

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

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;

2. The plan for the expenditure of the remaining funds in the fund;

3. The planned cycle for rebasing reimbursement rates; and

4. The use of the fund to pay for cost-of-living increases for staff pay compared to the use of other funding sources for other cost-of-living increases for direct care services.

The stakeholder group shall submit a report, no later than January 15, 2027, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters. The committee is authorized to report out legislation related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

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

Effective April 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 158

H.P. 1521 - L.D. 2242

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 6: Standards Relating to Prescriptive Authorities and Collaborative Relationship for Naturopathic Doctors, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation

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 outside the legislative rule acceptance period; 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 6: Standards Relating to Prescriptive Authorities and Collaborative Relationship for Naturopathic Doctors, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation that has been submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A outside the legislative rule acceptance period, is authorized.

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

Effective April 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 159

H.P. 1513 - L.D. 2238

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 348: Exemption for On-farm Raising, Slaughter, and Processing of Less than 1,000 Ready-to-cook Whole Poultry, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

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 outside the legislative rule acceptance period; 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 Chapter 348: Exemption for On-farm Raising, Slaughter, and Processing of Less than 1,000 Ready-to-cook Whole Poultry, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conser-