

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

B. An online used car dealer may partner with an inspection station in this State. The partner inspection station must be included in the application for licensure and renewal. The partnership must be set out in writing. Any changes to the partnership must be immediately disclosed to the bureau.

C. The failure of an online used car dealer to obtain a license for an inspection station in this State or to have a partner inspection station in this State is grounds for suspension of a license issued pursuant to subsection 4.

D. An online used car dealer that does not maintain a repair facility in this State shall, in writing, disclose to a vehicle purchaser the name, address and contact information of a designated repair facility or a partner location authorized to perform required warranty service. The disclosure must be provided at or before the time of the vehicle sale and included in the online used car dealer's warranty documentation.

9. Records. All sales and transaction records must be maintained in accordance with section 956, may be kept electronically and must be produced within one business day upon request of the Secretary of State, the Attorney General or a law enforcement officer.

10. Plates. An online used car dealer is not eligible for dealer plates. Temporary plates issued by this State may be issued only for sales to purchasers in this State.

11. Contact information. An online used car dealer shall:

A. Provide a direct-access telephone number to a designated corporate representative of the online used car dealer who is authorized to assist the bureau and the Office of the Attorney General in resolving consumer complaints and inquiries and in obtaining required records;

B. Provide written customer support contact information, including a toll-free telephone number and electronic communication address, to each purchaser at the time of sale; and

C. Maintain business hours at reasonable times during which a customer can contact the online used car dealer.

12. Enforcement. The following provisions govern enforcement of this section.

A. An online used car dealer's failure to comply with the provisions of this section, including inspection, disclosure, warranty obligations or record retention, constitutes grounds for license suspension or revocation under section 903.

B. Breach of a consumer sales contract by an online used car dealer is expressly grounds for administrative action, including license suspension or revocation under section 903.

C. An online used car dealer shall designate an agent registered in this State to accept service of process. The name and contact information of the registered agent must be provided to the bureau.

13. Rulemaking. The Secretary of State may adopt rules to implement this section, including licensing procedures, disclosure formats, inspection coordination and reporting requirements. Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

14. Repeal. This section is repealed December 31, 2028.

Sec. 2. Report. The Secretary of State shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters no later than January 15, 2028 evaluating the effectiveness, risks and consumer protection outcomes of online used car dealer licensure and regulation established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 958. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters may report out legislation regarding the Secretary of State's report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 638

H.P. 1472 - L.D. 2191

An Act to Establish a Biennial Inspection System for Vehicle Rental Companies

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

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §1751, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:

1-A. Biennial inspection; rental vehicles. A business that rents noncommercial motor vehicles to the public may receive a 2-year certificate of inspection for each vehicle if the business:

A. Has at least 700 noncommercial motor vehicles registered in the State per year; and

B. Files an affidavit with the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of State Police that includes a statement that the fleet of rental vehicles under paragraph A will meet or exceed the inspection standards set forth in section 1756 and administered by the Chief of the State Police over the 2-year period.

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §1766, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2011, c. 191, §2, is further amended to read:

3. Fee. Except as provided in subsection 3-A and 3-B, stickers are furnished by the Chief of the State Police at \$2.50 each.

Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §1766, sub-§3-B is enacted to read:

3-B. Fee for business that rents noncommercial motor vehicles. Stickers furnished by the Chief of the State Police to a business that rents noncommercial vehicles pursuant to section 1751, subsection 1-A are 2 times the fee for stickers under subsection 3.

Sec. 4. Effective date. This Act takes effect January 1, 2027.

Effective January 1, 2027.

CHAPTER 639

S.P. 896 - L.D. 2195

An Act to Prohibit the Appointment or Assignment of an Attorney to Provide Indigent Legal Services Without That Attorney's Consent

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

Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §1802-A, as repealed and replaced by PL 2025, c. 511, §2, is amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§1802-A. Employed counsel and public defender; ~~direct assignment prohibited court appointment and assignment of counsel~~

Sec. 2. 4 MRSA §1802-A, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Compensation of attorneys appointed or assigned by court to provide indigent legal services. The commission is not required to reimburse the expenses of or to compensate an attorney appointed or assigned by a court to provide indigent legal services unless the attorney is an assigned counsel; the commission has determined that the attorney is eligible for appointment or assignment in the type of court proceeding to which the attorney has been appointed or assigned; and the attorney consents in advance to the appointment or assignment.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 640

H.P. 1482 - L.D. 2203

An Act to Limit Rates Charged to Low-income Electricity Consumers

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §3203, sub-§4-D is enacted to read:

4-D. Low-income assistance program; rate limitation. A competitive electricity provider may not provide to a customer receiving low-income assistance authorized by section 3214, subsection 2 generation service at a rate that is greater than the standard-offer service rate established under section 3212 that would otherwise be applicable to that customer. The commission may adopt rules to implement this subsection, including, but not limited to, rules governing the sharing of low-income assistance customer data by a transmission and distribution utility with a competitive electricity provider. Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 641

S.P. 690 - L.D. 1772

An Act to Establish the Fund for a Healthy Maine Stabilization Fund

Emergency preamble. **Whereas**, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, Fund for a Healthy Maine funds are essential for funding tobacco use prevention and treatment, other chronic disease prevention initiatives and health promotion efforts in the State, particularly for the benefit of children and families in the State; and

Whereas, the disputed payments under the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement pursuant to the lawsuit *State of Maine v. Philip Morris, et al.*, Kennebec County Superior Court, Docket No. CV-97-134 that the State expects to receive as early as April 2026 for fiscal year 2026-27 and fiscal year 2027-28 offer an opportunity to eliminate the need for a working capital advance, but the exact arrival date of those payments is uncertain; and

Whereas, in order to help stabilize the Fund for a Healthy Maine, provide support in public health planning and policy making and eliminate reliance on a