

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

the State shall pay a death benefit in the amount of \$100,000 to the family of James Brown and in the amount of \$100,000 to the family of Dwayne Campbell from the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund, as established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1532, indexed to the Consumer Price Index, as defined in Title 25, section 1611, subsection 1-A and as described in Title 25, section 1612, subsection 1.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 750

S.P. 294 - L.D. 679

An Act to Increase the Funding to the Live Fire Service Training Facilities Fund

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

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

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MAINE

Live Fire Service Training Facilities Fund Z269

Initiative: Provides one-time funds for the Maine Fire Service Institute to provide funds for the construction and repair or replacement of regional live fire service training facilities in the State awarded by the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission for fiscal year 2026-27 only.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$500,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 751

H.P. 442 - L.D. 703

An Act to Establish a Health Care Gap Year Program for Recent College Graduates

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

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

LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF

Employment Services Activity 0852

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for a health care gap year program that incentivizes recent college graduates to work in critical health care positions, particularly in underserved and rural communities.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$200,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$200,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 752

H.P. 444 - L.D. 705

An Act to Correct Technical Errors in Public Law 2025, Chapter 650

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

Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §5124-C, sub-§1-B, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2023, c. 412, Pt. ZZZ, §5, is amended by amending subparagraph (1) to read:

(1) For single individuals and married persons filing separate returns, ~~\$12,000~~ \$15,000;

Sec. 2. PL 2025, c. 650, Part N, section 8 is amended to read:

Sec. N-8. Application. This ~~Act~~ Part applies to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

Sec. 3. PL 2025, c. 650, Part FF, section 4 is amended to read:

Sec. FF-4. Cost-of-living adjustment for essential support workers; MaineCare rates. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a request to seek approval from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to implement a cost-of-living adjustment of 3.07% for reimbursement rates subject to rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter II, Sections 13, 65 and 92 and rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Sections 2, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 26, 28, 29, 40, 67, 96 and 97 Appendix C effective January 1, 2027 and for reimbursement rates subject to rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 97 Appendix B and Section 97 Appendix D effective July 1, 2026. The department shall submit the request required to seek approval under this section to implement the cost-of-living adjustment as soon as practicable.

Sec. 4. Transfer from MaineCare Stabilization Fund; General Fund. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$1,653,131 from the MaineCare Stabilization Fund Other Special

Revenue Funds account within the Department of Health and Human Services to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

Sec. 5. Funds to address unmet needs of older adults; distribution to area agencies on aging. Funds appropriated in the amount of \$3,000,000 to the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Aging and Disability Services Central Office program in Public Law 2025, chapter 650, Part A, section 17 to address unmet needs of older adults through community-based services and programs delivered by the area agency in each of the State's coordinated community program areas must be distributed to the area agencies, based on priorities identified by local advisory councils to meet regional needs, through the intrastate funding formula to develop programs and deliver services necessary for the general well-being of older adults, including, but not limited to, in-home services, case management services, meals programs, wellness services, respite for caregivers, public education and outreach, volunteer services and information and referral services.

Sec. 6. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF

Early Childhood Nutrition Grant Program N583

Initiative: Provides ongoing, nonlapsing funding for a grant program to allow school administrative units to enter into agreements with providers of off-site public preschool programs to provide students in those programs with breakfast, lunch and a snack.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$375,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$375,000

Early Childhood Nutrition Grant Program N583

Initiative: Deappropriates one-time, nonlapsing funding for a grant program to allow school administrative units to enter into agreements with providers of off-site public preschool programs to provide students in those programs with breakfast, lunch and a snack.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$375,000)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$375,000)

EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$0
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$0

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides funding to implement a cost-of-living adjustment for direct care services subject to rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 28.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$841,377
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$841,377

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,235,634
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,235,634

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$122,894
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$122,894

Medical Care - Payments to Providers 0147

Initiative: Provides funding to implement a cost-of-living adjustment for direct care services subject to rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 97 Appendix B and Section 97 Appendix D.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$1,598,732
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$1,598,732

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$36,304
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$36,304

Mental Health Services - Child Medicaid Z207

Initiative: Provides funding to implement a cost-of-living adjustment for direct care services subject to rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 97 Appendix B and Section 97 Appendix D.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$811,754
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$811,754

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$1,653,131
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$2,834,366

FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	\$0	\$159,198
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$4,646,695

HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE**Low-income Home Energy Assistance - MSHA 0708**

Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for low-income electric ratepayer assistance.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$7,500,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$7,500,000

Low-income Home Energy Assistance - MSHA 0708

Initiative: Deappropriates one-time funding for low-income electric ratepayer assistance.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	(\$7,500,000)
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	(\$7,500,000)

HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE DEPARTMENT TOTALS

	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$0
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$0

SECTION TOTALS	2025-26	2026-27
GENERAL FUND	\$0	\$1,653,131
FEDERAL EXPENDITURES FUND	\$0	\$2,834,366
FEDERAL BLOCK GRANT FUND	\$0	\$159,198
SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$4,646,695

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 753**S.P. 373 - L.D. 840**

An Act to Modernize the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income by Removing Marriage Disincentives

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §3271, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2023, c. 405, Pt. A, §65, is further amended to read:

2. The department, to the extent allowed by Title XVI of the United States Social Security Act, as amended, and regulations promulgated thereunder, shall establish standard levels of state supplemental income benefits for blind, disabled and elderly people. The benefits must be provided under a modified flat benefit system, and may vary by marital status, and by living arrangements to the extent allowed by Title XVI of the United States Social Security Act, as amended, and regulations promulgated thereunder. The benefits may not be based on individual budgeted need and may not vary by category or geographical area. Benefits for a couple, ~~except as provided under section 3273, sub-section 1, paragraph B,~~ must be equal to the sum of the amount of benefit for ~~an each individual and 50% of the benefit for an individual in the couple.~~ an each individual in the couple.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §3272, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 790, §3, is amended to read:

1. **Standard.** The standard utilized to determine need ~~shall must~~ be the current annual budget at the lower level of living for ~~a retired couple~~ an individual as most recently determined by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for Portland, Maine, or budgets ~~which that~~ are consistent with such a budget at the lower level of living, taking into account budget variances by marital status and living arrangements ~~permitted permitted~~ pursuant to Title XVI of the United States Social Security Act, as amended, and regulations promulgated thereunder.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §3273, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 790, §3, is amended to read:

A. Increase the minimum monthly federal payment standard, in addition to that established pursuant to federal law, by an amount of at least \$8 per month for an individual ~~and \$12 per month for a couple;~~

Sec. 4. 22 MRSA §3273, sub-§1, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 790, §3, is amended to read:

C. For a beneficiary who resides in a living arrangement ~~which that~~ meets a living arrangement classification established by the department, but who does not reside in an adult foster home or boarding home, in addition to the minimum federal payment level as adjusted pursuant to paragraph A, provide, based on such living arrangement classification, an amount not to exceed \$42 per month for an individual ~~and \$63 per month for a couple.~~

Sec. 5. 22 MRSA §3273, sub-§6, ¶B-1, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 528, Pt. E, §25 and affected by Pt. RRR and enacted by c. 591, Pt. E, §25, is amended to read:

B-1. On July 1st of every year, the sum of the monthly amount of any state supplemental income