

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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

of the board may ~~allow~~ admit proposed supplemental evidence into the record to be supplemented when ~~it~~ the chair finds that the evidence offered is relevant and material ~~to the appeal~~ and that:

- (1) ~~An interested party seeking to supplement the record~~ The person that submitted the proposed supplemental evidence has shown due diligence in bringing the evidence to the licensing ~~or permitting~~ process at the earliest possible time; or
- (2) The evidence is newly discovered and could not, by the exercise of diligence, have been discovered in time to be presented earlier in the licensing ~~or permitting~~ process.

The board shall admit into the record additional evidence and analysis submitted by department staff in response to issues raised in the appeal and any supplemental evidence allowed by the board in accordance with this paragraph. ~~The licensee or permittee, if the licensee or permittee is not the appellant, may submit to the board a written response to the merits of the appeal.~~ The board is not bound by the commissioner's findings of fact or conclusions of law but may adopt, modify or reverse findings of fact or conclusions of law established by the commissioner. Any changes to a final license or permit decision of the commissioner made by the board under this paragraph must be based upon the board's review of the record, ~~any supplemental evidence admitted by the board and any other evidence obtained by the board through any hearing on the appeal held by the board on appeal.~~

If the board modifies or reverses a final license or permit decision of the commissioner pursuant to this paragraph, the licensee or permittee shall implement any changes to the project necessary to comply with the decision of the board, which may include, but are not limited to, deconstruction and site restoration, and the department may initiate enforcement actions pursuant to section 347-A and impose penalties pursuant to section 349 if the licensee or permittee fails to satisfactorily implement those changes;

C. License or permit decisions appealed to the board under another law. Unless the law provides otherwise, the standard of review is the same as provided under paragraph A;

D. License or permit decisions regarding an expedited wind energy development as defined in Title 35-A, section 3451, subsection 4 or a general permit pursuant to section 480-HH or section 636-A. In reviewing an appeal of a license or permit decision by the commissioner under this paragraph, the board shall base its decision on the ~~administrative record of the department, including the record of any adjudicatory hearing held by the department,~~

~~and any supplemental information allowed by the board for supplementation of the record on appeal.~~ The board may remand the decision to the department for further proceedings if appropriate. The chair of the Public Utilities Commission or the chair's designee may serve as a nonvoting member of the board and is entitled to fully participate but is not required to attend meetings and hearings when the board considers an appeal pursuant to this paragraph. The chair's participation on the board pursuant to this paragraph does not affect the ability of the Public Utilities Commission to submit information to the department for inclusion in the record of any proceeding before the department; and

E. Decisions on insurance claims-related matters heard under section 568-A, including but not limited to decisions on eligibility for coverage, eligibility of costs and waiver and amount of deductible. Except as provided in board rules, an applicant must file the appeal not later than the 30th day after the applicant receives the decision made under section 568-A. If the board overturns the decision made under section 568-A, the department must pay reasonable costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, incurred by the aggrieved applicant in pursuing the appeal to the board from the Maine Ground and Surface Waters Clean-up and Response Fund established under section 551. Reasonable attorney's fees include only those fees incurred from the time of an insurance claims-related decision forward. Decisions of the board are subject to judicial review pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 7.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 619

H.P. 1495 - L.D. 2218

An Act to Increase the Per Diem Rate for Members of the Maine Labor Relations Board

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-B, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1989, c. 503, Pt. A, §7, is further amended to read:

2.

Maine Labor Relations Board	\$75/Day	26 MRSA §968
	\$100/Day	
	\$150/Day	
	\$200/Day Chair	

See title page for effective date.
