

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

pursuant to subchapter 3. The officer's decision satisfies the requirement of section 7083, subsection 4.

(3) An employee whose classification is represented by a bargaining agent may submit to a neutral 3rd party for a final decision and report. The neutral 3rd party may be jointly agreed upon by the officer, the agency and the bargaining agent, but if an agreement is not reached, the parties must petition the Maine Labor Relations Board to appoint a neutral 3rd party. The Maine Labor Relations Board must submit to the parties a list from which the parties can alternately strike a name until a single name is left, and that person must be appointed by the Maine Labor Relations Board as the arbitrator.

(4) All decisions requiring funding by the neutral 3rd party are subject to the legislative budgeting process. If resources within the department or agency do not exist to fund the neutral 3rd party's decision, the officer shall submit the cost items for inclusion in the Governor's next operating budget. If the Legislature does not appropriate the requested funds, the department or agency is not obligated to pay any requested recruitment and retention adjustment.

(5) A decision by the officer under paragraph B to not form a committee may be appealed. The arbitrator's authority on such an appeal is limited to ordering the formation of a committee.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 624

H.P. 1284 - L.D. 1923

An Act to Update Juvenile Justice System Reporting Requirements and to Direct the Department of Corrections and the Department of Health and Human Services to Study Modifying the Long Creek Youth Development Center

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

Sec. 1. 34-A MRSA §7009, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 425, §4, is amended to read:

§7009. Publication of data

By February 15, 2024 Beginning August 15, 2026, each month the department shall develop and publish on

its publicly accessible website data regarding the number of juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system. The data must be updated monthly and include information regarding the numbers of juveniles referred, diverted, detained, placed on probation, ordered to serve a period of confinement and committed to the department. The department shall deidentify the data and remove any potential personal identifying information of the juveniles. The data must be organized by region of the State and broken down by age, gender and race.

Sec. 2. Department of Corrections and Department of Health and Human Services to convene working group. The Department of Corrections and the Department of Health and Human Services shall jointly convene a working group to examine the current programming and use of physical facilities at the Long Creek Youth Development Center, referred to in this section as "the center." The working group shall provide recommendations for modifying the use of land and facilities at the center and reinvesting corrections funds currently designated for youth incarceration into a continuum of community-based services over the next 5 years.

1. The Commissioner of Corrections and the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, or the commissioners' designees, shall serve as members of the working group and shall jointly appoint the following 9 members to the working group:

- A. A representative of children's behavioral health services within the Department of Health and Human Services;
- B. A representative of the Department of Education;
- C. A representative of a community-based youth service provider;
- D. A representative from a community-based organization offering youth shelter or housing resources;
- E. A representative of the State Forensic Service with experience in juvenile justice matters in the State;
- F. An expert in juvenile justice matters in the State;
- G. A youth who has directly experienced the juvenile justice system in the State;
- H. A parent of a youth who has directly experienced the juvenile justice system in the State; and
- I. A representative of a statewide labor organization representing employees at the center.

The superintendent of the center or the superintendent's designee serves as an ex officio, voting member of the working group.

2. The working group shall:

A. Study efforts of other states and municipalities in other states that have modified their juvenile detention centers to determine the best practices for modifying the center;

B. Examine the current status of the land and facilities at the center to determine opportunities for modifying the land and facilities, including renovating existing buildings or constructing additional facilities;

C. Consider alternate uses for the land and facilities at the center, including but not limited to a crisis receiving center, an assessment of youth in crisis center, a youth emergency shelter, youth transitional housing and a community resource center;

D. Examine the current use of the center's budget and staffing and explore opportunities for alternative uses of financial and human resources for services, including, but not limited to, housing, behavioral health, education, substance use disorder prevention and treatment, wraparound case management and diversion;

E. Explore existing community-based services provided to youth and work with community-based organizations to determine potential programming that could take place at the center; and

F. Examine and recommend best practices for maintaining and operating a secure and safe facility for juvenile clients.

3. No later than February 15, 2028, the Commissioner of Corrections and the Commissioner of Health and Human Services shall jointly submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters that includes the working group's findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation related to the working group's duties. The joint standing committee may report out legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 625

H.P. 1343 - L.D. 2013

An Act to Authorize the Commissioner of Marine Resources to Adopt Emergency Rules to Protect Certain Marine Mammals in Exceptional Circumstances

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6171, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Emergency rules to limit taking of marine organisms. Notwithstanding subsections 3 and 5, the commissioner may adopt routine technical rules as emergency rules under Title 5, section 8054 that limit the taking of marine organisms by method or location to protect marine mammals listed under section 6975 when the commissioner, upon consultation with industry personnel, determines that immediate action is necessary to mitigate circumstances posing an exceptionally high level of risk to those mammals.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6171, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

7. Annual report on use of emergency rule-making authority. The department shall submit a written report on or before January 1st of each year to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters regarding the use of emergency rulemaking pursuant to subsection 6. The joint standing committee may report out a bill based on the report to any regular or special session of the Legislature in the year the report is due.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 626

H.P. 1345 - L.D. 2015

An Act to Require Superintendents of School Administrative Units to Report Data Related to Educator Vacancies

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1055, sub-§9, ¶E, as amended by PL 1983, c. 859, Pt. A, §§4 and 25, is further amended to read:

E. The amount received for tuition; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §1055, sub-§9, ¶E-1 is enacted to read:

E-1. The number and type of the school administrative unit's vacant teacher and educational technician positions; and

Sec. 3. Department of Education; use of data. Activities undertaken by the Department of Education using data reported to the commissioner of education by superintendents of school administrative units pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 1055, subsection 9, paragraph E-1, including, but not limited to, data aggregation and data mapping, must be done within existing resources.

See title page for effective date.