

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

the actions of state personnel related to the cybersecurity incident response.

H. A cybersecurity plan submitted to the department under this section and the high-level summary of the results of an audit submitted to the department in accordance with paragraph E are confidential only to the extent that release of information contained in the record could reasonably be expected to jeopardize the physical safety of government personnel or the public, as determined by the department.

3. Statutory construction. This section may not be construed or applied to be less restrictive than or in a manner that conflicts with applicable federal law and related regulations. This section may be construed or applied to be more restrictive than federal law.

4. Effective date. This section takes effect January 1, 2027.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 669

H.P. 1405 - L.D. 2090

An Act to Modify Probationary Periods for Dispatchers

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §7051, sub-§5, as corrected by RR 2023, c. 1, Pt. B, §21 and affected by §50, is amended to read:

5. Probationary period; permanent appointments. All original appointments to the classified service and all subsequent promotional appointments within the classified service must be for a probationary period. The duration of the probationary period, which may not be for less than 6 months in any case, is determined by the officer in consultation with the director or commissioner of the agency, ~~but in no case may it be for less than 6 months~~ except that in the case of dispatchers, the probationary period may be extended for more than 6 months as determined by the director or commissioner of the agency, unless otherwise provided for in a collective bargaining agreement. An agency that employs a dispatcher shall adopt a written policy regarding the length of the probationary period for dispatchers and disclose the policy to the dispatcher at the time of hire. For the purposes of this subsection, "dispatcher" has the same meaning as in section 18313, subsection 1.

A. An employee during the probationary period must be reviewed at the end of the employee's 3rd month of employment by the employee's supervisor. The supervisor and the employee shall mutually discuss the job tasks and the performance of

the employee, including any necessary improvements.

B. An employee during the probationary period must be included in the payroll of the department in which the employee has been hired at the time of the commencement of the employee's duties. An employee during the probationary period must be compensated in the same manner as a permanent full-time employee, as long as the employee has been hired in accordance with all applicable laws and procedures.

C. During the probationary period, an employee is not entitled to a pre-disciplinary hearing and may be dismissed, suspended or otherwise disciplined without cause. Dismissal, suspension or any other disciplinary action against an employee during the probationary period is not subject to the grievance and arbitration provision of the collective bargaining agreement.

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §2701, first ¶, as amended by PL 1993, c. 744, §15, is further amended to read:

Except as specifically provided otherwise by charter or ordinance, any reference to cause and hearing in this Part only applies to an employee who has completed a reasonable probation period established by the municipality. Periods of probation may not exceed 6 calendar months or the length of time in effect in a municipality on January 1, 1984, whichever is greater, except in the case of police officers, who upon being hired shall complete an employment probationary period that lasts for at least one year after graduation from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy or the date the board waives the basic training requirement, and except in the case of dispatchers, who upon being hired shall complete an employment probationary period that lasts for at least 6 months except as otherwise provided for in a collective bargaining agreement. An agency that employs a dispatcher shall adopt a written policy regarding the length of the probationary period for dispatchers and disclose the policy to the dispatcher at the time of hire. For the purposes of this paragraph, "dispatcher" has the same meaning as in Title 5, section 18313, subsection 1.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 670

H.P. 1396 - L.D. 2081

An Act to Provide Health Care Cost Reimbursement for Retired Law Enforcement Canines

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA c. 203 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 203

**RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT CANINE
HEALTH CARE**

§1821. Health care cost reimbursement for retired law enforcement canines

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Agency head" means the chief official of a state law enforcement agency, including, but not limited to, the Chief of the State Police, the State Fire Marshal, the Game Warden Colonel or the Commissioner of Public Safety.

B. "Applicant" means a handler of a retired law enforcement canine or an individual who adopts a retired law enforcement canine.

C. "Law enforcement canine" means a canine that has been:

(1) Certified by a nationally recognized or state-recognized law enforcement canine certification organization; and

(2) Trained and actively deployed in a law enforcement capacity by a state law enforcement agency.

D. "Retired law enforcement canine" means a law enforcement canine that no longer serves in active law enforcement duty and:

(1) Served a minimum of 5 years in active law enforcement duty with one or more state law enforcement agencies; or

(2) Served less than 5 years in active law enforcement duty with one or more state law enforcement agencies and was retired from service due to a medical condition diagnosed by a veterinarian licensed in accordance with Title 32, section 4860 and approved by the canine's last employing agency head.

