

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

public, riparian landowners and the municipality in which the lease is located and an opportunity to submit written comments on the proposal. The replacement of previously authorized equipment or structure does not require a lease amendment as long as the replacement is substantially similar to the previously authorized equipment or structure. The commissioner may not grant a lease amendment under this subsection that unreasonably interferes with the conditions under section 6072, subsection 7-A.

5. Temporary change in operation. The commissioner may authorize the holder of a lease under this subchapter to temporarily modify the operational plans approved under the lease when the modifications are intended to preemptively address environmental conditions that may impact public health or the health of the cultured species on a lease site. An authorization may be granted to ensure compliance with department-initiated action. The department shall provide written notice of the temporary operational modifications to the impacted lease holder. The commissioner shall establish by a rule a process by which temporary operational modifications may be authorized.

6. Rules. The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 10. 12 MRSA §6085-B is enacted to read:

§6085-B. Right to inspect and sample

The commissioner or the commissioner's agent shall have access to the leased or licensed area or licensed facility for a lease issued under section 6072, 6072-A or 6072-B or a license issued under section 6072-C or 6085 for the purpose of the inspection or the collection of samples. A sample may be collected only if the commissioner or the commissioner's agent has identified a possible risk to public health, animal health or the health of other marine organisms. The commissioner or the commissioner's agent shall notify the leaseholder or license holder at least 24 hours in advance of sample collection, and the notice must identify the basis of the sample collection. The sample size must be as small as reasonably possible. The commissioner or the commissioner's agent shall provide the results of the testing on any samples to the leaseholder or license holder immediately after the results become available. The leaseholder or license holder shall make applicable marine resources licenses or permits available for inspection upon the request of the commissioner or the commissioner's agent. Denial of access to the leased or licensed area or licensed facility, including for the purposes of sample collection, is grounds for revocation of any lease or license issued pursuant to section 6072, 6072-A, 6072-B, 6072-C or 6085. Sample testing records are confidential pursuant to section 6085-C.

Sec. 11. 12 MRSA §6085-C is enacted to read:

§6085-C. Results of testing; confidentiality

1. Results of testing confidential. Except as provided in subsection 2, the results of testing of a sample collected pursuant to section 6085-B are confidential.

2. Exceptions; disclosure permitted. The department may disclose the results of testing of a sample collected pursuant to section 6085-B:

A. When the department determines that the release of the results of testing of a sample is necessary to protect public health;

B. To the Bureau of Marine Patrol when the results of testing of a sample is necessary for enforcement purposes; and

C. When the department relies on the results of testing of a sample to consider a renewal application of a lease or license issued under this subchapter or initiate revocation of a lease or license issued under this subchapter.

Sec. 12. Issuance of license or lease amendment. Until rules are adopted pursuant to this Act, the Department of Marine Resources may not issue a limited-purpose license or authorize a lease amendment under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, chapter 605, subchapter 2.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 673

S.P. 828 - L.D. 2009

**An Act to Clarify the
Requirements of a County
Audit**

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §951, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2003, c. 178, §2 and PL 2013, c. 16, §10, is further amended to read:

1. Annual audit. Every county shall have an audit made of its accounts annually covering the last complete fiscal year by the Office of the State Auditor or by a certified public accountant selected by the county commissioners. The audit must be performed in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and procedures pertaining to governmental accounting. The auditor shall produce an audit report that includes the items required in section 952-A. When an audit is conducted by a certified public accountant, the audit, upon completion, must be forwarded to the Office of the State Auditor within 12 months of the date of the close of the fiscal year. The Office of the State Auditor shall review the audit for completeness. The audit, including the management letter, is a public document and must

be posted on the Office of the State Auditor's publicly accessible website no later than 30 days after receipt.

The State Auditor is authorized to grant an exception to the requirement for a county to forward a completed annual audit to the Office of the State Auditor within 12 months of the date of the close of the fiscal year under extenuating circumstances as determined by the State Auditor. The Office of the State Auditor shall make public any requests for an exception along with the State Auditor's decision within 60 days of the receipt of a request for an exception.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 674

S.P. 821 - L.D. 2005

An Act Regarding Mail Order Delivery of Prescription Drugs

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

Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §4349, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

7. Covered persons using mail order pharmacy; access to prescription drugs. If a covered person is using a mail order pharmacy, the pharmacy benefits manager shall allow for the dispensing of the covered person's prescription drug at a network pharmacy under the following circumstances to ensure that the covered person has access to prescription drugs.

A. If the prescription is delayed by more than one day after the expected delivery date provided by the mail order pharmacy, the network pharmacy shall provide the covered person up to a 7-day supply or the smallest prepackaged unit supply of the prescription drug.

B. If the prescription drug arrives in an unusable condition, the network pharmacy shall provide the prescription drug in accordance with the covered person's prescription.

A covered person that receives a prescription drug pursuant to paragraph A or B may not be subject to any payment that exceeds the total of one copayment, co-insurance payment or other out-of-pocket payment for the dispensing of that prescription drug.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 675

H.P. 1313 - L.D. 1969

An Act to Amend the Maine Revised Unclaimed Property Act and Clarify the Definition of "Virtual Currency"

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

Sec. 1. 33 MRSA §2052, sub-§23-A is enacted to read:

23-A. Private key. "Private key" means a unique element of cryptographic data used for signing transactions on a blockchain, as defined in Title 32, section 6164, subsection 1, that is known to the owner of the element.

Sec. 2. 33 MRSA §2052, sub-§24, ¶B, as amended by PL 2019, c. 571, §3, is further amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) Money, virtual currency, interest or a dividend, check, draft, deposit or payroll card;

Sec. 3. 33 MRSA §2052, sub-§32-A is enacted to read:

32-A. Virtual currency. "Virtual currency" means a digital representation of value used as a medium of exchange, unit of account or store of value, which is not legal tender, regardless of whether or not it is denominated in legal tender. "Virtual currency" does not include:

A. A loyalty card, including a transaction in which a merchant grants as part of an affinity or rewards program value that cannot be taken from or exchanged with the merchant for legal tender, bank or credit union credit or a digital financial asset; or

B. Game-related digital content consisting of a digital representation of value issued by or on behalf of a publisher and used solely within an online game, gaming platform or family of games sold by the publisher or offered on the same gaming platform.

Sec. 4. 33 MRSA §2061, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 498, §22, is amended to read:

5. Payroll card or demand, savings or time deposit. A payroll card or demand, savings or time deposit, including a deposit that is automatically renewable, 3 years after the later of maturity, if applicable, of the card or deposit and the apparent owner's last indication of interest in the card or deposit, except that a deposit that is automatically renewable is deemed matured on its initial date of maturity unless the apparent owner consented in a record on file with the holder to renewal at or about the time of the renewal;