

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

by persons making wagers, which must prohibit a person from making a wager using a credit card; the types of wagering receipts that may be used; the method of issuing receipts; the protection of patrons placing wagers; and the promotion of social responsibility and responsible gaming and display of information on resources for problem gambling;

Sec. 6. 8 MRSA §1403, sub-§2, ¶C, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 538, §4, is amended to read:

C. Minimum design and security requirements for applications and digital platforms for the acceptance of wagers by operators, including required methods for verifying the age and identity of a person who places a wager with an operator, for verifying that the person making the wager is physically located in the State and is not prohibited from making a wager under section 1412, for ensuring that a person does not use a credit card to make a wager and for requiring the refund of any wager determined to have been placed by a person prohibited from making a wager under section 1412;

Sec. 7. 8 MRSA §1412-A is enacted to read:

§1412-A. Credit cards prohibited

An operator and a management services licensee under section 1408 conducting Internet gaming on behalf of an operator may not accept a wager from a person using a credit card.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 629

H.P. 1408 - L.D. 2093

**An Act to Codify and Update a
Provision of Private and
Special Law Governing
Temporary Disability for State
Employees**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §7073 is enacted to read:

§7073. Provision for temporary disability

When a confidential employee has a temporary total disability, the appointing authority shall provide temporary disability benefits to the confidential employee in accordance with this section and continue to pay the confidential employee's regular employment benefits in accordance with subsection 7.

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Confidential employee" means an employee within the executive branch, including a probationary employee, who is employed in a position excluded from the definition of "state employee" pursuant to Title 26, section 979-A, subsection 6, paragraphs B, C, D, I and J.

B. "Continuous leave" means leave that is not intermittent and not a reduced schedule.

C. "Temporary disability benefit" means a benefit for temporary total disability paid to an eligible confidential employee pursuant to this section.

D. "Total disability" means the inability to engage in any gainful occupation for which a confidential employee is reasonably suited by training, education and experience.

2. Eligibility. A confidential employee employed by the State in that position for more than 6 months who becomes totally disabled may receive a temporary disability benefit while the confidential employee remains totally disabled and under the care of a licensed physician if:

A. The confidential employee incurs a loss of time from work as a result of the disability, including a disability resulting from sickness or accidental bodily injury; and

B. The disability prevents the confidential employee from performing the duties of that confidential employee's occupation.

3. Start of benefit. The temporary disability benefit must commence on the day immediately following the later of:

A. The exhaustion of the confidential employee's accumulated sick leave; or

B. The 30th day of continuous total disability.

4. End of benefit. The temporary disability benefit must continue until whichever of the following occurs first:

A. The day before the day the confidential employee returns to any gainful occupation;

B. The day after the confidential employee exhausts the remaining balance of the 365 days of temporary disability benefits allowed per confidential employee pursuant to subsection 6; or

C. The first day the confidential employee is eligible for a disability retirement allowance under Title 5, chapter 423, subchapter 5, article 3.

5. Benefit amount; exception for disabilities compensable under workers' compensation. The temporary disability benefit equals 2/3 of the confidential employee's weekly salary at the date of the commencement of the total disability. Any state retirement

allowance must be deducted from the temporary disability benefit. A temporary disability benefit may not be made if the confidential employee's disability is compensable under Title 39-A.

6. Benefit cap; subsequent periods of total disability. A confidential employee may not receive more than 365 days of temporary disability benefits during that confidential employee's entire tenure of service as a confidential employee, regardless of any breaks in service. If a confidential employee does not use all 365 days of temporary disability benefits for a single period of continuous leave for total disability, the confidential employee carries the remaining balance of the 365 days and may use those remaining days for subsequent periods of continuous leave for total disability in accordance with this section.

7. Continuation of regular employment benefits. A confidential employee who is provided temporary disability benefits under this section must continue to receive the regular employment benefits that were provided to the confidential employee immediately before the first date of the total disability.

Sec. 2. P&SL 1989, c. 86, Pt. C, §5 is repealed.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 630

H.P. 1413 - L.D. 2098

An Act to Update Certain Higher Education Statutes and Laws

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA c. 321, as amended, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §10017, first ¶, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 643, Pt. BB, §1, is amended to read:

The Higher Education Administrative Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within the department as a nonlapsing fund to receive participation fees and application fees from institutions of higher education for applications under section 10707 and for applications for membership or membership renewal in the interstate reciprocity agreement authorized under section 405, subsection 3, paragraph W. Funds deposited in the fund must be used to support the department's facilitation of the interstate reciprocity agreement and for other department costs associated with the administration of higher education in the State.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §10703, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Basis for degree-granting authority. Temporary approval granted pursuant to this section may not

be used as a basis for a recommendation by the state board for permanent degree-granting authority under section 10707.

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §10707, as amended by PL 2007, c. 572, Pt. A, §13, is further amended to read:

§10707. Applications

1. Degree-granting authority. Applications for authority to grant degrees shall must be made on application to the state board ~~on forms~~ through a process provided by the commissioner. An educational institution shall pay a fee for the initial application that reflects the costs to the department for processing the application, as determined by the commissioner.

A. The state board may recommend an educational institution to the Legislature for degree-granting authority without additional review if:

(1) The state board has approved or renewed approval for the educational institution to offer academic programs in the State within 5 years of the institution's application for degree-granting authority; and

(2) The educational institution has applied for degree-granting authority only for degrees for which the institution offers academic programs approved by the state board.

B. Upon recommending an educational institution to the Legislature for degree-granting authority under section 10704, the state board shall provide any reports resulting from completed state board reviews of the applicant educational institution to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters.

2. Temporary use of name. Applications for temporary state board authority to use the name "community college," "college" or "university" must be made to the state board ~~on forms~~ through a process provided by the commissioner. An educational institution shall pay a fee for the initial application that reflects the costs to the department for processing the application, as determined by the commissioner.

3. Courses for academic credit. Applications by out-of-state educational institutions to offer courses for academic credit shall must be made to the state board ~~on forms~~ through a process provided by the commissioner. Such an educational institution shall pay a fee for the initial application that reflects the costs to the department for processing the application, as determined by the commissioner.

4. Coordinated programs. Applications to offer coordinated programs shall must be made to the state board ~~on forms~~ through a process provided by the commissioner. An educational institution shall pay a fee for