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

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.

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 laws, rules and regulations authorized pursuant to this Title, which the department shall enforce.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 643

S.P. 651 - L.D. 1643

An Act to Establish the Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §15303, sub-§6, ¶D, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 401, Pt. AAA, §3, is amended to read:

D. Shall coordinate its priorities with the applied research and development efforts of the University of Maine System insofar as those efforts are in the targeted technologies and encourage, when possible and appropriate, companies and research laboratories receiving funds from the institute to establish joint ventures with the university system; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §15303, sub-§6, ¶E, as amended by PL 2017, c. 109, §3, is further amended to read:

E. Shall cooperate with the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the University of Maine System and others in their efforts to ensure that a complementary system of support services, including, as needed and appropriate, incubators, business assistance, technology transfer, market research, patent research and similar services, is in place and available to companies and research laboratories receiving funds from the institute~~.~~; and

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §15303, sub-§6, ¶F is enacted to read:

F. Shall support the Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center pursuant to section 15331.

Sec. 4. 5 MRSA c. 407, sub-c. 4 is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER 4

MAINE LIFE SCIENCES INNOVATION CENTER

§15331. Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center

1. Establishment; purpose. The Maine Life Sciences Innovation Center, referred to in this subchapter as "the center," is established within the institute to support life sciences innovation, research, entrepreneurship and workforce development in the State. The center is established to serve the following purposes:

A. To leverage and expand the State's life sciences sector by supporting collaborative research, workforce training and entrepreneurial ventures and seeking capital investment;

B. To advance life sciences innovation and sector research across disciplines, including human and animal health, marine sciences, agriculture, forestry and data science;

C. To coordinate with public and private partners, educational and research institutions, nonprofit organizations and business stakeholders to strengthen the State's innovation efforts;

D. To investigate opportunities for grants, loans and other resources to support life sciences entities;

E. To develop strategies to attract federal, philanthropic and private investment;

F. To advise the Maine Technology Institute Director under section 15310 on matters related to life sciences innovation; and

G. To report regularly to the Legislature regarding the center's operations, activities and recommendations.

2. Membership. The center is composed of 10 members. The members include:

A. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the commissioner's designee, who serves as an ex officio, nonvoting member; and

B. Nine voting members appointed by the Governor, upon the recommendation of the Finance Authority of Maine and the institute, with expertise spanning the life sciences sector and its allied disciplines, including representatives of industry, life sciences entrepreneurs, research institutions, academia, hospitals, nonprofit organizations, investors and counties, including rural counties. Each member under this paragraph is entitled to one vote.

The Governor shall designate a chair from among the center's members to preside at, set the agenda for and schedule center meetings.

Center members shall disclose any direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any matter before the center and recuse themselves from any participation in the consideration of such a matter.

3. Operations. The following provisions govern the operations of the center.

A. The center shall meet as often as it considers necessary for the center to perform its work.