

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

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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

CHAPTER 84
H.P. 218 - L.D. 318

**Resolve, Directing the Maine
Education Policy Research
Institute and the Department
of Education to Recommend
Changes to the Essential
Programs and Services
Funding Formula**

Sec. 1. Maine Education Policy Research Institute to review certain essential programs and services components; report. Resolved: That the Maine Education Policy Research Institute shall:

1. No later than October 1, 2025, identify updated cost model parameters for the Department of Education to use in simulating projected impacts on school funding. Parameters must include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Transitional recommendations for moderating the special education component's expenditure-based adjustment;
- B. A minimum index value for the regional adjustment;
- C. A recommendation for calculating a regional index based on a valid and reliable cost-of-living measure;
- D. An updated per-pupil amount to more adequately fund instructional staff support;
- E. A variable student weight for determining economic disadvantage, with higher-poverty units receiving a progressively higher weight;
- F. Alternative parameters and implementation guidelines for the transportation model; and
- G. One or more options for incorporating a student economic disadvantage factor into the method for determining the amount of state subsidy provided to each municipality, including, but not limited to, adjusting the local required share of the essential programs and services cost estimate based on the proportion of economically disadvantaged resident students;

2. No later than October 1, 2025, identify additional information needed from school administrative units, to be collected by the Department of Education in fall 2025, to examine the per-pupil costs of certain high-cost in-district special education programs and services; and

3. Solicit stakeholder input on the results of simulations generated by the Department of Education pursuant to section 2, subsection 2 and submit a report to

the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs summarizing the recommended parameters and results of stakeholder input no later than January 15, 2026.

Sec. 2. Department of Education to collect data and conduct simulations of updated parameters for certain essential programs and services components; report. Resolved: That the Department of Education shall:

1. Collect data identified by the Maine Education Policy Research Institute pursuant to section 1, subsection 2;

2. Simulate the impacts that the parameters proposed by the Maine Education Policy Research Institute pursuant to section 1 would have had on fiscal year 2026 school funding allocations, including the impact of all parameters combined, on the following:

- A. Total statewide cost of education;
- B. Statewide mill rate expectation; and
- C. Local and state shares and state share percentage of the essential programs and services estimated cost of education in each school administrative unit;

3. Provide the results of the simulations pursuant to subsection 2 to the Maine Education Policy Research Institute no later than October 15, 2025; and

4. Submit a report summarizing the results of the simulations pursuant to subsection 2, as well as any other simulations the Commissioner of Education may recommend, to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than January 15, 2026. The joint standing committee may submit legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

The Maine Education Policy Research Institute shall conduct the work under section 1 within existing contracted resources. The Department of Education shall conduct the work under this section within existing resources.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 85
H.P. 821 - L.D. 1246

**Resolve, Directing the
Department of Economic and
Community Development to
Convene a Working Group to
Review the Process of Setting
Impact Fees**

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until

90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergency; and

Whereas, the State is facing a housing crisis that harms the quality of life and economic prosperity of all Maine residents that needs to be addressed as soon as possible; and

Whereas, to address this crisis, an additional 84,000 new housing units must be built by 2030; and

Whereas, a study on the barriers to addressing this crisis, completed in January 2025 by HR&A Advisors, found that unpredictable and overly burdensome costs and fees, including impact fees, were a deterrent to the construction of housing; and

Whereas, the HR&A Advisors report recommends the State establish a working group to review current local fees, including impact fees, and develop standards by which a municipality determines the local infrastructure costs and impact fees resulting from a housing development project, a transparent process by which municipalities establish those fees and a requirement that the fees be established at the beginning of the project approval process; 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. Department of Economic and Community Development to study impact fees. Resolved: That the Department of Economic and Community Development, as the state agency responsible for overseeing the Housing Opportunity Program established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 13056-J, or a successor agency, in collaboration with the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future and the Maine Office of Community Affairs, shall convene a working group to study the process by which municipalities impose impact fees under Title 30-A, section 4354. The working group must include representatives of municipalities and developers associated with municipal infrastructure improvements and others with relevant experience. The study must include a review of the existing process by which municipalities establish and impose impact fees, guidance related to impact fees provided to developers and documentation municipalities use in establishing impact fees. For the purposes of this section, "impact fee" has the same meaning as in Title 30-A, section 4301, subsection 6-A. By December 3, 2025, the state agency responsible for overseeing the Housing Opportunity Program shall submit a report based on the study, including recommendations and any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, and the committee may report out legislation related to the report 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 June 18, 2025.

CHAPTER 86

H.P. 1311 - L.D. 1967

Resolve, to Design a Maine Home Energy Navigator and Coaching Pilot Program

Sec. 1. Maine home energy navigator and coaching pilot program. Resolved: That the Governor's Energy Office and the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, referred to in this resolve as "the offices," in consultation with the Efficiency Maine Trust, the Maine State Housing Authority and the Maine Office of Community Affairs, shall design a Maine home energy navigator and coaching pilot program, referred to in this resolve as "the pilot program." The pilot program must be designed to:

1. Provide community-based energy coaching services to residential consumers;
2. Provide guidance to residential consumers, particularly those in low-income and underserved communities, to understand and navigate energy efficiency and clean energy investment options to affordably meet their home energy needs;
3. Advise residential consumers on accessing available grants, rebates, financing and other assistance programs and incentives to meet their home energy needs;
4. Assist residential consumers in prioritizing identified energy-saving opportunities, including through the integration of weatherization strategies to reduce heating and cooling loads that could minimize the need for the installation of new equipment and lower future electric demands on the grid;
5. Help residential consumers review and analyze contractor recommendations regarding cost, payment and other relevant factors;
6. Minimize potential liability risks for the pilot program; and
7. Use grant funds and private partnerships to support pilot program implementation.

For the purposes of this resolve, "residential consumers" includes homeowners and renters.

The offices shall consult with community-based organizations and tribal governments regarding pilot program design and implementation considerations.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That the offices shall submit a report on the pilot program design to the Joint