

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

A. As the first priority, participants who have received a summons and complaint for forcible entry and detainer;

B. As the 2nd priority, participants who receive an eviction notice for nonpayment of rent; and

C. As the 3rd priority, participants who pay over 30% of their income in rent.

4. Payment requirement. A participant in the program is required to pay 30% of the participant's income toward the participant's rental obligation.

5. Rent requirement. A participant in the program must reside in a rental unit in which the rent is at or below 125% of the fair market rent established by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development pursuant to 24 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 888.113 for the household size in the area in which the rental unit is located.

6. Eviction for cause. A landlord may evict a program participant only for cause during any month rental assistance is paid by the program.

7. Program administration. The Maine State Housing Authority shall delegate administration of the program and provide appropriate funding to one or more of the following: a designated community action agency as described by Title 22, section 5324; a municipal housing authority; or any other qualified entity as determined by the Maine State Housing Authority. An entity delegated to administer the program shall develop a method of verifying a participant's eligibility for the rental assistance every 6 months after initial approval. An entity delegated to administer the program shall limit administrative costs of the program to 12% or less of distributions received.

8. Rules. The Maine State Housing Authority may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this subchapter. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

PART HHHH

Sec. HHHH-1. Transfer from General Fund; MaineCare Stabilization Fund. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$31,250,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the MaineCare Stabilization Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Health and Human Services to prevent any loss of services or increased cost of services to a MaineCare member that would otherwise result from insufficient General Fund appropriations, insufficient federal matching funds or any other shortage of funds or changes in federal or state law, rule or policy.

Sec. HHHH-2. Transfer from General Fund; Education Stabilization Fund. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$31,250,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Education Stabilization Fund Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of Education to prevent any reduction in the state share percentage of the statewide adjusted total cost of the components of essential programs and services that would otherwise result from insufficient General Fund appropriations or any other shortage of funds.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 651

H.P. 1383 - L.D. 2070

An Act to Improve the Management of Landfill Leachate and Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge at Solid Waste Landfills

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

Whereas, this legislation directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services to procure technical information from waste industry professionals regarding criteria and considerations for siting new solid waste facilities in the State and for the sustainable management of special wastes and municipal solid waste bypass to ensure that sufficient capacity is available for those wastes that are generated in the State until at least 2050; and

Whereas, the bureau must initiate the process of procuring that information as soon as possible and prior to the expiration of the 90-day period in order for the bureau to timely submit a report regarding that information to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters, as is provided in this legislation; 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. 38 MRSA §590, sub-§1, ¶F is enacted to read:

F. A facility that is required to be licensed under this chapter and that processes or incinerates sludge shall implement best available control technology

for any new source and best practical treatment for any existing source to minimize emissions of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances from the facility to the ambient air.

(1) An applicant for a license under this chapter that is a facility that processes or incinerates sludge shall propose in the application the best available control technology or best practical treatment, as applicable, for department approval.

(2) A license issued by the department pursuant to this chapter to a facility that processes or incinerates sludge must require the licensee to demonstrate compliance with perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances emission limits or emission reduction requirements established by the department in the license, which must include requirements for the licensee to conduct emission testing for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

For purposes of this paragraph, perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances are air contaminants and regulated pollutants under this chapter and under department rules.

As used in this paragraph, "perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances" has the same meaning as in section 1614, subsection 1, paragraph F and "sludge" has the same meaning as in section 1303-C, subsection 28-A.

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §590, sub-§1, as repealed and replaced by PL 2021, c. 294, §1, is amended by amending the 2nd blocked paragraph to read:

The board may adopt rules to implement paragraphs A to ~~E~~ F. Rules initially adopted to implement paragraphs A to ~~E~~ F are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Any subsequent revision to rules adopted to implement paragraphs A to ~~E~~ F are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §1310-N, sub-§10-C is enacted to read:

10-C. Landfill leak detection system; testing of landfill site groundwater for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. In accordance with a schedule approved by the department, a new or expanded solid waste landfill that requires for its construction or expansion a permit under the Natural Resources Protection Act for the alteration of freshwater wetlands shall:

A. Incorporate a leak detection system into the landfill's engineering design;

B. Integrate into the landfill's department-approved water quality monitoring plan the use of that leak detection system and the sampling and

analysis of groundwater on the landfill site for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances; and

C. In accordance with the landfill's department-approved water quality monitoring plan, provide the results of the groundwater sampling and analysis conducted pursuant to paragraph B to the department as part of the landfill's annual report.

