

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

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

one year of the employee's employment with the employer or a period of 6 months from the date the agreement was signed, whichever is later.

Sec. 5. Application. This Act applies to all non-compete agreements entered into or renewed on or after the effective date of this Act.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 719

H.P. 343 - L.D. 524

An Act to Protect Children from Technology-facilitated Sexual Abuse

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, this Act extends the prohibitions in current state law against the creation, dissemination and possession of sexually explicit material depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct to similarly prohibit the creation, dissemination and possession of images that have been modified or generated, including through the use of artificial intelligence, or AI, technology, so that the images appear to depict minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct; and

Whereas, perpetrators of these crimes have already begun creating child sexual abuse material using technology through which they modify existing images of identifiable children or through which they wholly create images that appear to depict children engaged in sexually explicit conduct, but these perpetrators cannot be prosecuted because this conduct is not currently prohibited by state law; and

Whereas, as generative artificial intelligence technology continues to advance, it is becoming more and more difficult to distinguish between unaltered child sexual abuse material subject to prosecution under current law and modified or AI-generated child sexual abuse material not currently subject to prosecution; and

Whereas, it is essential to clarify state law as soon as possible to prevent sexual exploitation of children; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §281, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 711, Pt. B, §12, is amended to read:

§281. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. "Disseminate" means to manufacture, publish, send, promulgate, distribute, exhibit, issue, furnish, sell or transfer or to offer or agree to do any of these acts.

1-A. "Child sexual abuse material" means any image, including a computer-generated image, that depicts or has been created or modified so that it appears to depict a minor, regardless of whether that depiction is an identifiable child, engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

1-B. "Generative AI or machine learning" means any computer algorithm or model that creates content, including, but not limited to, text, images, audio or video.

1-C. "Identifiable child" means a person:

A. Who is recognizable as an actual person by that person's face, likeness or other distinguishing characteristic, such as a unique birthmark or other recognizable feature; and

B. Who was a minor at the time an unaltered image was created or whose likeness when the person was a minor was used in creating, adapting or modifying an image.

"Identifiable child" does not require proof of the actual identity of the identifiable child.

1-D. "Image" means something that is made, captured, generated or saved as a print, negative, slide, motion picture, photograph, computer data file, animation, video, livestream or other mechanically, electronically or chemically reproduced visual image or material.

2. "Minor" means a person who has not attained ~~18~~ 16 years of age.

3. ~~"Photograph" means to make, capture, generate or save a print, negative, slide, motion picture, computer data file, videotape or other mechanically, electronically or chemically reproduced visual image or material.~~

3-A. "Obscene material" means material that:

A. To the average individual, applying contemporary community standards, appeals to the prurient interest. For purposes of this paragraph, if it appears from the nature of an image or the circumstances of the image's dissemination, distribution or exhibition that the image is designed for clearly defined deviant sexual groups, the appeal of the image must be judged with reference to its intended recipient group;