

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

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"

means dental services provided at a setting other than a permanent dental clinic. The department shall establish public-private partnerships between the department or school districts and private corporations, individuals or organizations to initially set up mobile dental services providers with equipment, supplies, logistics and methods of operation.

Sec. 3. Department of Health and Human Services to provide training and education to primary care providers. The oral health program within the Department of Health and Human Services shall provide training and education to primary care providers on minimally invasive dental disease treatment for infants and small children. The department shall ensure that all training and education is provided by licensed dental health professionals. The department shall use guidance from the From the First Tooth program or its successor program and the American Academy of Pediatrics to encourage the use of silver diamine fluoride by pediatricians in primary care settings to reduce dental disease and prevent cavities.

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

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
DEPARTMENT OF**

**Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
0143**

Initiative: Provides funding to contract with mobile dental services providers to deliver services in public schools and provides funding for ongoing training and education for primary care providers on minimally invasive dental disease treatment.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$325,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$325,000

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 724
H.P. 1264 - L.D. 1893**

**An Act to Establish an
Independent Office of the
Child Advocate**

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

Sec. 1. 2 MRSA §6, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2019, c. 343, Pt. 000, §1, is further amended to read:

5. Range 86. The salaries of the following state officials and employees are within salary range 86:

State Archivist;

Director, Division of Land Use Planning, Permitting and Compliance;

Chair, Maine Unemployment Insurance Commission;

Child ~~Welfare Services Ombudsman~~ Advocate; and

Director of the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §12004-G, sub-§5-B is enacted to read:

5-B.

<u>Children's Services</u>	<u>Advisory</u>	<u>Not</u>	<u>5 MRSA c.</u>
	<u>Committee to</u>	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>641</u>
	<u>the</u>		
	<u>Child</u>		
	<u>Advocate</u>		

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA Pt. 32 is enacted to read:

PART 32

CHILD ADVOCATE

CHAPTER 641

OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

§26201. Definitions

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

1. Advisory committee. "Advisory committee" means the Advisory Committee to the Child Advocate under section 26209.

2. Child. "Child" means a person who is under 18 years of age who is in the custody of or receiving services from or arranged through a state agency, or is qualified to receive such services, or in the past 3 years has been in such custody or received such services. "Child" also means a person who is under 18 years of age and is in custody or detention in any Department of Corrections juvenile correctional facility.

3. Child Advocate. "Child Advocate" means the individual appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature pursuant to section 26204 to serve as the administrator of the Office of the Child Advocate and to perform all other duties as assigned in this chapter.

4. Office. "Office" means the Office of the Child Advocate established in section 26202.

5. Oversight. "Oversight" means reviewing, monitoring and recommending changes to a state agency's implementation of laws and rules and all contracted programs, providers, services and activities of that state agency as well as that state agency's policies, procedures and practices.