

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

Whereas, farmers and food producers are facing increasing challenges when trying to access both state and federal grant programs; and

Whereas, this legislation needs to take effect before the expiration of the 90-day period to allow the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to study the bureau's financial assistance programs to identify barriers to and improve effectiveness of these programs as soon as possible; 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

Sec. 1. Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to seek stakeholder input on lowering barriers to financial assistance programs. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall direct staff of the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to study the bureau's financial assistance programs for farmers and food producers to identify barriers to these programs and methods to eliminate those barriers and increase the effectiveness of the programs in addressing farmer and food producer needs. This study must be undertaken within existing resources and must include at least 2 listening sessions with farmers and food producers. The listening sessions must encompass topics, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Application materials, submission procedures and timelines for application retention by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry;
2. Contact procedures to inform applicants of new program opportunities;
3. Accessibility for beginning and emerging farmers and the expansion of education about department programs, partnerships with community organizations to reach new groups of farmers and identification of farmers who currently underuse department programs; and
4. Input on how the department can organize and consolidate its financial assistance offerings.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, by January 15, 2026, the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall submit a report detailing the results of the study under section 1 and any recommended legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, which may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

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

Effective May 13, 2025.

CHAPTER 27

H.P. 189 - L.D. 289

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Bingham the Barry A. DeLong Bridge

Sec. 1. Bridge in Bingham named. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation shall designate Bridge 2027, which carries Route 201 over Austin Stream in the Town of Bingham and is currently known as the Austin Stream Bridge, the Barry A. DeLong Bridge.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 28

S.P. 45 - L.D. 28

Resolve, to Rename the Twin Rivers Fire Academy in Fairfield the Duane Bickford Fire Training Facility

Sec. 1. Firefighter training facility in Fairfield renamed. Resolved: That the Town of Fairfield shall designate the firefighter training facility in Fairfield, currently known as the Twin Rivers Fire Academy, the Duane Bickford Fire Training Facility.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 29

S.P. 498 - L.D. 1209

Resolve, to Create a Working Group to Study the Safety and Use of Nonconforming Vehicles on Maine's Roads and Highways

Sec. 1. Nonconforming vehicle working group. Resolved: That the Secretary of State shall convene a working group, referred to in this resolve as "the working group," to study the feasibility of allowing registration and use by motorists of vehicles currently prohibited from operation on the State's roads and highways, referred to in this resolve as "nonconforming vehicles," including, but not limited to, mini trucks, antique military vehicles and any other vehicle under 10,000 pounds and operated by a holder of a Class C license, and to review the systems and laws in place for antique vehicles. The working group consists of 7 members as follows: