

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE
AS PASSED BY THE
One Hundred and Sixth Legislature
1ST SPECIAL SESSION
JANUARY 2, 1974 TO MARCH 29, 1974
AND BY THE
One Hundred and Seventh Legislature
REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 1, 1975 TO JULY 2, 1975

PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE REVISED STATUTES OF 1964, TITLE 3,
SECTION 164, SUBSECTION 6.

THE KNOWLTON AND MCLEARY COMPANY
FARMINGTON, MAINE
1975

PRIVATE AND SPECIAL LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

One Hundred and Sixth Legislature

AT THE

SPECIAL SESSION

January 2, 1974

to

March 29, 1974

vertised and conducted according to the law relating to municipal elections; provided, however, that the board of registration in said City of Caribou shall not be required to prepare for posting nor the city clerk to post, a new list of voters, and for the purpose of registration of voters, said board shall be in session the 3 secular days next preceding such special meeting, the first and 2nd days thereof to be devoted to registration of voters, and the 3rd day to enable the board to verify the corrections of such list and to complete and close up their records of said sessions. The city clerk shall prepare the required ballots on which he shall reduce the subject matter of this Act to the following question: "Shall the amendment to the Caribou Hospital District Act, passed by the first special session of the 106th Legislature, be accepted?" and the voters shall indicate by a cross or check mark placed against the words "Yes" or "No" their opinion of the same. This Act shall take effect for all the purposes hereof immediately upon its acceptance by a majority vote of the legal voters voting at said meeting; provided that the total number of votes cast for and against the acceptance of this Act at said meeting equals or exceeds 20% of the total vote for all candidates for Governor in said city at the next preceding gubernatorial election. The result in said district shall be declared by the municipal officers of the City of Caribou, and due certificate filed by the city clerk with the Secretary of State.

Effective January 18, 1974

CHAPTER 169

AN ACT Relating to the Collection and Disposal of Solid Wastes by the Lincoln County Commissioners.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Powers and duties of the Lincoln County commissioners. The county commissioners of Lincoln County are empowered to operate a solid waste collection and disposal system in Lincoln County and to purchase real estate for this purpose.

Effective June 28, 1974

CHAPTER 170

AN ACT Making Appropriations for the Supplemental Security Income Program.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts passed by the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the United States Government through approval of Public Law 92-603 repealed the state administered program of Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled, and discontinued its federal funding; and effective January 1, 1974 initiated the Supplemental Security Income Program administered by the U. S. Social Security Administration, and funded a minimum level of benefits with federal money; and

Whereas, a large number of Maine people who received Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled in December, 1973 will receive substantially lower benefits in January, 1974 and thereafter under the new Supplemental Security Income Program; and

Whereas, the United States Government through approval of Public Law 93-66 in July, 1973 required action by each state to provide that people who were recipients of Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled in December, 1973 would continue to receive a level of payment in January, 1974 and thereafter equivalent to their former amount of aid; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. Statement of intent. This legislation authorizes funds necessary to provide appropriations for January, February and March, 1974 to augment the federally financed Supplemental Security Income benefit by maintaining the level of payments to recipients of the former Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled Program at the level payable for and based on eligibility for December, 1973. The Maine Legislature, by approval of this Act, is complying with federal law requiring so-called "mandatory" payments and particularly wishes to assure that the needy people of Maine do not receive lower benefits due to a new program.

The purpose in funding this program only through March, 1974 is to enable the Legislature to study and intelligently evaluate the need for future appropriations relating to the cost of living for needy Maine people and relating to the Supplemental Security Income Program. The Legislature is acutely aware of the existence and cost of the host of welfare, income maintenance and income subsidy programs now operated by the various levels of government. The Legislature is concerned about problems of coordination and contradictions apparent in existing programs. Moreover, there is serious concern over continuing a welfare program when the Federal Government has just initiated a new income program. This adds another layer of bureaucracy which may only serve to confuse the very beneficiary whom it is supposed to help.

The Legislature intends to make a detailed study of the actual amount necessary to make "mandatory" payments for January, 1974 and each month thereafter, and to make a complete analysis of the need for and operation of a so-called "optional" state-funded augmentation of the Supplemental Security Income Program. This analysis shall include the costs, organization, type and level of benefits related to various alternative standards of describing need and methods of administering income programs.

Approval of this Act providing interim funding should not be construed as a commitment to future funding of any "optional" program. The type of benefits, amount of benefits and unit of government responsible for administering whatsoever program that may be approved is undecided at this time.

Legislation establishing any optional program, if enacted, shall have an effective date not earlier than the date of enactment. The legislation will not provide for retroactive payments on behalf of any potential beneficiary.

The appropriation provided herein shall not be expended for any administrative costs, nor expenditures related to administration or operation of any department program except to cover the actual "mandatory" payments due, payable and received by beneficiaries of the Supplemental Security Income Program. The funds shall not be expended to cover personnel, all other, or capital expenditures related to or formerly provided for under the Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled Program and its appropriations.

Any unexpended balance of this appropriation remaining with the department or the Social Security Administration may be carried forward only to the next quarter of the fiscal year for expenditure in accordance with this Act.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Welfare the sum of \$1,300,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1974 to make so-called "mandatory" payments to beneficiaries of the Supplemental Security Income Program who receive payments under the State's former Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled Program based on eligibility established for the month of December, 1973. The breakdown shall be as follows:

1973-74

HEALTH AND WELFARE, DEPARTMENT OF

Supplemental Security Income Program—Mandatory	
All Other	\$1,300,000

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.

Effective January 18, 1974

CHAPTER 171
AN ACT to Provide for Special Motor Vehicle License Plates Observing the Bicentennial of the American Revolution.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. Authority. The Maine State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, established under the private and special laws of 1971, chapter 158, is authorized to design, distribute and sell commemorative bicentennial simulated motor vehicle registration plates. The commission, in its discretion, may license the design, distribution and sale of such plates. The commission shall promulgate such rules and regulations as it deems appropriate with respect to the design, distribution and sale of commemorative bicentennial simulated motor vehicle registration plates. No such plates shall be sold, distributed or displayed which are not approved by the commission.