

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

CHAPTER 615
H.P. 1416 - L.D. 2101

**An Act to Establish a Monetary
Penalty for Employers Whose
Unemployment Payment Is
Returned Unpaid**

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §1225, sub-§9 is enacted to read:

9. Returned payments. If any payment made under this chapter is returned unpaid for any reason, including but not limited to insufficient funds, account closure, nonexistence of the account, stop-payment order or any other cause, the commissioner shall assess a penalty equal to \$25 or 1% of the payment amount, whichever is greater.

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

LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF

Employment Security Services 0245

Initiative: Allocates funding for bank fees charged for returned payments made under the Employment Security Law.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$7,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$0	\$7,000
FUNDS TOTAL		

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 616
S.P. 892 - L.D. 2187

**An Act to Update Certain
Water Quality Standards and
to Reclassify Certain Waters of
the State**

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §465, sub-§1, ¶B, as amended by PL 2021, c. 551, §9, is further amended to read:

B. ~~The aquatic life.~~ Except for activities associated with fish stocking and fish management that are approved by a state agency, the aquatic life of Class AA waters must be as naturally occurs. The dissolved oxygen and bacteria content of Class AA waters must be as naturally occurs, except that the

number of Escherichia coli bacteria in these waters may not exceed a geometric mean of 64 CFU or MPN per 100 milliliters over a 90-day interval or 236 CFU or MPN per 100 milliliters in more than 10% of the samples in any 90-day interval.

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §465, sub-§2, ¶B, as amended by PL 2021, c. 551, §10, is further amended to read:

B. Except for activities associated with fish stocking and fish management that are approved by a state agency, the aquatic life of Class A waters must be as naturally occurs. The dissolved oxygen content of Class A waters may not be less than 7 parts per million or and 75% of saturation, ~~which ever is higher~~, except that for the period from October 1st to May 14th, in order to ensure spawning and egg incubation of indigenous fish species, the 7-day mean dissolved oxygen concentration may not be less than 9.5 parts per million and the one-day minimum dissolved oxygen concentration may not be less than 8.0 parts per million in identified fish spawning areas. Except as provided in section 464, subsection 4, paragraph C, the pH of Class A waters must fall within the 6.5 to 9.0 range. The ~~aquatic life and~~ bacteria content of Class A waters must be as naturally occurs, except that the numbers of Escherichia coli bacteria in these waters may not exceed a geometric mean of 64 CFU or MPN per 100 milliliters over a 90-day interval or 236 CFU or MPN per 100 milliliters in more than 10% of the samples in any 90-day interval.

Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §465, sub-§3, ¶B, as amended by PL 2021, c. 551, §11, is further amended to read:

B. Class B waters must be of sufficient quality to support all aquatic species indigenous to those waters without detrimental changes in the resident biological community. ~~The~~ Except as provided in section 464, subsection 4, paragraph C, the dissolved oxygen content of Class B waters may not be less than 7 parts per million or and 75% of saturation, ~~which ever is higher~~ calculated as a daily average, except that ~~for the dissolved oxygen of any individual reading at any time may not be less than 6 parts per million.~~ For the period from October 1st to May 14th, in order to ensure spawning and egg incubation of indigenous fish species, the 7-day mean dissolved oxygen concentration may not be less than 9.5 parts per million and the one-day minimum dissolved oxygen concentration may not be less than 8.0 parts per million in identified fish spawning areas. Except as provided in section 464, subsection 4, paragraph C, the pH of Class B waters must fall within the 6.5 to 9.0 range. Between April 15th and October 31st, the number of Escherichia coli bacteria in these waters may not exceed