

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

that includes an overview of the study findings pursuant to section 1 and any recommendations to identify additional wildlife management districts where the length of the special muzzle-loading season on deer could be extended. The report must include a map identifying the muzzle-loading season for deer in each wildlife management district in the State and highlight on the map wildlife management districts that are currently permitted by rule to have a longer season than 6 days, wildlife management districts that the department determines could have an extended season and wildlife management districts that the department determines should continue to have a 6-day season. The committee may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 36

H.P. 839 - L.D. 1264

Resolve, Requiring the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Modify the Deed That Conveyed Montpelier, the General Henry Knox Museum in Thomaston, to the Friends of Montpelier

Preamble. The Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 23 requires that real estate held by the State for conservation or recreation purposes may not be reduced or its uses substantially altered except on the vote of 2/3 of all members elected to each House.

Whereas, the land authorized for transfer by this resolve is within the designations in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 598-A; and

Whereas, the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may sell, lease or exchange lands with the approval of the Legislature in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, sections 1814, 1837 and 1851; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands directed to modify the deed that conveyed Montpelier, the General Henry Knox Museum, consisting of historic site land, improvements, structures and historical collections, to the Friends of Montpelier. Resolved: That the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry shall modify the deed that conveyed Montpelier, the General Henry Knox Museum, including 4.2 acres, more or less, of historic site land and related improvements, structures and historical collections, in the

Town of Thomaston, Knox County, to the Friends of Montpelier, a nonprofit corporation, to remove the requirement that Montpelier be used for historic preservation and remove any requirement that Montpelier be preserved, rehabilitated or restored in a manner as required by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 37

H.P. 66 - L.D. 101

Resolve, to Convene a Working Group to Examine the Classification of and Access to Public Records Maintained by Certain State Agencies

Sec. 1. Definitions. Resolved: That, as used in this resolve, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. "Department" means the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

2. "Right to Know Advisory Committee" means the Right to Know Advisory Committee established under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 411.

Sec. 2. Working group established. Resolved: That the department, in consultation with the Right to Know Advisory Committee, shall convene a working group to examine the classification and accessibility of public records maintained by the state agencies identified in section 3 and the associated fees that may be charged for those public records, referred to in this resolve as "the working group." The department shall provide administrative support to the working group as needed.

Sec. 3. Working group members. Resolved: That the working group consists of the following members:

1. One member from the department, appointed by the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, who serves as chair;

2. Two members from the Right to Know Advisory Committee who are not Legislators, one of whom must be the member appointed to represent law enforcement interests pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 411, subsection 2, paragraph F, appointed by the chair of the Right to Know Advisory Committee;

3. One member from the office of the Secretary of State, appointed by the Secretary of State;

4. One member from the Department of Marine Resources, appointed by the Commissioner of Marine Resources; and

5. One member from the Department of Public Safety, appointed by the Commissioner of Public Safety.

The chair of the working group may appoint additional members as determined necessary by a majority of the working group's members. The working group shall consult with a representative from the Office of the Attorney General, designated by the Attorney General, to assist the working group in its deliberations as needed.

Sec. 4. Selection of members. Resolved: That, no later than 30 days following the effective date of this resolve, the Right to Know Advisory Committee and the state agencies identified in section 3 shall notify the department of the member or members selected for participation in the working group.

Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved: That the working group shall:

1. Determine the classification and accessibility of public records by:

A. Reviewing the current provisions of the Freedom of Access Act;

B. Determining which records in the possession of the state agencies identified in section 3 are subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Access Act and which records are not; and

C. Identifying categories of information that the state agencies identified in section 3 should have the ability to designate as confidential and not subject to public disclosure;

2. Evaluate fees for public records requests by:

A. Examining and recommending appropriate fees for processing large-scale requests for public records; and

B. Considering a reasonable cost structure that balances public access with administrative burdens; and

3. Consider additional areas for review by identifying any other issues related to public records management, retention and disclosure as appropriate.

Sec. 6. Report. Resolved: That, no later than January 14, 2026, the working group shall submit a report that includes the working group's findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary; the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources; and the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. Each committee that receives a report may report out a bill related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 38

S.P. 78 - L.D. 142

Resolve, Directing the Bureau of Financial Institutions to Issue Guidance Related to the Charging of Multiple Fees for Attempted Withdrawals Involving Insufficient Funds

Sec. 1. Guidance related to charging multiple fees for attempted withdrawals involving insufficient funds. Resolved: That, no later than January 1, 2026, the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Financial Institutions shall issue written guidance to state-chartered financial institutions and credit unions on the charging of multiple fees for attempted withdrawals involving insufficient funds. Before developing the written guidance required by this section, the bureau shall review any guidance issued by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the National Credit Union Administration related to overdraft and insufficient funds fees and consult with statewide associations representing state-chartered financial institutions and credit unions.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 39

H.P. 200 - L.D. 300

Resolve, to Direct the Governor's Energy Office to Study Expanding the Use of Hydroelectric Power and the Development of a Geothermal Power Plant in the State

Sec. 1. Governor's Energy Office to conduct studies. Resolved: That the Governor's Energy Office, referred to in this resolve as "the office," shall conduct studies as directed by this resolve in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency to support the development of a balanced portfolio of energy sources in the State.

Sec. 2. Study; hydroelectric power facilities and energy storage. Resolved: That the office shall conduct a study reviewing the current operation of and opportunities for the expansion of hydroelectric power and energy storage in the State for the purpose of evaluating methods to revitalize the hydroelectric power industry while taking into consideration the greenhouse gas emissions associated with such generation and storage. In conducting this study, the office shall: