

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

1. Developing the questions to be included in and the distribution method for the survey described in section 1. The survey must include questions designed to collect employment data from qualified partners surveyed, including data regarding:

- A. Employee compensation;
- B. Employee retirement benefits and health insurance benefits, including the number of employees enrolled in the employer's health plan and the employer's contribution;
- C. Where employees received training; and
- D. The number of employees injured while working on projects funded by the trust;

2. Analyzing employment data collected through the survey; and

3. Developing findings and recommendations to be included in the report under section 3.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That, no later than January 31, 2027, the director of the trust shall submit a report setting forth the findings and recommendations of the study under section 1 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters. The committee may report out legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 155

S.P. 848 - L.D. 2138

Resolve, Authorizing the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to Convey the Interests of the State in Certain Real Property in Bangor

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 convey to United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Maine a single-story brick building, known as "the Elizabeth Levinson Center," approximately 25,412 square feet in size and located at 159 Hogan Road in Bangor.

Sec. 2. Property to be sold "as is". Resolved: That the commissioner may negotiate and execute a purchase and sale agreement for transfer of the building pursuant to section 1 upon terms the commissioner considers appropriate; however, the building to be sold must be transferred "as is," with no representations or warranties. The purchase price of the building must be the current market value as described in section 3 but may not exceed \$100,000.

Sec. 3. Opinion of value. Resolved: That the commissioner shall have the current market value of the building described in section 1 determined by a broker opinion of value and current comparative market analysis.

Sec. 4. Proceeds. Resolved: That any proceeds from the building sale must be used to reimburse the Department of Administrative and Financial Services for administrative expenses and be deposited into the Bureau of General Services capital repair and improvement account for capital improvements.

Sec. 5. Repeal. Resolved: That the authority of the commissioner to convey the property described in section 1 under this resolve is repealed 5 years from its effective date.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 156

H.P. 1488 - L.D. 2209

Resolve, to Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to Develop Innovative Models for the Delivery of Dental Services to Expand Access to Oral Health Care Throughout the State

Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services development of models for expanded access to dental services. Resolved: That, based on the recommendation of the Commission to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Studying Alternative Pathways for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry pursuant to Resolve 2025, chapter 107, the Department of Health and Human Services shall:

1. Consider the development of a so-called hub-and-spoke model to expand access to dental services throughout the State. In developing the model, the department must include as components of the model the dental services provided by the University of New England and federally qualified health centers, mobile units and nontraditional dental care practices, such as dental care practices that are limited in scope, that provide services in areas where the population density is insufficient to support a dental provider setting up a practice;

2. Explore options to establish dental specialist residency programs in the State, especially for pediatric dentists, oral surgeons and orthodontists; and

3. Explore options to expand education and training programs for dental therapists in the State.

Sec. 2. Stakeholder participation. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human Services shall invite the participation of stakeholders to

ensure that the department has the information and expertise necessary to complete the tasks identified in section 1, including, but not limited to, representatives from the University of New England College of Dental Medicine, the Maine Public Health Association, the Maine Dental Association, the Maine Dental Hygienists' Association, the Maine Oral Health Centers Alliance and dentists working in private practice who serve the oral health care needs of underserved and high-need populations. The Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation shall provide technical assistance to the Department of Health and Human Services on behalf of the Board of Dental Practice.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That, no later than February 15, 2027, the Department of Health and Human Services shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations under this resolve, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health coverage, insurance and financial services matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters. Each joint standing committee may report out legislation to the 133rd Legislature in 2027 based on the report.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 157

S.P. 824 - L.D. 2131

Resolve, Regarding the Nursing Facility Reform Transition Fund

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

Whereas, since 2014, 29 nursing facilities have closed across the State, and these closures have been driven in large part by MaineCare reimbursement rates and a workforce crisis that threatens the stability of long-term care services; and

Whereas, Maine has the oldest population in the nation, and the demand for long-term care services continues to rise even as access to such care rapidly declines, placing vulnerable older and disabled adults at immediate risk; and

Whereas, severe workforce shortages within nursing facilities have created ongoing instability in the sector, and timely adjustments to MaineCare reimbursement rates for nursing facilities are essential to support the recruitment and retention of qualified staff necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of residents; and

Whereas, the Legislature established the Nursing Facility Reform Transition Fund to assist facilities in moving toward fully implemented MaineCare rate reforms by calendar year 2028, and all facilities should receive cost-of-living increases in their reimbursement rates during this transition; and

Whereas, unappropriated General Fund surplus amounts were transferred to the Department of Health and Human Services, Nursing Facilities program, Other Special Revenue Funds account, including by Part SSS of Public Law 2023, chapter 643, to provide the financial support necessary for facilities to implement new nursing facility rates beginning January 1, 2025; 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 Health and Human Services to amend its rules to provide cost-of-living adjustments. Resolved: That, as soon as practicable, the Department of Health and Human Services shall amend its rule Chapter 101: MaineCare Benefits Manual, Chapter III, Section 67, Principles of Reimbursement for Nursing Facilities, to remove the prohibition on adjusting the guardrails for inflation and require that the guardrails used in the 3-year transition period to the new reimbursement methodology are adjusted for inflation. The cost-of-living adjustment applied to rates for certain MaineCare services under Public Law 2025, chapter 388, Part GGG on January 1, 2026 must be applied to the guardrails and retroactively applied to January 1, 2026. The guardrails must be adjusted for any subsequently implemented cost-of-living adjustment until the end of the rate reform transition period or until guardrails are no longer applied, whichever is later.

Sec. 2. Nursing Facility Reform Transition Fund stakeholder group. Resolved: That the Department of Health and Human Services shall convene a stakeholder group to examine the use of the Nursing Facility Reform Transition Fund. The stakeholder group must include, but is not limited to, representatives from the department, representatives of a statewide organization that represents nursing facilities, operators of nursing facilities and the long-term care ombudsman described under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 5107-A. The department shall ensure that meetings are open to the public and interested parties are provided with notice of meetings. The stakeholder group shall examine the following issues related to the Nursing Facility Reform Transition Fund established in Public Law 2023, chapter 643, Part SSS:

1. The uses for funding that has been spent from the fund;