

# 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.**

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**Augusta, Maine**  
**2026**

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**Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §1802-A**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2025, c. 511, §2, is amended by amending the section headnote to read: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

working capital advance, a stabilization fund must be in place by the start of the fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2026; and

**Whereas**, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

**Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1511, sub-§6, ¶G**, as amended by PL 2017, c. 407, Pt. A, §71, is further amended to read:

G. Substance use disorder prevention and treatment; ~~and~~

**Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §1511, sub-§6, ¶H**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 539, Pt. IIII, §3, is further amended to read:

H. Comprehensive school health and nutrition programs, including school-based health centers; ~~and~~

**Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §1511, sub-§6, ¶I** is enacted to read:

I. Uses described in section 1513, subsection 3.

**Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §1513** is enacted to read:

**§1513. Fund for a Healthy Maine Stabilization Fund**

**1. Stabilization fund established.** The Fund for a Healthy Maine Stabilization Fund, referred to in this section as "the stabilization fund," is established as a dedicated, nonlapsing subaccount of the Fund for a Healthy Maine special revenue account.

**2. Sources of stabilization fund.** The State Controller shall credit to the stabilization fund:

A. All nonparticipating manufacturer adjustments disputed in 2026 and 2027 by the State in settlement of or in relation to the lawsuit *State of Maine v. Philip Morris, et al.*, Kennebec County Superior Court, Docket No. CV-97-134. For the purposes of this subsection, "nonparticipating manufacturer" has the same meaning as in section 1580-L, subsection 1, paragraph D;

B. Ten percent of all nonparticipating manufacturer adjustments disputed in 2028 and thereafter by the State in settlement of or in relation to the lawsuit *State of Maine v. Philip Morris, et al.*, Kennebec County Superior Court, Docket No. CV-97-134; and

C. A proportionate share of interest or other investment income on balances in the Fund for a Healthy Maine, as described by section 1511, subsection 2, paragraph C.

**3. Use of funds; priority.** Allocations from the stabilization fund must be used for the following purposes and in the following order of priority:

A. First, for Fund for a Healthy Maine program allocations beginning July 1, 2027, up to the amount budgeted to be received pursuant to the Master Settlement Agreement as defined in section 1580-H, subsection 5 before April 30, 2028;

B. Second, if the need for a working capital advance or use of settlement payments pursuant to the Master Settlement Agreement as defined in section 1580-H, subsection 5 in the fiscal year in which the settlement payments are received is not eliminated before April 30, 2028 and funds remain in the stabilization fund in subsequent years, to reduce reliance on these sources until all settlement payments can be allocated to the fiscal year following the year in which the settlement payments are received; and

C. Third, if funds remain following the uses described in paragraphs A and B, for any allowable health promotion purpose described in section 1511, subsection 6 or health-related research and planning activities to supplement and connect current efforts among state agencies and stakeholders.

**4. Transfer of funds.** If the stabilization fund is eliminated or dissolved for any reason, the State Controller shall transfer the balance of funds back to the Fund for a Healthy Maine established in section 1511.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 6, 2026.

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**CHAPTER 642**

**S.P. 559 - L.D. 1343**

**An Act to Protect the Right to Harvest Fish and Wildlife**

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

**Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §10050** is enacted to read:

**§10050. Right to harvest fish and wildlife; limitations**

**1. Right to harvest fish and wildlife.** Pursuant to the right to food as declared in the Constitution of Maine, Article I, Section 25, the people of this State have the right to harvest fish and wildlife by hunting, fishing or trapping for their own nourishment, sustenance, bodily health or well-being.

**2. Limitation.** The exercise of the right to harvest fish and wildlife is expressly limited by all applicable