

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) Has been manipulated or altered in a manner that is likely to provide a reasonable person with a materially different understanding or impression of the candidate's appearance, action or speech than a reasonable person would have from an unaltered, original version of the image, audio recording or video recording.

B. For purposes of this subsection, "synthetic media" does not include:

(1) An image, an audio recording or a video recording depicting a candidate's appearance, speech or conduct that has been modified to improve audio, video or image clarity, to add captions or to highlight a specific section of the image, audio recording or video recording as long as the modification does not create a materially different understanding or impression of the candidate's appearance, action or speech than a reasonable person would have from an unaltered, original version of the image, audio recording or video recording; or

(2) Satire or parody.

C. A person operating a broadcast, cable or satellite system within the State that broadcasts a public communication does not violate this subsection and a newspaper that publishes a public communication does not violate this subsection unless the broadcaster broadcasts or newspaper publishes a paid public communication with actual knowledge that the public communication contains synthetic media. The broadcaster's or newspaper's receipt of an allegation made by a 3rd party that a public communication contains synthetic media does not, by itself, constitute actual knowledge by the broadcaster or newspaper that the public communication contains synthetic media. For purposes of this paragraph, "newspaper" has the same meaning as in subsection 3-B.

D. The commission shall notify the Office of the Attorney General if a person who is in violation of this subsection does not cease violating this subsection after being notified of the violation by the commission or if the commission is unable for any reason to notify a person that the person is in violation of this subsection. The Attorney General may bring a civil action in the Superior Court of Kennebec County for injunctive or other appropriate equitable relief requiring the person to comply with this subsection. An action under this paragraph may be combined with an action under section 1004-B for the purposes of the enforcement of penalties assessed by the commission. If the Attorney General prevails in an action under this paragraph, the court may award to the Attorney General the costs of the action together with reasonable attorney's fees as determined by the court.

E. This subsection may not be construed to prohibit or limit any other cause of action that a person may have against a person who violates this subsection.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 594

S.P. 815 - L.D. 2001

An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing Facilities for Children and Adults Under the Health and Human Services Laws

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §7504, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is amended to read:

§7504. ~~Residential child~~ Children's residential care facilities

"Residential child ~~Children's residential~~ care facilities" shall ~~must~~ be licensed in accordance with Title 22, section 8104.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4061, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1983, c. 354, §6, is further amended to read:

1. Department. The department shall care for a child ordered into its custody in licensed or approved family foster homes, in other ~~children's residential child~~ care facilities or in other living arrangements as appropriate to meet the child's individual needs.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §7703, sub-§2, ¶B, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 691, §2, is amended to read:

B. Notwithstanding sections 3474 and 4008, any information gathered and all records created or obtained in the course of an investigation of neglect or abuse, including all post-investigation activities and proceedings, except a statement indicating whether or not a report of abuse or neglect has been received, the nature of the alleged abuse or neglect and the conclusion reached by the department, if any;

Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §7802, sub-§1-A, as amended by PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. A, §78, is further amended to read:

1-A. Consolidation of functions. All staff performing general licensing functions within the Office of Child and Family Services, including the out-of-home abuse and neglect investigating team when investigating pursuant to section ~~8354, subsection 2, paragraph C 4099-L~~, are consolidated as a single organizational unit.

Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §8103, sub-§2-A, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 444, §3, is amended to read:

2-A. Family foster homes and specialized children's homes. Family foster homes and specialized children's homes are exempt from the inspection requirement in subsection 1-A. The department shall inspect a family foster home or specialized children's home prior to placing a foster child in the home. The department shall adopt routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A governing the fire and safety inspection of family foster homes and specialized children's homes.

Sec. 6. 22 MRSA §8104, as amended by PL 2005, c. 12, Pt. RR, §1 and c. 397, Pt. A, §28, is further amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§8104. ~~Interagency licensing~~ Licensing authority and rules

Sec. 7. 22 MRSA §8104, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2005, c. 397, Pt. A, §28, is repealed.

Sec. 8. 22 MRSA §8104, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 260, §5 and amended by PL 2003, c. 689, Pt. B, §6, is further amended to read:

2. Licensing authority. For the purposes of this section, the Department of Health and Human Services ~~shall have~~ has licensing authority for children's residential child care facilities. This authority ~~shall~~ does not relieve any agency of responsibility for the proper and efficient management or evaluation of programs funded by that agency.

Sec. 9. 22 MRSA §8402, sub-§3, ¶A, as amended by PL 2019, c. 154, §10 and affected by §12 and amended by PL 2025, c. 316, §3, is further amended to read:

A. The department shall adopt rules regarding the health of staff as required to protect the health and safety of the children. ~~The rules must include a requirement that every 2 years each licensee, administrator or other staff member of the nursery school who provides care for children be declared free from communicable disease by a licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician associate.~~ Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 10. 22-A MRSA §206, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 539, Pt. N, §45, is amended to read:

5. Residential child Children's residential care facilities. The commissioner shall approve all programs for the provision of mental health services to children's residential child care facilities, as defined in Title 22, section 8101, subsection 4, and shall participate in licensure of these programs in accordance with Title 22, section 8104.

Sec. 11. 36 MRSA §1760, sub-§18-A, as amended by PL 2015, c. 300, Pt. A, §15, is further amended to read:

18-A. Certain children's residential child care facilities. Sales to incorporated private nonprofit children's residential child care facilities that are licensed by the Department of Health and Human Services as child care facilities.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 595

H.P. 1400 - L.D. 2085

An Act to Include a Certain Emergency Communications Position at the Department of Public Safety in the 1998 Special Plan

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶Q, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. R, §2, is further amended to read:

Q. Until July 31, 2024, civilian employees whose job responsibilities include the handling, examination or analysis of digital or physical evidence in the employment of the Department of Public Safety, Maine State Police Crime Laboratory or computer crimes unit on October 1, 2021 or hired thereafter; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶R, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. R, §3, is amended to read:

R. Persons in the employment of the Department of Health and Human Services on October 1, 2025 or hired thereafter who have the job classification of Mental Health Worker I, Mental Health Worker II, Mental Health Worker III or Mental Health Worker IV; and

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§1, ¶S is enacted to read:

S. Persons in the employment of the Department of Public Safety on August 1, 2026 or hired thereafter who have the job classification of emergency communications director.

Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §17851-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. R, §4, is further amended to read:

2. Qualification for benefits. A member employed in any one or a combination of the capacities specified in subsection 1 after June 30, 1998 and before September 1, 2002 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs A and B; after June 30, 1998 for employees identified in subsection 1, paragraphs C to H; after December 31, 1999 for employees identified in