2. Retired Law Enforcement K-9 Health Care Fund. The Retired Law Enforcement K-9 Health Care Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established in and administered by the Department of Public Safety. The fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Interest earned by the fund must be credited to the fund. Any unexpended balances remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year do not lapse and must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

A. The fund must be used to reimburse applicants for veterinary health care costs for eligible retired law enforcement canines. Reimbursable services include:

(1) Routine preventive care;

(2) Treatment of illness or injury; and

(3) Medications and surgical procedures necessary to maintain the retired law enforcement canine's quality of life.

B. Reimbursement is limited to \$5,000 per eligible law enforcement canine for the life of the canine, subject to available appropriations and submittal of documentation required under subsections 3 and 4. An agency head may, at the agency head's sole discretion, provide additional reimbursement from the agency's legislatively authorized budget, including, but not limited to, a designated subfund or line-item allocation. There is no limit on the amount a law enforcement agency may reimburse from its own funds.

3. Eligibility. To qualify for reimbursement under this section:

A. A canine must be a retired law enforcement canine;

B. The applicant must reside in the State;

C. The canine may not be in active service with any state or local law enforcement agency; and

D. A completed application must be submitted to the Department of Public Safety that includes:

(1) A diagnosis by a veterinarian licensed in accordance with Title 32, section 4860; and

(2) Proof of veterinary expenses incurred.

4. Funding sources. The fund consists of:

A. Appropriations and allocations from the Legislature;

B. Contributions from private sources, including donations, grants and endowments; and

C. Fines or fees collected by state law enforcement agencies and allocated by the Legislature.

If appropriations and allocations from the Legislature are insufficient, a law enforcement agency may use funds from its legislatively authorized budget, including agency-specific subfunds or designated line-item allocations, to reimburse veterinary expenses for a retired law enforcement canine that served in that agency. Such a reimbursement is at the sole discretion of the agency head.

5. Rulemaking. The Commissioner of Public Safety shall adopt rules to implement this section. The rules must:

A. Establish reimbursement guidelines;

B. Establish application procedures;

C. Ensure equitable distribution of funds; and

D. Identify procedures for maintaining records of disbursements.

Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF

Retired Law Enforcement K-9 Health Care Fund N571

Initiative: Establishes the Retired Law Enforcement K-9 Health Care Fund.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$500

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 671
S.P. 845 - L.D. 2058**

**An Act to Clarify the
Requirement That Municipal
and County Jails Be Available
at All Times for Detention of
Arrested Persons**

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §1502, 6th ¶, as amended by PL 1989, c. 757, is further amended to read:

Municipal and county jails shall at all times be available for detention of persons arrested by state or any other law enforcement officers, unless the persons are detained solely for a civil violation of federal immigration laws. In those municipalities where full-time supervision of the jail is not provided by the municipality, full responsibility for the safekeeping and welfare of any person detained ~~shall rest~~ rests solely with the arresting officer. Expense of any municipality or any damage to the jail resulting from the use of its jail by any arresting officer ~~shall~~ must be reimbursed to the municipality by the law enforcement agency for which the arresting officer is acting.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 672

H.P. 1355 - L.D. 2025

**An Act to Create a Limited-
purpose License for
Aquaculture Nursery and
Husbandry Activities and to
Clarify the Aquaculture Lease
Amendment Process**

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6072, sub-§10, as amended by PL 2021, c. 581, §1, is further amended to read:

10. Notification of granted leases. After the granting of a lease:

B. The department shall notify all riparian owners, intervenors and the municipality in which the lease is located that a lease has been granted. The notice must include a description of the area and how a copy of the lease may be obtained; and

C. The lessee shall mark the leased area in a manner prescribed by the commissioner; ~~and~~

~~D. The lessee shall annually submit to the department a seeding and harvesting report for the past year and a seeding and harvesting plan for the coming year. Upon written request, the department shall provide a copy of the report to the municipality or municipalities in which or adjacent to which the lease is located. The seeding and harvesting reports submitted by a lessee under this paragraph are considered confidential statistics for the purposes of section 6173. A copy of a report provided to a municipality pursuant to this paragraph is confidential.~~

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6072, sub-§13, ¶G, as amended by PL 2021, c. 52, §8, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §6072, sub-§19 is enacted to read:

19. Reports retained by department. Seeding and harvesting reports that were submitted to the department under former subsection 10, paragraph D and former section 6072-C, subsection 10 and were confidential at the time the reports were submitted to the department remain confidential until those reports are no longer retained by the department pursuant to any records retention schedule adopted pursuant to Title 5, section 95-C, subsection 2.

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §6072-A, sub-§20, as amended by PL 2011, c. 93, §6, is further amended to read:

20. Extension of commercial lease. If a person who holds a limited-purpose lease for commercial aquaculture