent incapacity or any other reason must be filled as provided in the Constitution of Maine. In the case of a vacancy in the term of a sheriff who was nominated by primary election before the general election, the sheriff appointed by the Governor to fill the vacancy until a successor is chosen at election must be enrolled in the same political party as the sheriff whose term is vacant. In making the appointment, the Governor shall choose from any recommendations submitted to the Governor by the county committee of the political party from which the appointment is made. If the county committee submits one or more recommendations to the Governor, the chief deputy exercising the same rights and powers of the sheriff in the case of a vacancy in the office of sheriff pursuant to section 385, subsection 1 must be included for consideration for appointment as sheriff if the chief deputy is enrolled in the same political party as the sheriff whose term is vacant.

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §381, sub-§3, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

A. The ~~failure decision~~ of a sheriff to ~~not~~ reappoint a deputy, except for appointment at the end of the probationary period, is subject to the procedures and standards for dismissal of an applicable collective bargaining agreement.

Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §385, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, c. 6; c. 9, §2; and c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

1. Chief deputy's powers. If the office of sheriff becomes vacant because of death, resignation or otherwise, the chief deputy ~~shall have~~ has and may exercise the same rights and powers and ~~be is~~ subject to the same duties and liabilities as a sheriff until the vacancy in the office of sheriff is filled as provided in the Constitution of Maine ~~and the new sheriff has qualified under law.~~

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 573

H.P. 1365 - L.D. 2035

An Act to Increase the Fee Cap for the Board of Licensing of Auctioneers

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §287-A, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 323, §15 and amended by PL 2011, c. 286, Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

§287-A. Fees

The Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation may establish by rule fees for purposes authorized under this chapter in amounts that are reasonable and necessary for their respective purposes, except that the fee for any one purpose may not exceed ~~\$200~~ \$300 annually. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter ~~H-A~~ 2-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 574

H.P. 1398 - L.D. 2083

An Act to Expand Access to Certified Residential Medication Aide Training

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §42, sub-§1-A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 237, §1, is further amended to read:

1-A. Administration of medication. The administration of medication in assisted housing programs, residential care facilities, ~~drug treatment centers~~, day care facilities, children's homes and nursery schools and nonnursing level intermediate care facilities for persons with intellectual disabilities must be in accordance with rules established by the department. In other facilities licensed or approved by the department, excluding those facilities licensed under section 1811, other than nonnursing level intermediate care facilities for persons with intellectual disabilities, the department may establish rules for the administration of medication as it considers necessary. In establishing rules for each type of facility, the department shall consider, among other factors, the general health of the persons likely to receive medication, the number of persons served by the facility and the number of persons employed at the facility who might be involved in the administration of medication. Any rules for the administration of medication must be established in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §42, sub-§1-B is enacted to read:

1-B. Certified residential medication aide certificate. The department shall issue a certificate to an individual who has successfully completed a department-approved certified residential medication aide course that meets the medication administration training requirements for unlicensed assistive personnel under Title 32, section 2102, subsection 11 in accordance with rules established by the department for facilities under subsection 1-A. The course must be designed to ensure competency in the safe administration of medications by individuals who are not licensed health care