

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

benefit authorized by subsection 1, paragraphs A and C, plus the amount of the minimum monthly federal supplemental security income in effect at that time must be increased by a percentage amount equal to the percentage rise in the United States Consumer Price Index for April 1st of that year over the level of the Index for April 1st of the previous year plus any additional percentage amount as is recommended annually by the department. Such an increase may be made only insofar as appropriations are available. In determining the additional percentage amount, consideration must be given to the goal of reaching, within a reasonable time, a benefit level equal to or consistent with the current budget at the lower level of living for ~~a retired couple~~ an individual established by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for Portland, Maine.

If, on April 1st of any year, the sum of the monthly amount of any state supplemental payment authorized by subsection 1, paragraphs A and C, plus the amount of the minimum monthly federal supplemental security income in effect at that time, is equal to or exceeds the amount resulting from 12 divided into the current annual budget at the lower level of living for ~~a retired couple~~ an individual as most recently established by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for Portland, Maine, or taking into account variances by ~~marital status and~~ living arrangements as established by the department, a budget that is not inconsistent with that annual budget divided by 12, the increase provided on July 1st next following is limited to the percentage rise in the Consumer Price Index.

~~This paragraph takes effect July 1, 1993.~~

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

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

State Supplement to Federal Supplemental Security Income 0131

Initiative: Provides funding to make the state supplemental income benefit payment for a couple, both of whom qualify for the benefit, equal to the sum of the amount of the benefit for each individual in the couple.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$36,828
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$36,828

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 754

H.P. 562 - L.D. 876

An Act to Support the Maine Service Fellows Program

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.

MAINE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Maine Service Fellows Program Z417

Initiative: Provides one-time funds for 3 program fellows to participate in the Maine Service Fellows Program.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$90,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$90,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 755

S.P. 408 - L.D. 981

An Act to Facilitate the Establishment of an Automated Crime Victim Notification System

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

Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §2107-A is enacted to read:

§2107-A. Automated crime victim notification system; minimum requirements

A facility that is required by section 2106 to provide notification to a victim of a defendant's release or escape or that is required by section 2107 to provide notification to a victim of a defendant's release on preconviction bail and that provides such notification using an automated crime victim notification system shall ensure that:

1. Optional use of automated system. A victim is not required to receive the notifications under section 2106 or 2107 using the automated crime victim notification system and may elect to receive the notification through other methods specified in section 2106 or 2107;

2. Disclosure of protected information. The automated crime victim notification system is designed to protect from disclosure the name, contact information and any other personally identifying information about

a victim who registers to use the system except disclosure:

A. To a sexual assault counselor, as defined in Title 16, section 53-A, subsection 1, paragraph B;

B. To a domestic violence advocate, as defined in Title 16, section 53-B, subsection 1, paragraph A-4;

C. To a victim witness advocate, as defined in Title 16, section 53-C, subsection 1, paragraph C; or

D. Pursuant to law, court rule, court decision or court order specifically providing for the disclosure of such information.

The facility shall ensure that any vendor or entity it contracts with to develop, implement or administer the system has implemented necessary policies or protocols to ensure that the vendor or entity protects from disclosure the victim information described in this subsection, except as specified in paragraphs A to C;

3. Policies and protocols required. The facility establishes and makes publicly available written policies or protocols regarding the implementation and use of the automated crime victim notification system within the facility, which must include, but are not limited to, a plan for responding to any planned or unplanned system outages or inaccurate notifications and the process by which the facility will address complaints received from victims regarding the system; and

4. Staffing. Appropriate staffing is available to respond to communications from victims regarding notifications received using the automated crime victim notification system.

Sec. 2. Establishment of automated crime victim notification system. County sheriffs, collectively through a statewide association of sheriffs, shall establish an automated crime victim notification system for use in jails, county correctional facilities and regional correctional facilities. The system under this section must be designed to provide victims and other registrants the option of receiving automated notices of information available to victims pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17-A, sections 2106 and 2107. In developing, maintaining and administering the system under this section, the sheriffs, collectively through a statewide association of sheriffs, may contract with an entity that develops or offers commercial, real-time automated crime victim notification systems.

