

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

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:

1. Review the findings of any previous studies of hydroelectric power facilities in the State, including, but not limited to, the February 2015 report prepared for the office and titled "Maine Hydropower Study," to identify dam sites within the State that have the greatest potential to be efficiently expanded or upgraded;

2. Review new technologies being used in hydroelectric power facilities in other states and evaluate whether those technologies could be used in this State to improve or expand the hydroelectric power industry through the expansion or upgrading of the dam sites identified under subsection 1. In carrying out this review, the office shall consult with at least one hydroelectric power facility in Alaska and at least one hydroelectric power facility in each of 2 other states that the office determines has similar geographic and topographical characteristics to Maine; and

3. Identify locations within the State that may be suitable for the development of pumped storage hydropower systems because of geographic, technical and economic factors and evaluate the existing barriers to establishing such hydroelectric energy storage systems.

Sec. 3. Study; geothermal systems. Resolved: That the office shall conduct a study for the purpose of evaluating the potential for the development of a geothermal power plant or other geothermal power plant generation system or space heating and cooling system in this State based on an assessment of geographic, technical and economic factors. For the purposes of this resolve, "geothermal power plant" means a power plant that uses heat from the earth to generate electricity or thermal energy for heating or cooling. The study must summarize research and analysis of opportunities for the development of geothermal systems in the State while taking into consideration the greenhouse gas emissions associated with such systems. The office is not required to include specific cost data or a technical economic assessment of individual sites in the study. In conducting this study, the office shall:

1. Consult with persons with expertise in the geologic engineering field, including persons employed by State Government or Federal Government, regarding the feasibility of establishing a geothermal power plant in the State. Using the existing resources of the office, the office may seek a formal opinion or report from such persons. If the office concludes, as a result of the office's consultation, that a geothermal power plant could be developed in the State in a cost-effective way, as determined by the office, the office shall develop recommendations for the development of a geothermal power plant in the State; and

2. Assess the potential for developing district geothermal systems:

A. On brownfield sites in the State, as determined by the office in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection; and

B. At state-owned facilities or on state-owned properties.

Sec. 4. Reports. Resolved: That, no later than January 15, 2027, the office shall submit a report based on each study under this resolve, including any recommendations, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters. The joint standing committee may report out legislation related to the reports to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 40

H.P. 475 - L.D. 733

Resolve, to Require the Maine State Housing Authority to Submit a Report on the Pilot Project to Improve Access to Credit for Low-income Individuals

Sec. 1. Report. Resolved: That, by June 30, 2026, the Maine State Housing Authority shall submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development with details on the authority's pilot project to facilitate rent payment history reporting to credit reporting agencies for purposes of establishing or improving the credit ratings of low-income residential tenants through voluntary participation of residential landlords and tenants in the State in submitting rent payment histories of tenants. The report must include details on the effectiveness of collecting and reporting rent payment histories, an analysis of any improvement in the credit ratings of tenant participants and recommended legislation to make the pilot project permanent. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over housing and economic development matters may report out legislation based upon the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 41

S.P. 487 - L.D. 1198

Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Assess Its Current Meat and Poultry Inspection Programs

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