

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §103-B is enacted to read:

§103-B. Affordability impact considerations

In executing its duties, powers and regulatory functions under this Title, the commission, while ensuring system reliability, shall consider the impact on affordability for residential customers.

Sec. 2. Credit and collection data; publication. The Public Utilities Commission shall publish on its publicly accessible website data regarding credit and collection activities of a transmission and distribution utility with more than 50,000 customers that is submitted to the commission by the utility in accordance with rules adopted by the commission pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 704, subsection 1. The commission shall ensure that the data is provided on the commission's publicly accessible website in a clear and transparent manner.

Sec. 3. Comprehensive review of electric delivery rates. The Public Utilities Commission shall conduct a comprehensive review of each component of electric delivery rates. In conducting the review required pursuant to this section, the commission shall consider whether changes to the current design and composition of electric delivery rates could be implemented to, at a minimum:

1. Contain customer costs;
2. Reduce transmission and distribution utility bill volatility; and
3. Increase transmission and distribution utility bill transparency.

The commission shall engage stakeholders in the review process under this section and solicit stakeholder feedback. By January 31, 2027, the commission shall submit an interim report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters informing the committee of its work to date on the comprehensive review. By December 15, 2027, the commission shall submit a final report regarding its comprehensive review, including any recommendations or proposed legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters. The committee may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

Sec. 4. Affordability metric development. The Public Utilities Commission shall develop an affordability metric to be used to assess the impact of electricity bills on the overall energy burden for residential customers of an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility. By January 15, 2027, the commission shall submit an interim report on the commission's progress under this section to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters. The commission shall submit a final re-

port by December 15, 2027 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters regarding the development of an affordability metric under this section, along with any recommendations or proposed legislation, if necessary. The committee may report out a bill related to the final report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 589

S.P. 806 - L.D. 1993

**An Act to Increase the Annual
Cap on Funds Assessed for the
Safety Education and Training
Fund**

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §61, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2013, c. 467, §2, is further amended to read:

2. Source of funds. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall annually assess a levy based on actual annual workers' compensation paid losses, excluding medical payments, paid in the most recent calendar year for which data is available by employers under former Title 39, the Workers' Compensation Act or Title 39-A, Part 1, the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992. As soon as practicable after July 1st of each year, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall assess upon and collect from each insurance carrier licensed to do workers' compensation business in the State, and each group and individual self-insured employer authorized to make workers' compensation payments directly to their employees, a sum equal to that proportion of the current fiscal year's appropriation, exclusive of any federal funds, for the safety education and training program that the total workers' compensation benefits, exclusive of medical payments, paid by each licensed carrier or each group or individual self-insured employer, bear to the total of the benefits paid by all licensed carriers, and group and individual self-insured employers during the most recent calendar year for which data is available, except that the total amount levied annually may not exceed ~~4%~~ 2% of the total of the compensation benefits paid by all licensed carriers, and group and individual self-insured employers during the most recent calendar year for which data is available. A licensed carrier or group or individual self-insured employer must be assessed based on all benefits paid, exclusive of medical payments, during any year for which the carrier was licensed or the group or individual self-insured employer was authorized to make workers' compensation payments directly to their employees for any portion of the year.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF

Safety Education and Training Programs 0161

Initiative: Allocates funds to the Department of Labor to support safety education and training programs for employers, owners, employees, educators and students.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$2,230,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$2,230,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 590

S.P. 851 - L.D. 2063

**An Act to Clarify Activities
Allowed Under the Natural
Resources Protection Act**

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §480-Q, sub-§33, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 531, §6, is amended to read:

33. Emergency flood alleviation. An emergency activity conducted or overseen by the State or a local government in, on, over or adjacent to a river, stream or brook when the emergency activity is necessary to alleviate an immediate threat to public health or safety caused by a flood event occurring at the time the emergency activity is conducted, as long as any alteration to the river, stream or brook necessary to conduct the emergency activity is restored following the flood event to the conditions that existed prior to the flood event to the greatest extent practicable, as determined by the department.

The department may adopt routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A to govern the restoration of a river, stream or brook under this subsection and define "greatest extent practicable."

A local government conducting or overseeing an emergency activity pursuant to this subsection shall notify the department prior to its conducting or overseeing the emergency activity and shall maintain communication with the department for the duration of the emergency activity as directed by the department; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §480-Q, sub-§34, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 531, §7, is amended by amending the last blocked paragraph to read:

For the purposes of this subsection, "pier, wharf or dock" does not include a seawall, jetty, breakwater or similar structure designed to dissipate wave action;:

Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §480-Q, sub-§35 is enacted to read:

35. Hand planting of native vegetation. Hand planting of native vegetation adjacent to a coastal wetland, freshwater wetland, great pond or river, stream or brook, as long as:

A. Only native plants are planted;

B. Machinery is not used;

C. Only potted plants, bare root plants or live stakes are planted;

D. Removal of existing vegetation does not occur, except for removal of ground cover incidental to the planting and the removal by hand of invasive species;

E. No more than one cubic yard of soil is overturned annually;

F. The addition of soil or soil amendments does not result in a change to the original ground topography;

G. Individual planting holes do not exceed 2 feet in diameter;

H. All areas that have been hand-planted are mulched immediately after planting; and

I. The hand planting activity conforms with the requirements of the relevant municipal shoreland zoning ordinance adopted pursuant to article 2-B;

Sec. 4. 38 MRSA §480-Q, sub-§36 is enacted to read:

36. Hand planting of native dune vegetation. Hand planting of native dune vegetation in a coastal sand dune system, as long as:

A. The area planted does not exceed 2,000 square feet;

B. Existing dune vegetation is not disturbed; and

C. The planting occurs between October 1st and March 15th, unless written approval from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has been obtained and provided to the department.

As used in this subsection, "native dune vegetation" has the same meaning as in section 480-E, subsection 15: and

Sec. 5. 38 MRSA §480-Q, sub-§37 is enacted to read:

37. Corrective actions. Corrective actions to resolve a violation under this article, as long as written approval for the corrective action has been provided by the department.