

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

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, of the total penalties paid by all persons found to have violated this article in any fiscal year, the commissioner shall ensure that \$100,000 of that amount, or the total amount of penalties paid in the fiscal year if that amount is less than \$100,000, is deposited in the Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund established in section 450.

Sec. 3. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus; Department of Environmental Protection, Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund. On or before September 1, 2026, the State Controller shall transfer \$100,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Environmental Protection, Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account to provide financial assistance to municipalities that have incurred or expect to incur legal costs in pursuing shoreland zoning violations in accordance with the provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 450.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,
DEPARTMENT OF**

Land Resources Z188

Initiative: Provides funding for one Environmental Specialist III position and associated All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL		
Personal Services	\$0	\$79,114
All Other	\$0	\$22,767

GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$101,881
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Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund N528

Initiative: Provides ongoing allocations to allow for the provision of financial assistance to municipalities that have incurred or expect to incur legal costs in pursuing shoreland zoning violations in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 450.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$100,000

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$100,000
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**ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION,
DEPARTMENT OF**

DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$101,881
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$100,000

DEPARTMENT TOTAL -	\$0	\$201,881
ALL FUNDS		

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 716

S.P. 810 - L.D. 1997

**An Act to Authorize Issuance
of Securities to Modernize and
Consolidate Certain Court
Facilities**

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

Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §1610-Q, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 684, §1, is amended to read:

§1610-Q. Additional securities; judicial branch facilities in Androscoggin, Cumberland, Franklin, Hancock, Penobscot, Sagadahoc and Somerset counties

Notwithstanding any limitation on the amount of securities that may be issued pursuant to section 1606, subsection 2, the authority may issue additional securities from time to time in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$205,000,000 outstanding at any one time for the purposes of paying the costs associated with the planning, purchasing, financing, acquiring, constructing, renovating, furnishing, equipping, improving, extending, enlarging and consolidating new and existing facilities and projects relating to the judicial branch in the counties of Androscoggin, Cumberland, Franklin, Hancock, Penobscot, Sagadahoc and Somerset and planning for other court facilities.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 717

H.P. 1347 - L.D. 2017

**An Act to Update Certain
Statutes Governing School
Nutrition**

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §6601-A, as repealed and replaced by PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. A, §44, is amended to read:

§6601-A. Free or reduced-price school meals; Internet-based school meal applications

The department ~~shall~~ may contract for the development and implementation of an Internet-based application for free or reduced-price meals under the National

School Lunch Program under 7 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 210 and the School Breakfast Program under 7 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 220 or otherwise make available to public schools an Internet-based application for those programs. The department ~~shall~~ may make available to public schools ~~the an~~ Internet-based application for free or reduced-price meals developed under this section ~~on the department's~~ a publicly accessible website. The department shall ~~make the any~~ make an Internet-based application developed pursuant to this section in an understandable and uniform format and, to the maximum extent practicable, in a language that parents and legal guardians can understand. A public school may make ~~the an~~ Internet-based application available for school meal applications on the public school's publicly accessible website. All public schools shall continue to distribute paper applications for school meals to all students. A public school is ~~solely~~ responsible for processing that school's online applications. Data submitted through ~~the an~~ Internet-based application may not be visible to the department and must be transmitted directly to the applicable public school or other agency making the determination for a student's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals. All public schools shall accept data submitted through ~~the an~~ Internet-based application.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§1, ¶F, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 556, §1, is amended to read:

F. Except as provided under paragraph G, a school administrative unit with a public school in which at least 50% of students qualified for a free or reduced-price lunch during the preceding school year shall operate an alternative breakfast delivery service that provides breakfast after the start of the school day and before any lunch period in the school begins for students at that public school. ~~A school administrative unit with a public school in which at least 70% of students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals under paragraph A participate in the breakfast program under paragraph B is exempt from the requirements of this paragraph.~~

The department shall publish annually, by July 1, 2020 and every July 1st thereafter, on its publicly accessible website, information regarding schools required to comply with and schools exempt from this paragraph in the preceding school year, including, but not limited to, the name of the school, any alternative breakfast delivery service operated, free and reduced-price breakfast participation rate and the financial impact of the program on the school nutrition budget.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §6602, sub-§1, ¶G, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 556, §2, is amended by repealing the 2nd blocked paragraph.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

School Finance and Operations Z078

Initiative: Reduces funding due to the removal of a requirement for an Internet-based application for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$250,000)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$250,000)

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 718

H.P. 1479 - L.D. 2200

An Act Relating to Noncompete Agreements Between Employers and Health Care Practitioners

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §599-A, sub-§1, ¶A-1 is enacted to read:

A-1. "Health care practitioner" means an individual qualified or licensed under state law to perform or provide health care services to persons in the State.

Sec. 2. 26 MRSA §599-A, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 513, §1, is amended by enacting at the end a new last blocked paragraph to read:

A noncompete agreement between an employer and a health care practitioner that is enforceable under this subsection must recognize an individual's right to choose that individual's own health care practitioner.

Sec. 3. 26 MRSA §599-A, sub-§3, ¶C is enacted to read:

C. The employee is a health care practitioner who is employed by an entity in which that health care practitioner does not have an ownership interest.

Sec. 4. 26 MRSA §599-A, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 2019, c. 513, §1, is amended to read:

5. Effective date of a noncompete agreement. Except for a noncompete agreement between an employer and ~~an allopathic physician or an osteopathic physician licensed under Title 32, chapter 48 or chapter 36, respectively~~ a health care practitioner, the terms of a noncompete agreement do not take effect until after