This subsection does not apply to a solid waste landfill that is less than 6 acres in size that accepts only inert fill, construction and demolition debris, debris from land clearing and wood wastes. As used in this subsection, "freshwater wetlands" has the same meaning as in section 480-B, subsection 4.

Sec. 4. 38 MRSA §1310-N, sub-§10-D is enacted to read:

10-D. Sludge testing required. A solid waste facility licensed under this chapter may not process, beneficially reuse or dispose of sludge at that facility unless the sludge has been characterized by the entity that generated the sludge in accordance with a plan approved by the department, which must include sampling and analysis of the sludge for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

Sec. 5. 38 MRSA §1310-AA, sub-§1-B, ¶C is enacted to read:

C. Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, the commissioner may not find that a new or expanded solid waste landfill owned by the State provides a substantial public benefit in accordance with subsection 3 unless the solid waste landfill treats the leachate collected from the landfill to reduce the concentrations of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in the leachate, in accordance with a license issued by the department pursuant to section 1310-N, and otherwise satisfies the standards in subsection 3.

Sec. 6. 38 MRSA §2152-A, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Prohibition on development or use of Carpenter Ridge site as State-owned solid waste disposal facility. Notwithstanding any provision of this Title or other law to the contrary:

A. The Carpenter Ridge site may not be developed as or used for the operation of a State-owned solid waste disposal facility, including, but not limited to, a State-owned solid waste landfill;

B. The bureau or other state agency may not apply for, and the department may not issue, a new or expanded license or an amendment to or renewal of an existing license for the operation of a State-owned solid waste disposal facility at the Carpenter Ridge site; and

C. The bureau or other state agency may not operate or contract for the operation of a State-owned

solid waste disposal facility at the Carpenter Ridge site.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Penobscot Nation has the right of first refusal to purchase the Carpenter Ridge site, or any portion of the Carpenter Ridge site, that may be proposed for sale by the bureau or other state agency having ownership over the site, in a manner consistent with applicable laws or rules regulating the sale of State-owned property.

As used in this subsection, "Carpenter Ridge site" means a parcel of land owned by the State, consisting of approximately 1,500 acres located in the unorganized territory in Penobscot County, in Township 2, Range 8, for which a license to operate a solid waste landfill was issued by the department to the former State Planning Office on April 24, 1996; and "Penobscot Nation" has the same meaning as in Title 30, section 6203, subsection 10.

Sec. 7. Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services procurement of technical waste management information; report. The Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services shall procure technical information from waste industry professionals regarding criteria and considerations, including, but not limited to, environmental justice considerations, for siting new solid waste facilities in the State and for the sustainable management of special wastes and municipal solid waste bypass to ensure that sufficient capacity is available for those wastes that are generated in the State until at least 2050. On or before March 1, 2027, the bureau shall submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters a report setting forth the technical information procured by the bureau pursuant to this section. After reviewing the report, the joint standing committee may report out legislation relating to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027. As used in this section, "environmental justice" has the same meaning as in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 1310-AA, subsection 3, paragraph E.

Sec. 8. Department of Environmental Protection; evaluation of state solid waste facility rules; report. The Department of Environmental Protection shall conduct an evaluation of its rules regulating solid waste facilities and identify opportunities to develop new or support or improve existing facilities, technologies, programs, initiatives or processes in a manner consistent with the State's solid waste management hierarchy under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 2101. In conducting its work under this section, the department shall solicit input from and invite the participation of waste industry stakeholders and the general public. On or before January 15, 2028, the department shall submit a report setting forth the results

of the evaluation under this section, including any recommendations for legislative action, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources matters. The report required under this section may be included in the report required by Title 38, section 2124-A. After reviewing the report, the joint standing committee may report out legislation relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

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

Effective April 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 652

S.P. 135 - L.D. 378

An Act to Clarify That Health Insurers Must Comply with Plan Sponsors' Statutory Rights to Audit Claims and Data Requests Related to Those Audits

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

Whereas, current law requires 3rd-party administrators of health plans to grant plan sponsors certain audit rights and to provide the requisite medical and pharmacy data to conduct those audits; and

Whereas, this legislation clarifies that law to ensure that health insurers administering health plans on behalf of plan sponsors are considered administrators and must comply with a plan sponsor's statutory right to audit claims and data requests related to those audits; and

Whereas, this legislation needs to take effect without delay so that plan sponsors can include these audit rights in contracts with administrators that are being renewed, amended or entered into prior to the 2027 plan year; 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. 24-A MRSA §1914, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 487, §1, is amended to read: