

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 617
H.P. 1484 - L.D. 2207

**An Act Regarding the Statute
of Limitations for Certain
Sexual Offenses Committed
Against Minors**

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

Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §8, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2023, c. 475, §2 and affected by §3, is further amended to read:

1. It is a defense that prosecution was commenced after the expiration of the applicable period of limitations provided in this section, except that the following prosecutions may be commenced at any time:

A. A prosecution for murder or criminal homicide in the first or 2nd degree; ~~or~~

B. If the victim had not attained the age of 18 years at the time of the crime, a prosecution for incest; unlawful sexual contact; sexual abuse of a minor; rape or gross sexual assault, formerly denominated as gross sexual misconduct; unlawful sexual touching; or sexual exploitation of a minor; or

C. If the victim had not attained the age of 18 years at the time of the crime, a prosecution for aggravated sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of a minor. The provisions of this paragraph apply only to those crimes of aggravated sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of a minor committed on or after September 1, 2026 or for which the prosecution was not barred by the statute of limitations in force immediately prior to September 1, 2026.

Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA §8, sub-§2-A, as amended by PL 2025, c. 479, §1, is further amended to read:

2-A. A Except as provided in subsection 1, paragraphs B and C, a prosecution for a Class A, Class B or Class C crime involving unlawful sexual contact or gross sexual assault or a prosecution for a Class A or Class B crime involving aggravated sex trafficking must be commenced within 20 years after it is committed.

This subsection does not apply to a Class D crime enhanced to a Class C crime pursuant to section 1604, subsection 5, paragraph B.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 618
H.P. 1489 - L.D. 2210

**An Act to Clarify Board of
Environmental Protection
Procedures Regarding Appeals
of Licensing or Permitting
Decisions of the Commissioner
of Environmental Protection**

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §341-D, sub-§4, as amended by PL 2023, c. 512, §2, is further amended to read:

4. Appeal or review. The record on appeal for appeals decided by the board is the administrative record relied upon by the commissioner in the commissioner's review of a license or permit application, including the record of any adjudicatory hearing held by the department, any supplemental evidence admitted by the board on appeal and, if the board holds a hearing on the appeal, any additional evidence obtained by the board from that hearing. The board shall review, may hold a hearing at its discretion on and may affirm, amend, reverse or remand to the commissioner for further proceedings any of the following:

A. Final license or permit decisions made by the commissioner when a person aggrieved by a decision of the commissioner appeals that decision to the board within 30 days of the date of the decision. An appellant shall identify in the appeal the licensing or permitting criterion or standard the appellant believes was not satisfied in the commissioner's final license or permit decision and shall include in the appeal all information required to be submitted by rules adopted pursuant to this section. Any proposed supplemental evidence offered by an appellant must be included with the filing of the appeal. The board staff shall issue to the appellant; the licensee or permittee, if the licensee or permittee is not the appellant; interested persons; and ~~to any other persons who have requested to be notified of the license or permit decision written notice of the filing of the appeal and, which must identify any proposed supplemental evidence offered by the appellant.~~ For the purposes of this paragraph, "interested person" means any person that submitted written comments on the application that is the subject of the appeal. Within 30 days of the issuance of the written notice by the board staff of the filing of the appeal ~~by the board staff,~~ the licensee or permittee, if the licensee or permittee is not the appellant, ~~and any interested parties identified by the commissioner pursuant to section 344, subsection 4-A, paragraph B~~ may submit proposed supplemental evidence to the board ~~and the appellant~~ addressing the issues raised in the appeal. The chair