

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE**  
132<sup>ND</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

August 2025

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## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

### **LD 1750 An Act to Require the Attorney General to Create and Update Biennially a Model Residential Lease**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 426 requires the Attorney General to, within existing resources, create and post on its publicly accessible website a model residential lease that complies with current law, including any disclosure and any document required to be attached to a residential lease, and to update the model lease biennially.

### **LD 1778 An Act to Update Provisions of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 384 updates certain provisions of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act and related provisions by making the following changes.

1. It clarifies provisions relating to rule-making public hearings conducted by boards.
2. It revises and reorganizes the current provisions regarding rule basis statements, comments on proposed rules and agency responses to those comments, consistency of the text of proposed rules with the text of rules revised during the rule-making process and maintenance by agencies of rule files for each rule that is adopted.
3. It adjusts provisions relating to rule-making notices and the public availability of proposed rules to ensure that the time frames stated in those notices and rules are consistent with each other and other provisions of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.
4. It updates the provision that lists the information that must be included in rule-making proposal public notices to ensure consistency with current practices.
5. It updates the provision pertaining to agencies' obligation to make copies of proposed rules available to the public.
6. It repeals the provision regarding fees that agencies may charge to provide notices of rule-making proposals and copies of proposed rules, as such information is now readily available online at no cost.
7. It updates the provision that requires the Secretary of State to arrange for weekly newspaper publication of agency rule-making proposal notices and requires online posting of the notices.
8. It requires agencies to post their proposed rules on their publicly accessible websites, as well as to post their adopted rules on those websites or provide a link to their rules that are posted on a website maintained by the Secretary of State.

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9. It updates and clarifies the provision that requires the Secretary of State to post agency rule-making notices regarding adoption online.
10. It requires the Secretary of State to post online a brief explanation of the rule-making process, including an explanation of how a public hearing on a proposed rule may be requested if such a hearing has not been scheduled.
11. It revises the provision regarding agencies' filing of adopted rules to:
  - A. Account for technological updates, including the availability of rules and rule-making information and notifications online;
  - B. Account for the fact that the Secretary of State does not compile and publish a formal code or registry of state agency rules;
  - C. Relocate and revise the provision regarding the incorporation of materials by reference by agencies into their rules;
  - D. Update and clarify the provision regarding certification of adopted rules by the Secretary of State; and
  - E. Strengthen the provision that authorizes minor errors in rules to be corrected by the Secretary of State without agency rulemaking having to occur.
12. It revises current provisions concerning annual reports that are provided by the Secretary of State to the Governor and to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters.
13. It removes the provision that requires agencies to include a fiscal impact note at the end of each rule, as such information is now collected in other documents that accompany proposed and adopted rule filings with the Secretary of State.
14. It makes various technical corrections.

### **LD 1797 An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning Denials of Public Records Requests**

#### **ENACTED LAW SUMMARY**

Public Law 2025, chapter 186 provides that a public body, agency or official that denies a request for inspection or copying of a public record must include in the written notice of denial a citation to the statutory authority used as the basis for the denial.