

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

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

professionals. The department shall review the course curriculum at least once every 5 years, or more frequently as determined necessary by the commissioner, to ensure alignment with current clinical standards, safety practices and the needs of residents and clients in facilities under subsection 1-A. The department shall develop rules for the certification of certified residential medication aides and certified residential medication aide instructors and may establish and collect reasonable certification fees and sanction fees from individuals as well as from instructors. Fees must be set by rule and may range from \$25 to \$100 per individual or instructor, per course. A certificate issued pursuant to this subsection is valid for a 2-year certification period. Fees collected pursuant to this section must be deposited in a dedicated special revenue account to support certified residential medication aide certification activities and the ongoing oversight and maintenance of the curriculum. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

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

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
DEPARTMENT OF**

Division of Licensing and Certification Z036

Initiative: Establishes one Program Services II position to oversee the Department's Certified Residential Medication Aide (CRMA) certificate program and includes all other funding for a contract position to address clinical issues in the training and testing process and work with the Board of Nurses to improve training quality and CRMA competency.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$180,366
All Other	\$0	\$91,950
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	\$272,316
FUNDS TOTAL		

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 575
S.P. 771 - L.D. 1964**

**An Act to Establish Additional
Requirements Related to the
Sale or Lease of Net Energy
Billing Interests and Solar
Energy Equipment**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until

90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Office of the Public Advocate receives inquiries nearly every day from Maine consumers who are struggling to understand who their solar provider is or how to contact their provider with questions about their account; and

Whereas, the sale or lease of solar energy equipment involves significant consumer investment and long-term contracts, which may be complex; and

Whereas, recent federal tax changes may increase the likelihood of door-to-door solicitations for the lease of solar energy equipment, and this legislation must take effect as soon as possible to clarify and improve upon existing consumer protection laws; 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. 10 MRSA §1250-M is enacted to read:

§1250-M. False representation in sale of electricity product

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

A. "Competitive electricity provider" has the same meaning as in Title 35-A, section 3201, subsection 5.

B. "Distributed generation resource" has the same meaning as in Title 35-A, section 3481, subsection 5.

C. "Electricity product" means a distributed generation resource, energy supply by a competitive electricity provider or a similar resource. "Electricity product" does not include an electrical appliance, machinery or equipment or building efficiency services or products.

D. "Electric utility" means a transmission and distribution utility as defined in Title 35-A, section 102, subsection 20-B.

2. False representation in sale of electricity product. A person may not falsely represent the person as a representative of, as an affiliate of or as being in any way affiliated with an electric utility or as a representative of, as an official of or acting in an official capacity on behalf of a governmental agency or program, unless expressly permitted by the electric utility or governmental agency or program, when selling, offering to sell, leasing, installing or entering into any other financial arrangement regarding an electricity product.