Sec. 3. Automated crime victim notification system advisory committee; report. County sheriffs, collectively through a statewide association of sheriffs, shall convene an automated crime victim notification system advisory committee to support, coordinate and monitor the implementation of the automated crime victim notification system required by section 2. The advisory committee under this section must include representatives from a statewide association of sheriffs,

a statewide coalition of domestic violence prevention projects, a statewide coalition of sexual assault support centers and the Office of Victim Services within the Department of Corrections; may invite the participation of other members as appropriate; may consult with other individuals, agencies or organizations as necessary to support its work; shall meet at least monthly; and shall, at a minimum, review and develop findings and recommendations regarding the following matters:

1. The resources included or proposed for inclusion in the directory of community-based support services;

2. The gaps or challenges experienced by crime victims who may elect to register or are registered to use the automated crime victim notification system required by section 2 as that system is implemented and refined; and

3. Any other recommendations regarding the implementation and maintenance of that system.

On or before November 4, 2026, the sheriffs, collectively through a statewide association of sheriffs, shall submit a report outlining the findings and recommendations of the advisory committee to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters. The report must, at a minimum, include an overview of the implementation of the automated crime victim notification system required by section 2, the recommendations regarding implementation of that system made by the advisory committee, the status of the implementation of any such recommendations and any other recommendations for further implementation and sustainability of the system, including recommendations for addressing ongoing costs associated with the system. After reviewing the report, the committee may report out legislation relating to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Sec. 4. Transfer of settlement funds. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State Controller shall transfer \$140,000 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. 5. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

CORRECTIONS, DEPARTMENT OF

Administration - Corrections 0141

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to support activities by county sheriffs, collectively through a statewide association of sheriffs, to develop, support and maintain an automated crime victim notification system to be used in jails, county correctional facilities and regional correctional facilities.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$140,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$140,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 756

H.P. 650 - L.D. 1003

An Act Establishing the Retirement Improvement Fund

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA c. 421, sub-c. 4, art. 10 is enacted to read:

ARTICLE 10

RETIREMENT IMPROVEMENT FUND

§17446. Retirement Improvement Fund

1. Establishment of fund. The Retirement Improvement Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within and administered by the retirement system as an interest-bearing, nonlapsing fund for the payment of retirement benefit improvements.

2. Content of fund. The fund consists of all money transferred to the fund under this section and other money made available to the fund, which may include but is not limited to legislative appropriations from the General Fund or any other fund, the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund or any other source or fund identified or established through law.

3. Use of fund. Money in the fund must be used to pay for retirement benefit improvements. Whenever the fund has sufficient capital to pay for an increase in the amount of at least \$1,000 on the benefit base on which the annual cost-of-living adjustment is applied pursuant to section 17806, subsection 1, paragraph A, for all beneficiaries in the retirement system, that increase must be applied but only until the benefit base reaches \$40,000.

4. Reporting. By March 1, 2029 and annually thereafter, the retirement system shall submit a report regarding implementation of this section to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over retirement matters that includes the following information for that fiscal year and the prior 3 fiscal years:

A. The amount of money transferred to the fund pursuant to subsection 2;

B. The total increases made to the benefit base on which the annual cost-of-living adjustment must be applied in accordance with subsection 3;

C. The amount of any payment made or required to be made toward any remaining obligation for the unfunded actuarial liability; and

D. The balance in the fund.

Sec. 2. Legislative intent. It is the intention of the Legislature through this Act to provide for a sufficient retirement by increasing the cost-of-living adjustment for retired state employees, teachers and their beneficiaries, to the greatest extent possible within existing state resources, including the future use of current state appropriations dedicated to the payment of the unfunded actuarial liability when those funds are no longer needed for payment of the existing liability.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Retirement Improvement Fund N521

Initiative: Provides base allocations to authorize the expenditure of funds to pay for retirement benefit improvements for retired state employees and teachers and their beneficiaries.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$500

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 757

H.P. 651 - L.D. 1004

An Act to Adjust Certain Implementation and Reporting Dates in Legislation Held by the Governor That Became Law

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

PART A

Sec. A-1. 10 MRSA §31, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 500, §2, is amended to read:

4. Report. The council shall submit a report to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over economic development matters by February 1, ~~2026~~ 2027 and annually thereafter regarding the activities of the council during the preceding calendar year. The report must include recommendations as determined appropriate by the council to effectuate its purpose under this section. After reviewing the report under this subsection, the joint standing