

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 4, 2024 to March 21, 2025

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
March 25, 2025 to June 25, 2025

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 20, 2025

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2025

school safety improvements: 10,584 in favor and 4,002 against, with 624 blank ballots; and

Whereas, the charter amendment was approved by the voters of the city as follows: 11,807 in favor and 2,370 against, with 801 blank ballots; and

Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 5772, subsection 2-A requires that any question submitted to the electors for ratification of a general obligation bond be accompanied by a statement signed by the treasurer of the municipality setting forth certain information about the municipality's outstanding and unpaid bonds, its authorized and unissued bonds and the total principal amount and the interest cost of the proposed bonds that are the subject of the referendum vote; and

Whereas, Title 21-A, section 622-A requires that the notice of election contain the referendum questions for that election; and

Whereas, due to inadvertent oversight, although the 2 bond ordinances submitted to the voters were accompanied by a statement setting forth the required information about the city's bonded debt, the statement was not signed by the treasurer of the city as required by Title 30-A, section 5772, subsection 2-A; and

Whereas, prior to the referendum, the South Portland city council held a first reading, a public hearing and a second reading on the 2 bond ordinances, a summary of the 2 bond ordinances was posted in the city hall 7 days prior to the public hearing, the South Portland school department held a public hearing on the 2 bond ordinances, the municipal clerk posted the bond ordinances and the specimen ballots setting forth the referendum questions on the bond ordinances in public and conspicuous places in each voting district in the city at least 7 days prior to the referendum, and posted this information at each voting place on election day, and the municipal clerk published a summary of the 2 bond ordinances in the Portland Press Herald not less than 10 days nor more than 15 days prior to the referendum; and

Whereas, the failure to include the signed statement required by Title 30-A, section 5772, subsection 2-A and the failure to include the 2 bond ordinance questions in the notice of election create a legal technicality that could affect the marketability of the bonds or notes to be issued by the city in connection with the projects; 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. Validation and authorization. Notwithstanding any provision of the Maine Revised Statutes or the charter of the City of South Portland to the contrary, the City of South Portland referendum conducted on November 5, 2024 with respect to the 2 bond ordinance questions and the charter amendment question and the proceedings related to that referendum are validated and made effective. The City of South Portland is authorized to enter into contracts and to issue bonds or notes of the city in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 to finance school maintenance and improvements and \$3,000,000 to finance school safety improvements, all as set forth in the respective bond ordinances. The City of South Portland's charter is amended to reflect the approved changes as set forth in the charter amendment question.

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

Effective June 9, 2025.

CHAPTER 7

H.P. 1274 - L.D. 1913

An Act to Allow Matinicus Isle Plantation to Issue a Revenue Bond for Urgently Needed Repairs to the Plantation's Electric Power Generating Facility

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

Whereas, this legislation must take effect before the end of the 90-day period so that Matinicus Isle Plantation can replace an essential part of its electric power generating facility before it fails; 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. P&SL 1975, c. 25, §4 is amended to read:

Sec. 4. The plantation is also authorized to issue general obligation bonds, not to exceed the general law, to pay the cost of the acquisition, construction, ~~re-~~reconstruction, improvement, extension and enlargement of, and equipment for, the electric power generating facility. ~~Schedules for the payment of~~

~~the principal and interest on the bonds shall be established in conformance with the rules and regulations of the Public Utilities Commission.~~

Sec. 2. P&SL 1975, c. 25, §5 is amended to read:

Sec. 5. The plantation is also authorized, after it has issued general obligation bonds for the electric power generating facility, to raise by taxation and appropriate a sum ~~not to exceed 50% of~~ sufficient to pay the cost of the principal and interest payments on the general obligation bonds in any year ~~and 50% of the current operating costs for that year.~~

Sec. 3. P&SL 1975, c. 25, §6 is amended to read:

Sec. 6. The municipal officers are authorized to issue revenue bonds and to fix by regulation and revise from time to time and to collect rates, fees and other charges for the use of or for the services and facilities furnished or to be furnished by the electric power generating facility; and they are further authorized to appoint a person to collect the rates, fees and other charges, who may be required by the municipal officers to be bonded according to Title 30-A, section 5601, before assuming the duties of collection.

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

Effective June 9, 2025.

CHAPTER 8

H.P. 1165 - L.D. 1747

**An Act to Repeal and Replace
the Charter of the Yarmouth
Water District**

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

Sec. 1. P&SL 1923, c. 72, as amended by P&SL 2011, c. 8, §§1 and 2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

Sec. 1. Territorial limits, corporate name and purposes. This Act may be known and cited as "the Charter of the Yarmouth Water District." The territory and the people constituting the Town of Yarmouth and the Town of North Yarmouth in the County of Cumberland and State of Maine constitute a body politic and corporate under the name of the Yarmouth Water District, referred to in this Act as "the district," subject to adoption by the people in the territory as provided in this Act. The purpose of the district is to supply the inhabitants of the district with potable water for domestic, agricultural, commercial, industrial, sanitary and municipal purposes and to protect the watershed of

the district's water supply for the benefit of the inhabitants within the district.

Sec. 2. Source of supply; authorized to erect dams, lay pipes, provide power and communications, etc.; may hold or purchase real estate; contracts. For any of the purposes set forth in this Act, or for the preservation and potability of its water, the district is authorized to take and use water from the Royal River; from any spring, pond, brook, aquifer or other source of water in the Town of Yarmouth and the Town of New Gloucester, except that the use of any source of water in the Town of New Gloucester by the district is allowed only after approval by a joint body of an equal number of representatives from both the district's board of trustees and the municipal officers of the Town of New Gloucester; or from any spring, brook, pond or aquifer or other source of water in the Town of North Yarmouth or the Town of Cumberland and to purchase water from any other water district or company. The district is authorized to conduct and distribute water through the Town of Cumberland and to conduct and distribute water into and through the Town of Yarmouth and the Town of North Yarmouth; to survey for, locate, construct, lay, erect and maintain suitable dams, wells, reservoirs, pumping stations, treatment plants and machinery, pipes, mains, aqueducts, conduits, communications, cables, wires and other necessary structures, equipment, fixtures and appurtenances; and to carry its pipes or aqueducts under, in and over the Royal River or under, in, along, over or through any water course or body of water, bridge, street, railroad, highway or other way. The district is authorized to enter upon and excavate any street, highway or other way, in such manner as to least disturb that way, and shall leave those ways in as safe and passable condition as before the excavation; to enter, pass over and excavate any lands and to take and hold by purchase or otherwise any real estate, personal property and rights-of-way or of water; and in general to do any acts necessary, convenient or proper for carrying out any of the purposes specified in this section. The district is further authorized, for the purpose of making all needed repairs or extensions or service connections, to lay its pipes through any public or private lands or ways, with the right to enter upon the same or dig therein and to communicate with any structure and equipment. The district may not render service in territory served or authorized to be served by any other water utility unless consent to such service is first obtained from the Public Utilities Commission. The district may supply water to any other water utility for resale or any other lawful purposes. The district may contract to accomplish anything described in this section. The district, through its trustees, in order to carry out the purposes of its incorporation, may contract with persons, districts, municipalities, utilities, corporations or other lawful entities. All incidental powers, rights and privileges necessary to the accomplishment of the objectives set forth in this Act are granted to the district, including without limitation the