

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

vation and Forestry 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 160
H.P. 1463 - L.D. 2175

**Resolve, Regarding Legislative
Review of Portions of Chapter
115: The Credentialing of
Education Personnel, a Major
Substantive Rule of the
Department of Education,
State Board of Education**

Sec. 1. Adoption notwithstanding truncated comment period. Resolved: That final adoption of portions of Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, 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, notwithstanding that the filing period for written statements and arguments concerning the proposed rule closed 9 days after the public hearing, only if:

1. In the rule Part II: Requirements for Specific Certificates and Endorsements, Section 1: Teachers and Educational Specialists: General Certificates and Endorsements, a new Section 1.19 establishing a Mathematics Specialist Certificate is added;

2. In the rule Part II: Requirements for Specific Certificates and Endorsements, Section 2.1: Endorsement 282: Teacher of Children with Disabilities, the grade level specifications of birth to school age 5, preschool through grade 8 and grades 6 through 12 are established;

3. In the rule Part II: Requirements for Specific Certificates and Endorsements, Section 2.1: Endorsement 282: Teacher of Children with Disabilities, a transitional pathway is added to allow holders of an endorsement 282 with a grade span inclusive of kindergarten to earn an endorsement 282 with a grade span inclusive of preschool and elementary grades without the need for additional coursework; and

4. Any existing certificate or endorsement established for grades 7 through 12 is amended to grades 6 through 12.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 161
H.P. 1515 - L.D. 2240

**Resolve, Regarding Legislative
Review of Chapter 10:
Significant Wildlife Habitat, a
Late-filed Major Substantive
Rule of the Department of
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**

Sec. 1. Adoption. Resolved: That final adoption of Chapter 10: Significant Wildlife Habitat, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 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.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 162
S.P. 858 - L.D. 2140

**Resolve, to Establish a Demand
Response Program to Lower
Electric Bills and Improve
Grid Reliability**

Sec. 1. Demand response program; established. Resolved: That the Efficiency Maine Trust, referred to in this resolve as "the trust," currently administering behind-the-meter demand management programs in the State, shall establish the demand response program, referred to in this resolve as "the program," to encourage electricity customers to reduce their consumption of electricity during periods of peak demand to help lower their electric bills and improve grid reliability. The trust shall administer the program through the end of fiscal year 2027-28. The trust may extend the program beyond that date, in its discretion, if such an extension is proposed and approved in the trust's next triennial plan pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 10104, subsection 4.

Sec. 2. Savings and reliability through reduction of peak demand. Resolved: That, as a part of the program, the trust shall develop an outreach and education campaign to increase participation in the State's transmission and distribution utilities opt-in time-of-use rates to encourage shifting electricity consumption to off-peak periods. The trust may not require an electricity customer to participate in the program. The program must be designed to focus on savings opportunities most appropriate for the State's electrical loads, grid planning and climate.

Sec. 3. Accessibility. Resolved: That the program must be designed to provide outreach and education to renters, low-income electricity customers and customers having the greatest potential for peak-demand electricity usage reductions, as determined by the trust, and the trust shall prioritize outreach and education for low-income electricity customers.

Sec. 4. Collaboration. Resolved: That the trust shall collaborate with the State's transmission and distribution utilities, the Public Utilities Commission, the Office of the Public Advocate, the Department of Energy Resources, as well as the public, and public interest organizations, including, but not limited to, community action agencies, by seeking input on the design of the program. The transmission and distribution utilities shall provide assistance in delivering information about the program to potential program participants. The transmission and distribution utilities shall provide customer data and other information to the trust necessary for program assessment and enhancing participation in the program.

Sec. 5. Report. Resolved: That the trust shall assess the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of the program and, by February 28, 2028, submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy matters regarding its assessment. The trust shall include in the report any challenges it encountered in administering the program and any opportunities the trust identifies for improving and expanding efforts to shift electricity consumption to off-peak periods and to help lower electricity bills and improve grid reliability.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 163

H.P. 341 - L.D. 522

Resolve, Directing the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women to Study the Extent of Workforce Gender Segregation in the State

Sec. 1. Occupational and workforce segregation study. Resolved: That the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, as established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 88-A, shall study the extent of occupational and workforce segregation by gender in the State and assess any disparities in safety or compensation related to that segregation.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That, by December 1, 2027, the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women shall submit a report based on its findings in section 1 to the Secretary of State and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over

labor matters, which may report out legislation regarding the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPARTMENT OF Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions 0692

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women to study the extent of occupational and workforce gender segregation.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$5,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$5,000

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 164

H.P. 1438 - L.D. 2123

Resolve, to Improve Dental Care Access by Modifying the MaineCare Reimbursement Methodology for the Provision of Certain Dental Services

Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services to remove requirement for prior authorization for deep sedation or general anesthesia for dental services. Resolved: That, effective July 1, 2026, the Department of Health and Human Services shall provide that prior authorization may not be required for the provision of deep sedation or general anesthesia for dental services to MaineCare members.

Sec. 2. Department of Health and Human Services to modify fee schedule; reimbursement rates for anesthesia provided for dental services. Resolved: That, effective July 1, 2026, the Department of Health and Human Services shall update the department's fee schedule for MaineCare reimbursement for dental services as follows:

1. The reimbursement rate for deep sedation and general anesthesia for dental services must be established at 67% of the commercial median benchmark and this rate must, at a minimum, be maintained until June 30, 2028 or until rates established pursuant to a dental rate determination conducted according to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3173-J are effective, whichever is sooner; and

2. Deep sedation and general anesthesia services must be billed using current dental terminology codes D9222, D9223, D9224 and D9225.