

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, the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council voted to recommend the interim conversion of the existing railroad track to a gravel, stone dust or paved bicycle and pedestrian trail; and

Whereas, the State Railroad Preservation and Assistance Act further requires that, once the Commissioner of Transportation receives a report from a rail corridor use advisory council that includes a recommendation of track removal or other change for interim non-rail use and the commissioner concurs with that recommendation, the commissioner seek legislative approval of the recommendation by submitting legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters prior to the track removal or other change for interim nonrail use; and

Whereas, any track removal or other change for nonrail use is considered interim in nature and rail corridors are to be preserved for future rail use as provided under the State Railroad Preservation and Assistance Act; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Trail construction on Berlin Subdivision. Resolved: That, based on the majority recommendation of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council and pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 7107, the Department of Transportation shall, subject to available funding resources, permitting and municipal agreements, remove state-owned inactive existing railroad track along the section known as the Berlin Subdivision between the City of Portland and the City of Auburn, from a point north of the swing bridge at Back Cove in Portland at or near mile marker 1.7 to mile marker 26.5 in Auburn, and replace the track with an interim bicycle and pedestrian trail surfaced with pavement or gravel or stone dust on the existing rail bed.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 97

H.P. 791 - L.D. 1186

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Study the Feasibility of Ferry Service to Monhegan Island

Sec. 1. Monhegan Island ferry service study. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation shall work with island and ferry service stakeholders to study adding ferry service to Monhegan Island. The study must include an assessment of the economic and social benefits and challenges of implementing ferry service, the infrastructure resources and needs on the island and mainland and the overall feasibility of such a service.

Sec. 2. Study stakeholders. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation may, but is not required to, invite the participation in the study under section 1 of any of the following as stakeholders:

1. A Monhegan Plantation representative, such as the First Assessor or the First Assessor's designee, appointed by the Commissioner of Transportation;
2. A year-round resident of the State with a vested interest in Monhegan Island, appointed by the Commissioner of Transportation;
3. A representative from a private transit provider that provides waterborne transportation, appointed by the Commissioner of Transportation; and
4. No more than 2 representatives from the Department of Transportation, one of whom may be a member who represents the Maine State Ferry Service, appointed by the Commissioner of Transportation.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That, no later than December 3, 2025, the Department of Transportation shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations under section 1, including any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. The joint standing committee may report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

TRANSPORTATION, DEPARTMENT OF Administration 0339

Initiative: Provides one-time funding to study adding ferry service to Monhegan Island.

HIGHWAY FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$7,000	\$0
HIGHWAY FUND TOTAL	\$7,000	\$0

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 98

H.P. 841 - L.D. 1266

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health to Convene a Working Group to Propose a Plan for Expanding the Reach of Treatment Courts

Sec. 1. Adult treatment courts. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health shall establish a working group to develop a plan for expanding the availability

of adult drug treatment courts, family treatment courts and veterans treatment courts across the State by ensuring that defendants in each prosecutorial district and county have access to these specialty court dockets. As used in this resolve, "adult drug treatment courts" and "family treatment courts" mean specialty court dockets that serve adult criminal defendants whose involvement with the criminal justice system has been caused, at least in part, by a serious substance use disorder and that allow those defendants, upon successful completion of a program involving multidisciplinary supports, services and requirements, to have all or most of their pending criminal charges dismissed. The Office of Behavioral Health shall invite a multidisciplinary group of stakeholders to participate in the working group, including probation and parole officers from the Department of Corrections, as well as representatives from the Judicial Department; the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management; the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services; the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services; a statewide association of prosecutors; a statewide association of criminal defense attorneys; local law enforcement agencies; organizations that provide pretrial supervision to defendants under pretrial release pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 15, section 1026; and a statewide organization that advocates for reentry services for current and formerly incarcerated individuals in the State. The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health shall submit a report of the working group's activities, including any recommendations for expanding the scope and geographic location of treatment courts and suggested legislation developed by the working group, to the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary no later than January 1, 2026. The joint standing committee may report out legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 99

H.P. 882 - L.D. 1359

Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Report Progress Made Toward Implementing Recommendations Based on the 2025 Public Transit Advisory Council Report

Sec. 1. Implementation progress; report.
Resolved: That, by December 3, 2025, the Department of Transportation shall submit to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation a report detailing the department's progress on implementing the recommendations from the 2025 Public Transit Advisory Council

report pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 4209-A, subsection 5. The report must include, but is not limited to, a summary of actions taken toward implementing each recommendation to the department from the Public Transit Advisory Council report, including specific dates on which those actions were taken; a list of specific dates on which the department plans to take additional actions toward implementing each recommendation; and a list of recommendations not yet implemented. The Joint Standing Committee on Transportation may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature based on the report.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 100

H.P. 636 - L.D. 976

Resolve, to Establish a Working Group to Facilitate Public Access and Resilience Planning for Swan Island

Sec. 1. Swan Island access and resilience working group convened. Resolved: That the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, referred to in this resolve as "the department," shall convene a working group to develop a comprehensive plan to enhance public access to Swan Island in Perkins Township in Sagadahoc County. The working group must include, but is not limited to:

1. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or the commissioner's designee;
2. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the commissioner's designee;
3. The Director of the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future or the director's designee;
4. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or the commissioner's designee;
5. A municipal official from the Town of Richmond responsible for tax increment financing allocations; and
6. A representative from a local nonprofit organization with an interest in outdoor recreation access, conservation or community development related to Swan Island.

Sec. 2. Plan development; working group meetings. Resolved: That the working group convened pursuant to section 1 shall:

1. Identify barriers to public access to Swan Island and strategies for removing those barriers;
2. Evaluate accessible transportation options for the public, including operation and maintenance of a