

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 7, 2026 to APRIL 29, 2026

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JULY 29, 2026

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2026

8. Known instances of students bypassing Internet restrictions on school-issued technology devices; and

9. Suggestions for state policies and guidance to assist and support local action and policy development regarding the use of technology in schools.

Sec. 3. Guidance. Resolved: That the Maine Education Policy Research Institute shall gather information on current guidance about best practices for safe instructional technology use for children from state and national experts. The guidance must include, but is not limited to, a review of neuropsychological and developmental studies, comparative academic performance data and behavioral and environmental observations that provide insight on the impact of digital consumption on cognitive development. The institute shall share this guidance with its steering committee to facilitate distribution to its stakeholders.

Sec. 4. Report. Resolved: That, by December 1, 2026, the Maine Education Policy Research Institute shall submit a report based on the survey and research under sections 1 to 3, including recommendations to the Department of Education and suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs is authorized to submit legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

Sec. 5. Funding. Resolved: That funding for the requirements of this resolve must be incorporated into the Maine Education Policy Research Institute's fiscal year 2026-27 cooperative project agreement with the Legislature.

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

Effective April 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 150

H.P. 1459 - L.D. 2171

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 305: Natural Resources Protection Act - Permit by Rule Standards and Portions of Chapter 335: Significant Wildlife Habitat, Major Substantive Rules of the Department of Environmental Protection

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

90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A requires legislative authorization before major substantive agency rules may be finally adopted by the agency; and

Whereas, major substantive rules have been submitted to the Legislature for review; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this resolve is necessary to record the Legislature's position on final adoption of the rules; 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. Adoption. Resolved: That final adoption of portions of Chapter 305: Natural Resources Protection Act - Permit by Rule Standards and portions of Chapter 335: Significant Wildlife Habitat, provisionally adopted major substantive rules of the Department of Environmental Protection that have been submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, is authorized.

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

Effective April 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 151

H.P. 1460 - L.D. 2172

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 33: Rule Governing Physical Restraint and Seclusion, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education

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

Whereas, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A requires legislative authorization before major substantive agency rules may be finally adopted by the agency; and

Whereas, a major substantive rule has been submitted to the Legislature for review; and

Whereas, immediate enactment of this resolve is necessary to record the Legislature's position on final adoption of the rule; 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. Adoption. Resolved: That final adoption of portions of Chapter 33: Rule Governing Physical Restraint and Seclusion, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education that has been submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, is authorized.

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

Effective April 3, 2026.

CHAPTER 152

S.P. 850 - L.D. 2139

Resolve, Authorizing the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to Convey the Interests of the State in Certain Real Property in East Millinocket

Sec. 1. Authority to convey state property. Resolved: That, notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State, by and through the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services, referred to in this resolve as "the commissioner," may:

1. Enter into an option agreement with the Town of East Millinocket for sale of certain interests of the State in all or portions of the state property described in section 2, together with all appurtenant rights and easements;

2. Negotiate, draft, execute and deliver the option agreement under subsection 1 and any documents related to the option agreement for the sale of all or portions of the state property described in section 2;

3. Exercise, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, chapter 3, subchapter 3, the power of eminent domain to quiet for all time any possible challenges to ownership of the state property described in section 2;

4. Negotiate, draft, execute and deliver any easements or other rights that, in the commissioner's discretion, may contribute to the value of a proposed sale of

the State's interests in all or portions of the state property described in section 2; and

5. Release any interests in all or portions of the state property described in section 2 that, in the commissioner's discretion, do not contribute to the value of the remaining state property described in section 2.

Sec. 2. Property interests that may be conveyed. Resolved: That the state property authorized to be sold pursuant to the option agreement under section 1, subsection 1 is land located in the Town of East Millinocket consisting of approximately 3,384 acres of property transferred to the State by deed from Katahdin Paper Company, LLC to the State of Maine dated September 28, 2011 and recorded in the Penobscot County Registry of Deeds in Book 12608, Pages 97-104 and does not include timber rights to the property.

Sec. 3. Property to be sold "as is". Resolved: That the commissioner may negotiate and execute an option agreement under section 1, subsection 1 upon terms the commissioner considers appropriate; however, all or portions of the state property described in section 2 must be sold "as is," with no representations or warranties; the purchase price must be the current market value as described in section 4; and the option agreement must expire 5 years from the effective date of this resolve. Title must be transferred by quitclaim deed without covenant or release deed and executed by the commissioner.

Sec. 4. Opinion of value. Resolved: That the commissioner shall have the current market value of all or portions of the state property to be conveyed described in section 2 determined by a broker opinion of value and current comparative market analysis.

Sec. 5. Sale or lease if option not exercised. Resolved: That, if the Town of East Millinocket does not execute an option agreement under section 1, subsection 1 within one year from the effective date of this resolve, the commissioner may list all or portions of the state property described in section 2 for sale, lease or auction with a private real estate broker or auction company and negotiate any sale or lease, solicit bids, sell directly to a purchaser or enter directly into leases with tenants. The commissioner may reject any offer.

Sec. 6. Proceeds. Resolved: That any proceeds from the sale or lease of all or portions of the state property described in section 2 pursuant to this resolve must be used to reimburse the Department of Administrative and Financial Services for administrative expenses and be deposited into the department's Bureau of General Services capital repair and improvement account for capital improvements.

Sec. 7. Repeal. Resolved: That the authorization to convey property granted by this resolve is repealed 5 years from the effective date of this resolve.

See title page for effective date.
