

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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

federal transportation appropriations for funding for qualified transportation projects.

PART G

Sec. G-1. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF State Police 0291

Initiative: Reverses a Part A initiative that transfers one State Police Lieutenant position from the Traffic Safety program, 100% Highway Fund to the State Police program, 65% General Fund and 35% Highway Fund and provides funding for related All Other costs.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
Personal Services	\$0	(\$71,008)
All Other	\$0	(\$4,192)
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$75,200)

Traffic Safety 0546

Initiative: Reverses a Part A initiative that transfers one State Police Lieutenant position from the Traffic Safety program, 100% Highway Fund to the State Police program, 65% General Fund and 35% Highway Fund and provides funding for related All Other costs.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
POSITIONS -	0.000	1.000
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL		
Personal Services	\$0	\$187,145
All Other	\$0	\$4,192
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$191,337

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
HIGHWAY FUND	\$0	\$116,137
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$116,137

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 16, 2026.

CHAPTER 721 H.P. 1507 - L.D. 2232

An Act to Increase County Jail Funding

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

Whereas, state funding for county jail operations has remained stagnant while the costs to operate county jails have rapidly increased, creating an undue burden on property tax payers; and

Whereas, it is necessary that this Act take effect prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year; 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. Credit of funds for county jails for jail operations costs. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1532, in fiscal year 2025-26, prior to the credit of any investment earnings on the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund, the State Controller shall first credit \$4,000,000 of investment earnings to the County Jail Operations Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account in the Department of Corrections for distributions to counties for jail operations costs.

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

CORRECTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF

County Jail Operations Fund Z227

Initiative: Provides a one-time allocation to the County Jail Operations Fund for distribution to counties for jail operations costs.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$4,000,000	\$0
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$4,000,000	\$0

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Effective April 16, 2026.

CHAPTER 722 H.P. 1140 - L.D. 1705

An Act Regarding Adult Education Funding and Oversight

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §8606-A, sub-§8 is enacted to read:

8. Annual assessment and reporting. The department shall annually assess adult education needs in the State relative to funding appropriated by the Legislature. By December 3, 2026 and annually thereafter, the department shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters with the findings of the assessment. The report must include:

A. Funding allocated to each adult education program in the State;

B. The full funding amount that each adult education program in the State is eligible for and the amount that figure has been prorated by the department;

C. The impact of funding on adult education program outcomes;

D. Additional funding needs;

E. A plan for gradually increasing annual funding to adult education programs in order to reach 100% of the State's obligation for adult education funding in accordance with subsection 4; and

F. Recommendations on improvements to adult education.

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §8606-A, sub-§9 is enacted to read:

9. Funds not disbursed; justification. If funds appropriated for adult education are not disbursed in accordance with the reimbursement procedures and rates described in this section and in section 8607-A, the department shall submit to the Legislature a detailed written explanation describing the reason the funds were not disbursed and describing the purpose of the funds.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §8607-B is enacted to read:

§8607-B. Program oversight

1. Guidelines. The department shall adopt and maintain clear, transparent and consistent guidelines for the use of state funds for adult education programs to ensure fiscal responsibility and alignment with state goals.

2. Stakeholder input. Prior to finalizing its budget, the department shall biennially convene a stakeholder group to provide the department with input on statewide goals for adult education, funding priorities and statewide program improvements. The stakeholder group must include, but is not limited to:

A. One or more members that serve as directors of adult education programs in the State;

B. One or more members representing a statewide adult education professional association;

C. One or more members that serve as adult education instructors in the State; and

D. One or more members representing adult education students.

Sec. 4. Distribution of funding. The Department of Education may not distribute any funding attributable to adult education programs through a school administrative unit starting in fiscal year 2027-28. The department shall distribute all funding associated with the college transitions programs under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688-A, subsection 2 directly to adult education programs through the subsidy outlined in Title 20-A, section 8607-A.

Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Adult Education 0364

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to support adult education programs.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$150,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$150,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 723

H.P. 1164 - L.D. 1746

An Act to Reduce Dental Disease and Ensure Access to Essential Preventive Dental Care Among Maine Children

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3174-S, sub-§2-A, as enacted by PL 2021, c. 635, Pt. AAA, §1, is amended to read:

2-A. School-based preventive oral health services. By January 1, 2025 2027, the department shall provide preventive oral health services through the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention in all public schools in the State. The department shall establish public-private partnerships between state agencies or public schools and private corporations, individuals or organizations to allow mobile dental services providers to offer additional preventive oral health and disease intervention services in public schools.

Sec. 2. Mobile dental services providers in public health districts. The Department of Health and Human Services shall establish a model to provide for a mobile dental services provider in each public health district as described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 411, subsection 5, based on the Cumberland County School Oral Health Project. For the purposes of this section, "mobile dental services"