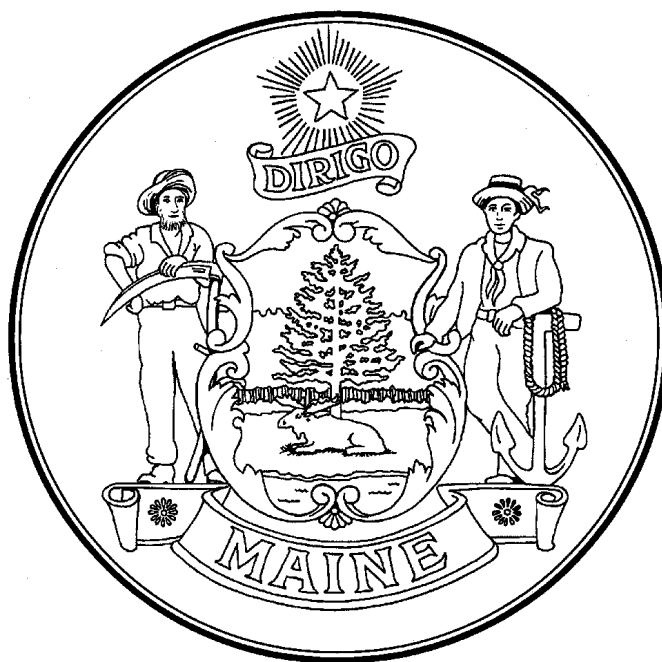


# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Office of  
The Governor

No. 45 FY 19/20  
DATE April 24, 2020

**AN ORDER TO EXPEDITE THE DELIVERY OF  
CERTAIN UNCLAIMED PROPERTY**

**WHEREAS**, I proclaimed a state of emergency on March 15, 2020 and a renewed state of emergency on April 14, 2020 to authorize the use of emergency powers in order to expand and expedite the State's response to the serious health and safety risks of the highly contagious COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Treasurer reports that over 93% of direct property tax relief payments have been deposited by taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Treasurer also reports that 4,000 FY 19/20 direct property tax relief checks have been returned as undeliverable and that, due to COVID19, the Treasurer's call center has been suspended; and

**WHEREAS**, these returned checks are currently required by 33 M.R.S. §2061(10) to be held by the Treasurer for a one-year dormancy period; and

**WHEREAS**, the intended recipients of these checks could be located more quickly if the checks were treated as unclaimed property; and

**WHEREAS**, the adverse economic consequences of COVID-19 make it important to get these checks as quickly as possible to their intended recipients; and

**WHEREAS**, a governor's emergency powers expressly include pursuant to 37-B M.R.S. §742(1)(C)(1) and §834 the authority to suspend the enforcement of a statute where strict compliance therewith would hinder or delay necessary action;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, pursuant to 37-B M.R.S. Ch. 13, including but not limited to the provisions cited above, do hereby Order as follows:

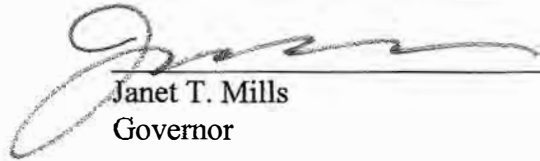
## **I. ORDERS**

To expedite delivery of over 4,000 FY 19/20 direct property tax relief checks that have been returned as undeliverable:

- A. The notice and receipt provisions set forth in 33 M.R.S. §2101 and the one-year dormancy period set forth in 33 M.R.S. §2061(10) are suspended as applied by the Treasurer to such checks.
- B. The Treasurer shall use his unclaimed property systems and networks to find the intended recipients of such checks.
- C. The Treasurer may continue to use the discretion of his Office to approve or deny claims regarding such checks.

## **II. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Order shall take effect on April 24, 2020.



Janet T. Mills  
Governor