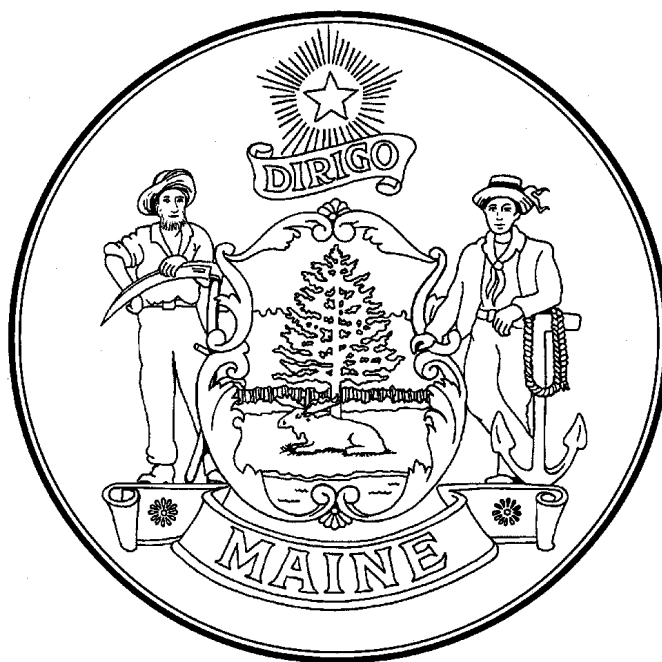


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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

SELECTED MEMORIALS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

**JOINT RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING THE LIFE
AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF THE LATE UNITED
STATES SENATOR
MARGARET CHASE SMITH**

H.P. 1464

WHEREAS, in 1940, Margaret Chase Smith won a special election to the United States House of Representatives following the death of her husband, Representative Clyde Smith. She went on to win the general election in her own right just 3 months later and was re-elected for 3 additional terms over the next 8 years; and

WHEREAS, in 1947, Representative Smith played a key role in getting the Nurse Corps Bill passed through Congress, granting women the opportunity to have permanent status in the United States military for the first time; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Chase Smith was sworn into the United States Senate on January 3, 1949, becoming the first woman to be elected to both houses of Congress; and

WHEREAS, in her Declaration of Conscience speech made on June 1, 1950, Senator Smith spoke out against the cruelty of McCarthyism and the "national feeling of fear and frustration" and called on her fellow Legislators to avoid hatred and character assassination and to honor the right to criticize, the right to hold unpopular beliefs, the right to protest and the right of independent thought; and

WHEREAS, in 1954 and 1955, Senator Smith took a world tour at her own expense and not as a representative of the United States government, visiting numerous European, African and Asian countries and interviewing over 20 world leaders. Many of the interviews were recorded and sent back to the United States to be broadcast on Edward R. Murrow's program "See It Now" on CBS. The Overseas Press Club of America later honored the "See It Now" segments with the Best Presentation on Foreign Affairs award. Senator Smith accepted the award on behalf of CBS and officially became an award-winning foreign correspondent; and

WHEREAS, Senator Smith debated former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt on "Face the Nation" in 1956, a few days before the 1956 Presidential election. They were the first female guests on this news show and debated the 1956 Israeli-Egyptian war over the Suez Canal, the Soviet invasion of Hungary and civil rights; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, after being told that the White House was not ready for a female chief executive, Margaret Chase Smith became the first woman to

be placed in nomination for the presidency by a major political party, ultimately losing the nomination to Barry Goldwater; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Margaret Chase Smith opened the library that houses her papers for researchers of all ages. Upon her death in 1995, her Skowhegan home was turned into a museum open to the public so that we might continue to learn from the example of civility and leadership her life evinced; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize the life of Margaret Chase Smith, her accomplishments in Congress, her fight against injustice and her extensive contributions to the civil rights and equal rights movements.

**Read and adopted by the House of Representatives
January 27, 2026 and the Senate February 3, 2026.**

**JOINT RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY
2026 AS 211 MAINE MONTH**

H.P. 1490

WHEREAS, 211 Maine is a Maine-based health and human services and emergency preparedness and response helpline that provides Maine people free and confidential referrals to needed resources; and

WHEREAS, 211 Maine provides around-the-clock service statewide, offering efficient and effective responses from people employed in Maine to questions arising from the growing complexities in health, financial and human services and the needs of Maine people, and offers interpreter services to those whose first language is not English; and

WHEREAS, since 2006, 211 Maine has been a trusted lifeline for people across the State, helping individuals and families to find local services such as utility assistance, housing or shelter and transportation by answering over 62,000 calls, texts and emails amounting to over 187,000 minutes in 2025; and

WHEREAS, 211 Maine provides emergency operations support during times of natural and other disasters, including assisting the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency, fielding calls from those impacted by windstorms and floods, collecting critical data and helping people find winter warming shelters or cooling centers; and

SELECTED MEMORIALS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, this past year, 211 Maine directly distributed over \$236,000 in emergency heating assistance, helping residents to avoid spending winter nights in the cold or their utilities from being shut off; and

WHEREAS, 211 Maine handles a number of specialized services and partnerships, including the opiate helpline and the gambling helpline and serving as the centralized access point for the Help Me Grow Maine program and is also a resource for finding information about needs such as tax preparation and browntail moth caterpillar prevention, mitigation and treatment; and

WHEREAS, 211 Maine provides a powerful example of how the government and nonprofit and private sectors can work together to improve the quality of life of the people of Maine; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize February 2026 as 211 Maine Month.

**Read and adopted by the House of Representatives
February 10, 2026 and the Senate February 12,
2026.**

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

S.P. 913

WHEREAS, the 100th Congress of the United States passed a Joint Resolution on March 12, 1987 to designate the month of March as Women's History Month; and

WHEREAS, Maine women of every race, class and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our State in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, Maine women of every race, class and ethnic background have served and continue to serve as leaders in the establishment of charitable, philanthropic, commercial and cultural institutions in our State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have played and continue to play critical economic, cultural and social roles in every sphere of the life of our State, whether in the workforce and as the majority of the State's volunteer workforce; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have protected and defended our collective rights, responsibilities and freedoms in myriad spheres, including serving our country courageously in the military; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and increased opportunity, but also in expanding the rights of all who experience oppression as leaders in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement and the peace and justice movement, among others, all of which work to create a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, despite these contributions, the role of Maine women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in the body of American history; and

WHEREAS, Congress sent the Equal Rights Amendment to the states for ratification more than 50 years ago, and it is long past time that the principle of women's equality be enshrined in the federal and state constitutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to designate March 2026 as Women's History Month, a time to celebrate and honor the contributions of all Maine women and girls, and to recognize March 8, 2026 as International Women's Day.

**Read and adopted by the Senate March 12, 2026
and the House of Representatives March 17, 2026.**
