

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

D. Develop recommendations for legislative and regulatory changes to reduce the costs of installing required residential sprinkler systems;

E. Conduct a comprehensive review of the existing elevator requirements and the affiliated costs for residential buildings with 4 or more units;

F. Collect and analyze data on the accessibility and life safety impacts of limited use limited application elevators in buildings with fewer than 4 stories; and

G. If determined appropriate by working group members, develop recommendations for legislative and regulatory changes to the codes and standards permitting limited use limited application elevators.

3. The Office of the State Fire Marshal shall provide staff assistance to the working group.

4. By January 15, 2027, the Office of the State Fire Marshal shall submit a report on the working group's findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters. The joint standing committee is authorized to submit legislation based on the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Sec. 5. Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation to report on rulemaking. No later than January 15, 2027, the Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing matters regarding the status of the adoption of rules for the elevator and tramway safety program within the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, section 15205-A, subsection 2. The committee is authorized to report out legislation related to the report required by this section to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 658 H.P. 1498 - L.D. 2223

An Act to Increase Funding for Construction Plan Reviews and Clarify Rule-making Authority for Municipal Reviews of Development

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2448-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2011, c. 94, §3, is further amended to read:

2. Registration. A municipality shall comply with all rules adopted by the commissioner pursuant to this section as a condition of registration. The commissioner shall register municipalities to grant permits for projects under subsection 1 if the commissioner finds that the municipality meets all of the following criteria.

A. A municipal building official has been appointed pursuant to section 2351-A.

B. The municipality has an employee that is certified as a plan reviewer by the National Fire Protection Association.

C. The municipality has adopted by reference the fire codes adopted by the Office of the State Fire Marshal pursuant to sections 2452 and 2465.

D. The municipality has adequate resources to administer and enforce the provisions of the fire codes under paragraph C.

E. The procedures for public hearing and notification have been established including:

(1) Notice to the commissioner upon receipt of an application, including a description of the project;

(2) Notice of issuance and denial to the applicant and commissioner, including the reason for denial;

(3) Public notification of the application and any hearings; and

(4) Procedures for public hearing.

F. The procedures for appeal of local decisions by aggrieved parties are defined.

G. A registration form, provided by the commissioner, has been completed and submitted by the municipality, demonstrating compliance with the criteria under this subsection.

H. The municipality is currently enforcing the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.

The Department of Public Safety shall publish on its publicly accessible website a list of those municipalities that are registered pursuant to this subsection.

Sec. 2. 25 MRSA §2448-A, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Memoranda of understanding. The commissioner may enter into a memorandum of understanding with any municipality to facilitate the purposes of this section.

Sec. 3. 25 MRSA §2448-A, sub-§11 is enacted to read:

11. Rulemaking. The commissioner may adopt rules to implement, administer and enforce the provisions of this section, including, but not limited to, procedures for registration, suspension and revocation of registrations, notifications, technical assistance and appeals. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 4. 25 MRSA §2450, first ¶, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. MMMMM, §1, is further amended to read:

The Commissioner of Public Safety shall adopt, in accordance with requirements of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, a schedule of fees for the examination of all plans for construction, reconstruction or repairs submitted to the Department of Public Safety. The fee schedule for new construction, reconstruction, repairs or renovations is ~~1.5/10~~ 1/5 of 1% of the cost to construct or reconstruct the portion of the project that is subject to State Fire Marshal review. Except for projects reviewed by a municipality pursuant to section 2448-A, the fees must be credited to a special revenue account to defray expenses in carrying out this section. Any balance of the fees may not lapse, but must be carried forward as a continuing account to be expended for the same purpose in the following fiscal years. For projects reviewed by a municipality that include occupied spaces, a 1¢ fee per square foot must be remitted to the Department of Public Safety and a 4¢ fee per square foot must be paid to the municipality.

Sec. 5. 32 MRSA §1377, first ¶, as amended by PL 1997, c. 728, §36, is further amended to read:

Prior to construction of any fire sprinkler system, or prior to an addition involving more than 20 new sprinkler heads to a fire sprinkler system, regulated by the National Fire Protection Association, Pamphlet No. 13, as amended, a fire sprinkler system contractor shall obtain a permit from the commissioner ~~who or a municipality registered pursuant to Title 25, section 2448-A.~~ The commissioner or the registered municipality shall review the plan for construction or addition and charge a reasonable fee for the review and permitting process. All plans to be submitted by a contractor to the Department of Public Safety must be reviewed, approved and

signed by the certified responsible managing supervisor retained by the contractor.

Sec. 6. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF

Fire Marshal - Office of 0327

Initiative: Provides funding for 4 Public Safety Inspector II positions and related All Other costs to conduct reviews of fire sprinkler system plans.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	4.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNT		
Personal Services	\$0	\$429,600
All Other	\$0	\$53,400
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$483,000

Fire Marshal - Office of 0327

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for 4 vehicles for Public Safety Inspector II positions.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$226,600
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$226,600

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$709,600
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$709,600

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 659

H.P. 1496 - L.D. 2219

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Certain Existing Public Records Exceptions

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §1577, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2003, c. 393, §6, is further amended to read:

2. Access to records Permissible disclosure. ~~The following persons or agencies may have access to DNA~~