

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

B. An accounting of the center's receipts and expenditures, assets and liabilities at the end of its fiscal year;

C. A listing of all investments, grants, loans and incentives provided by the center during its fiscal year;

D. A statement of the center's proposed and projected activities for its ensuing fiscal year;

E. An analysis of workforce trends, investment activity and emerging opportunities in the State's blue economy sector;

F. The most recent data available on the size, composition and growth trends in the State's marine economy and environment that is compiled in the center's database pursuant to subsection 4, paragraph C; and

G. Recommendations regarding further actions that may be suitable for achieving the purposes of this subchapter.

After reviewing the report under this subsection, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters may report out legislation relating to the report.

Sec. 5. Maine Blue Economy Center; interim report. The Maine Blue Economy Center, established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 15341, shall submit an interim report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters no later than 60 days after all members of the board of directors of the center have been appointed pursuant to Title 5, 15341, subsection 3. The interim report must include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. A strategic plan, including proposed measures of success, for the center covering the subsequent 5-year period;

2. An operational plan identifying anticipated staff and partnership resources, proposed tasks and expected accomplishments; and

3. A finance plan identifying general operating expenditures, anticipated task-related and project-related expenditures and funding.

After reviewing the report under this section, the joint standing committee may report out legislation relating to the report.

Sec. 6. Staggered terms. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 15341, subsection 3, paragraph B, with regard to the initial appointments of the members of the board of directors of the Maine Blue Economy Center, the Governor shall appoint 4 members to a one-year term, 5 members to a 2-year term and 4 members to a 3-year term.

Sec. 7. Transfer. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer \$160,000 from the Administration - Attorney General, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Department of the Attorney General from funds received from settlement agreements to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30, 2027.

Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Maine Blue Economy Center N569

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to support the operations of the Maine Blue Economy Center.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$160,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$160,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 736

S.P. 908 - L.D. 2225

An Act to Support Municipal Enforcement of Residential Construction Laws, Codes and Regulations

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

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §9722, sub-§6, ¶B, as amended by PL 2019, c. 391, §4, is further amended by amending subparagraph (8) to read:

(8) ASHRAE Standard 90.1 Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §9722, sub-§6, ¶B, as amended by PL 2019, c. 391, §4, is further amended by amending subparagraph (9) to read:

(9) Standard Practice for Radon Control Options for the Design and Construction of New Low-Rise Residential Buildings published by the American Society for Testing and Materials; ~~and~~

Sec. 3. 10 MRSA §9722, sub-§6, ¶B, as amended by PL 2019, c. 391, §4, is further amended by enacting a new subparagraph (10) to read:

(10) International Code Council and Modular Building Institute 1200 Standard for Off-site Construction: Planning, Design, Fabrication and Assembly.

Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §4451, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. D, §38, is further amended to read:

3. Training and certification of code enforcement officers. In cooperation with code enforcement officer professional associations, the Maine Community College System, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Health and Human Services, except as otherwise provided in paragraph H, the Maine Office of Community Affairs shall establish a continuing education program for individuals engaged in code enforcement. This program must provide training in the technical and legal aspects of code enforcement necessary for certification. The training program must include training to provide familiarity with the laws and ordinances related to the structure and practice of the municipal code enforcement office, municipal planning board and appeals board procedures, application review and permitting procedures, inspection procedures and code enforcement techniques, including enforcement of codes regulating industrialized housing. For the purposes of this subsection, "industrialized housing" means a structure designed to be used for residential housing that consists of or is constructed using one or more modular buildings, modular components or panelized systems that is wholly or in substantial part fabricated or assembled in a manufacturing plant for installation, or assembly and installation, on a separate building site and has been manufactured in such a manner that all parts or processes cannot be inspected at the installation site without disassembly of, damage to or destruction of the structure.

H. If funding is not available to support the training and certification program authorized under this subsection, the Maine Office of Community Affairs shall discontinue training and certification activities related to laws and ordinances referenced in subsection 2-A, paragraphs A and B and shall adopt by routine technical rules under Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A a program to register code enforcement officers that meet training and education qualifications. The Maine Office of Community Affairs shall publish the list of persons registered for code enforcement who have submitted evidence of required qualifications. Persons registered under this paragraph must meet the requirements for training and certification under this subchapter. The Maine Office of Community Affairs shall consult with the Department of Health and Human Services for the purposes of carrying out training and certification activities related to laws and ordinances referenced in subsection 2-A, paragraphs C and D. Within one month of discontinuation of training and certification under this paragraph, the Maine Office of Community Affairs shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations

and financial affairs and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters a recommendation for funding the training and certification program or for further changes in program requirements.

Sec. 5. PL 2025, c. 388, Pt. D, §48, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

7. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 17851, 17851-A, 17851-B or 17851-C or any other provision of law to the contrary, a member whose position is transferred from the Department of Public Safety, Division of Building Codes and Standards program to the Maine Office of Community Affairs pursuant to this Part and who becomes subject to different service retirement benefits qualification requirements as a result of the transfer is eligible to receive service retirement benefits under the service retirement benefits qualification requirements and the associated benefit computation provisions in effect prior to the position being transferred pursuant to this Part.

