

# 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.**

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**Augusta, Maine**  
**2026**

**1. Definition Services for the early detection of prostate cancer; definition.** As used in this section, "services for the early detection of prostate cancer" means the following procedures provided to a man for the purpose of early detection of prostate cancer:

- A. A digital rectal examination; and
- B. A prostate-specific antigen test.

**1-A. Nationally recognized clinical practice guideline; definition.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, "nationally recognized clinical practice guideline" means an evidence-based clinical practice guideline:

- A. Developed using a transparent methodology and reporting structure by an independent organization or medical professional society that has adopted a conflict of interest policy;
- B. That establishes a standard of care informed by a systematic review of evidence and an assessment of the benefits and risks of alternative care options; and
- C. That includes recommendations intended to optimize patient care.

**2. Required coverage for prostate cancer screening.** All health maintenance organization individual and group contracts must provide coverage for services for the early detection of prostate cancer. The contracts must reimburse for services for the early detection of prostate cancer, if recommended by a physician, at least once a year for men 50 years of age or older until a man reaches the age of 72 when supported by medical and scientific evidence according to the most recently published nationally recognized clinical practice guideline.

**3. Application.** The requirements of this section apply to all policies, contracts and certificates executed, delivered, issued for delivery, continued or renewed in this State on or after September 1, 1998. For purposes of this section, all contracts are deemed to be renewed no later than the next yearly anniversary of the contract date.

**4. Cost sharing prohibited.** An individual or group contract may not impose any deductible, copayment, coinsurance or other cost-sharing requirement for the costs of services for the early detection of prostate cancer required to be covered under subsection 2. This subsection does not apply to a contract offered for use with a health savings account unless the federal Internal Revenue Service determines that the requirements in this subsection are permissible in a high deductible health plan as defined in the federal Internal Revenue Code, Section 223(c)(2).

**Sec. 5. Application.** This Act applies to all policies, contracts and certificates executed, delivered, issued for delivery, continued or renewed in this State on

or after January 1, 2027. For purposes of this Act, all contracts are deemed to be renewed no later than the next yearly anniversary of the contract date.

See title page for effective date.

## CHAPTER 713

### H.P. 1093 - L.D. 1652

#### An Act to Expand the Dental Care Access Credit

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

**Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §5219-CCC** is enacted to read:

#### **§5219-CCC. Dental care access credit**

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

**A. "Eligible dentist"** means a person licensed as a dentist under Title 32, chapter 143 who, on or after January 1, 2027:

- (1) First begins practicing dentistry in the State by joining an existing dental practice in an underserved area or establishing a new dental practice or purchasing an existing dental practice in an underserved area;
- (2) Agrees to practice full-time for at least 5 years in an underserved area;
- (3) Is an enrolled MaineCare provider serving a patient panel consisting of no less than 15% MaineCare members; and
- (4) Is certified under subsection 3 to be eligible by the oral health program.

**B. "Oral health program"** means the program within the Department of Health and Human Services with responsibility for oral health promotion and dental disease prevention activities.

**C. "Underserved area"** means an area in the State that is a dental health professional shortage area as defined by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration.

**2. Credit.** An eligible dentist determined to be eligible on or after January 1, 2027 but before January 1, 2033 is allowed a credit for each tax year, not to exceed \$6,000 in the first year, \$9,000 in the 2nd year, \$12,000 in the 3rd year, \$15,000 in the 4th year and \$18,000 in the 5th year, against the taxes due under this Part. The credit may be claimed in the first year that the eligible dentist meets the conditions of eligibility for at least 6

months and each of the 4 subsequent years. The credit is not refundable.

**3. Eligibility limitation; certification.** The oral health program shall certify up to 5 eligible dentists in each year from 2027 to 2032. Additional dentists may not be certified after 2032. The oral health program shall monitor certified dentists to ensure that they continue to be eligible for the credit under this section and shall decertify any dentist who ceases to meet the conditions of eligibility. The oral health program shall notify the bureau whenever a dentist is certified or decertified. A decertified dentist ceases to be eligible for the credit under this section beginning with the tax year during which the dentist is decertified.

**4. Annual report.** By March 1, 2028 and annually thereafter, the oral health program shall submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over taxation matters a report that analyzes the effectiveness of the credit provided by this section in attracting dentists to underserved areas and recommending whether the credit should be retained, repealed or amended. The committee may submit legislation to any regular or special session of the Legislature related to the report.

**5. Rules.** The Department of Health and Human Services may 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.

**6. Repeal.** This section is repealed December 31, 2037.

See title page for effective date.

## CHAPTER 714

S.P. 691 - L.D. 1773

### An Act to Criminalize Certain Offenses Related to Gift Card Thefts

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

**Sec. 1.** 17-A MRSA §363, sub-§2 is enacted to read:

**2.** As used in this section, "retail merchandise" means any product, good or other item of value that is displayed, held, stored or offered by a retailer for retail sale to consumers. "Retail merchandise" includes, but is not limited to, tangible personal property, gift cards, electronics and commodities.

See title page for effective date.

## CHAPTER 715

S.P. 745 - L.D. 1904

### An Act to Establish the Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund

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

**Sec. 1.** 38 MRSA §450 is enacted to read:

#### **§450. Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund**

**1. Fund established.** The Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within the department to provide financial assistance to municipalities that have incurred or expect to incur legal costs in pursuing shoreland zoning violations. The fund consists of money received from any public or private source, including, but not limited to, any monetary penalties deposited in the fund in accordance with section 480-R, subsection 1. 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.

**2. Administration; use of money in fund.** The department shall administer the fund. In accordance with rules adopted by the department pursuant to subsection 4, the department shall use money in the fund to provide financial assistance to municipalities that have incurred or expect to incur legal costs in pursuing shoreland zoning violations. The department may use money in the fund to cover the department's actual costs incurred in administering the fund.

**3. Reimbursement.** In accordance with rules adopted by the department pursuant to subsection 4, a municipality that receives financial assistance from the fund under subsection 2 may be required to reimburse the fund following the settlement or final adjudication of the legal claim for which the financial assistance was received.

**4. Rules.** The department shall adopt rules necessary for the implementation and administration of the fund, including, but not limited to, rules establishing standards for the provision of financial assistance from the fund to a municipality pursuant to subsection 2 and rules establishing standards for municipal reimbursement of financial assistance received from the fund pursuant to subsection 3. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

**Sec. 2.** 38 MRSA §480-R, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 809, §2, is amended by enacting at the end a new first blocked paragraph to read: