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STATE OF MAINE
WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD
OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CHAIR
442 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 100
27 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0027

JANETT T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

JOHN C. ROHDE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

January 20, 2026

Honorable Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

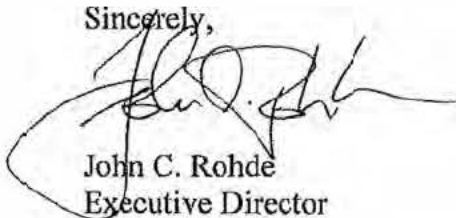
**RE: Annual Report of the Workers' Compensation Board Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A.
§12023(2)**

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., §12023, please consider this the transmittal letter for the required report from the Workers' Compensation Board due by February 1, 2026.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



John C. Rohde
Executive Director

JCR/dah

cc: Suzanne Gresser, Executive Director of the Legislative Council
(via e-mail: quasiagencyreports@legislature.maine.gov)



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**RE: 2026 Report of the Workers' Compensation Board Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A.
§ 12023(2)**

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

On behalf of the Workers' Compensation Board ("Board") I am submitting this annual report of procurements for fiscal year 2025 (07/01/2024 – 06/30/2025) as required by 5 M.R.S.A. § 12023 (2).

Although technically a quasi-independent agency, the Board has, since its inception in 1993, adhered to the procurement and expense reimbursement policies of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services ("DAFS"). After the enactment of Title 5, Ch. 379, subchapter 3 (5 MRSA §§ 12021-12024), the Board decided to continue working under the oversight of DAFS. Adhering to those policies is the most efficient and effective way for the Board to operate. The Board will continue to review its budgeting and payment protocols and maintain policies consistent with expectations of the Controller's Office. Below is the Board's submission in compliance with the reporting mandates in §12023 (2) (A) – (C).

A. Procurements (5 M.R.S.A. §12023 (2) (A))

The Board continues to adhere to the comprehensive procurement procedures established by the Division of Procurement Services. For purchases greater than \$10,000 for which competitive bidding is waived, the Board submits a Procurement Justification form to the Division of Procurement Services. The Board does not enter into the subject contract until the Division of Procurement Services approves the contract.

The following table outlines procurements exceeding \$10,000 in FY 2025 for which competitive procurement was waived.

Vendors	Justification for Waiver of Competitive Bidding	Dollar Amount of Procurement
RELX Inc. dba LexisNexis	The Board's staff is required by statute to mediate disputes, hear administrative law cases, write orders and provide legal advice and representation to workers' compensation litigants. Board staff use RELX Inc.'s LexisNexis online library which includes <i>Larson's Workers' Compensation Law</i> , to perform legal research, write trial and appellate briefs, author administrative law decrees and accomplish other work that is necessary to perform required duties. Board staff have determined that this on-line publication is necessary to provide up-to-date legal analysis, opinions, and decisions. Also, Board staff have not found a source for these references the Maine state government database. The Board limits the number of participants who use this product.	The cost of procuring the subscription service from RELX Inc. dba LexisNexis was \$14,100
Software Technology LLC	The Board's Worker Advocate Program is required to provide legal services to qualified injured workers with workers' compensation claims in Maine. Title 39-A section 153-A. Working out of five (5) offices state-wide, the Advocate Program needed software to effectively manage its case load. The Board consulted MeIT and did a survey of off-the-shelf software with features for litigation case management. Practice Master was selected as the lowest cost product with the most needed features to support the management of Advocate Program cases. The Board opted for this off-the-shelf product based on its low cost compared to custom products or other off-the-shelf products providing the same functionality. The annual maintenance costs were considered during the procurement process and were lower than other products considered.	The annual maintenance cost for server & software licenses was \$12,530.00.

Bilodeau Law LLC	<p>The Board's Worker Advocate Program provides legal representation to injured workers pursuant to Title 39-A MRSA §153-A. Late in 2024, vacancies in the Advocate Program caused a backlog of cases. This prevented the Board from providing adequate representation to injured workers as required by Title 39-A. The Board needed to retain outside counsel to help the Advocate Program provide legal representation for workers' compensation clients.</p> <p>Pursuant to 5 MRSA §191, Attorney General Frey ("AG") authorized the Board to contract for legal services with Bilodeau Law, LLC, in Lewiston, so that Karen Bilodeau, an attorney with in-depth knowledge of workers' compensation law, could provide the services. The effective date of the authorization was October 15, 2024, and its expiration date was December 31, 2024. The AG extended it to March 31, 2025, because more work had to be done. The AG did not increase the maximum contract cost with this extension.</p>	<p>The cost of services authorized by the AG for the vendor: \$150.00 per hour \$25,000.00 maximum cost.</p> <p>The entire amount paid to this vendor pursuant to the contract was disbursed in FY 2025: \$21,707.00</p>
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B. Contributions greater than \$1,000.00 (5 M.R.S.A. §12023 (2) (B))

1. Membership Dues

Pursuant to 39-A M.R.S.A. § 152 (13), the directors of the Workers' Compensation Board approve this agency's annual budget. In conformity with 5 M.R.S.A. §12022 (4), membership dues are part of the budget that is reviewed and passed by the directors. Membership dues are paid only if they pertain to the Board's mission and activities. The following chart sets forth the pertinent information regarding membership dues:

Organization	Justification	Amount
International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions (IAIABC)	IAIABC is an organization that provides information and resources to workers' compensation systems across the country.	\$ 1,800.00 for one calendar year.

2. Gifts, Donations and Sponsorships

The Board does not spend money on gifts, donations, or sponsorships.

3. Travel, Meals, and Entertainment

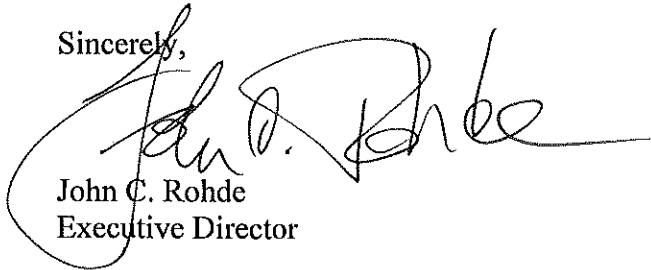
With respect to travel, meals and entertainment, the Board operates within the policies and procedures promulgated by the Controller's Office. The Board scrutinizes each expense request when it is submitted by an employee and approves reimbursements upon confirmation that the requests comply with the Controller's Office policies.

C. Changes to Written Policies and Procedures (5 M.R.S.A. §12023 (2) (C))

In fiscal year 2025, the Board did not change its written policies and procedures nor did it make changes to procedures used by the Board to monitor compliance with those policies and procedures.

If the Board may provide additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,



John C. Rohde
Executive Director

cc: Suzanne Gresser, Executive Director of the Legislative Council
(via e-mail: quasiagencyreports@legislature.maine.gov)