Sec. 6. Regionalized code enforcement pilot project. The Maine Office of Community Affairs, through the Housing Opportunity Program established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 3241, shall conduct a 3-year pilot project to promote, incentivize and support the adoption of regionalized approaches to code enforcement by municipalities. The Maine Office of Community Affairs shall administer the pilot project and establish guidelines for the administration of the pilot project as follows.

1. The pilot project must start no later than January 1, 2027 and continue for no more than 3 years.

2. The Maine Office of Community Affairs shall conduct an ongoing evaluation of the pilot project to determine the efficacy and effect of adopting a regionalized approach to code enforcement for participating municipalities.

3. No later than January 15th of each year for the duration of the pilot project, and no later than 60 days following the end of the pilot project, the Maine Office of Community Affairs shall submit a report on the status of the pilot project to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over building code matters. The final report must include, but is not limited to, the total number of participating municipalities; the reported effects of adopting a regionalized approach to code enforcement; any barriers to the success of the pilot project; and recommendations, including any suggested legislation, for adopting a regionalized approach to code enforcement.

Upon receipt of any report required by this section, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over building code matters may report out legislation based on the report to the legislative session in which the report is received.

Sec. 7. Retroactivity. That section of this Act that enacts Public Law 2025, chapter 388, Part D, section 48, subsection 7 applies retroactively to September 24, 2025.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 737
H.P. 1503 - L.D. 2226

**An Act to Amend the Essential
Programs and Services School
Funding Formula**

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

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §15676, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C, §31, is further amended to read:

1. Teaching staff costs. Beginning July 1, 2017, the salary and benefit costs for school level teaching staff that are necessary to carry out this Act, calculated in accordance with section 15678 and adjusted by the regional adjustment under section 15682 prior to fiscal year 2027-28 or under section 15682-A beginning in fiscal year 2027-28;

Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §15676, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2017, c. 284, Pt. C, §31, is further amended to read:

2. Other staff costs. Beginning July 1, 2017, the salary and benefit costs for school-level staff who are not teachers, but including substitute teachers, that are necessary to carry out this Act, calculated in accordance with section 15679 and adjusted by the regional adjustment under section 15682 prior to fiscal year 2027-28 or under section 15682-A beginning in fiscal year 2027-28; and

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §15682, as amended by PL 2011, c. 419, §2, is further amended to read:

§15682. Regional adjustment prior to fiscal year 2027-28

The commissioner shall make a regional adjustment in the total operating allocation for each school administrative unit determined pursuant to section 15683. The regional adjustment must be based on the regional differences in teacher salary costs, for labor market areas in which the school administrative unit is located, as computed by a statewide education policy research institute, and must be applied only to appropriate teacher salary and benefits costs as calculated under section 15678 and salary and benefit costs of other school-level staff who are not teachers as calculated under section 15679. Beginning in fiscal year 2012-13, and ~~for each subsequent fiscal year in each fiscal year~~ prior to fiscal year 2027-28, the commissioner shall

make a regional adjustment in the total operating allocation for each school administrative unit determined pursuant to section 15683. The regional adjustment must be based on the regional differences in teacher salary costs, for labor market areas in which the school administrative unit is located, as computed by a statewide education policy research institute, and must be applied only to appropriate teacher salary costs as calculated under section 15678 and salary costs of other school-level staff who are not teachers as calculated under section 15679.

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §15682-A is enacted to read:

§15682-A. Regional adjustment beginning in fiscal year 2027-28

Beginning in fiscal year 2027-28, and for each subsequent fiscal year, the commissioner shall make a regional adjustment in the total operating allocation for each school administrative unit determined pursuant to section 15683. The regional adjustment must be based on the regional differences in the cost of living, as computed by a statewide education policy research institute using a nationwide index or combination of nationwide indices. The regional adjustment must align with the salary matrix described in section 15677 so that the minimum index value is sufficient to pay the minimum teacher salary established under chapter 505. The regional adjustment must be applied only to appropriate teacher salary and benefit costs as calculated under section 15678 and salary costs of other school-level staff who are not teachers as calculated under section 15679.

Sec. 5. 20-A MRSA §15688, sub-§3-A, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 2, Pt. D, §56 and affected by §§72 and 74 and c. 12, Pt. WW, §18, is amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read:

(2) The total of the full-value education mill rate calculated in section 15671-A, subsection 2 multiplied by the property fiscal capacity of the municipality and, beginning in fiscal year 2027-28, adjusted by 10% for relative income level using an index calculated by a statewide education policy research institute. The index must be based on the percentage of resident pupils that are identified as economically disadvantaged under section 15675, subsection 2.

Sec. 6. 20-A MRSA §15688, sub-§3-A, ¶B, as amended by PL 2015, c. 494, Pt. A, §13, is further amended by amending subparagraph (2) to read:

(2) The total of the full-value education mill rate calculated in section 15671-A, subsection 2 multiplied by the property fiscal capacity of the municipality and, beginning in fiscal year 2027-28, adjusted by 10% for relative income level using an index calculated by a statewide education policy research institute. The index must be based on the percentage of resident