

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE
AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

January 5, 1977 to July 25, 1977

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

PORTLAND LITHOGRAPH COMPANY
PORTLAND, MAINE
1977

PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
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any person upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$100.

Effective October 24, 1977

CHAPTER 121

AN ACT to Provide Certain Travel Expenses for County Commissioners of all Counties.

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

30 MRSA § 106, 2nd ¶, first 2 sentences, as amended by PL 1975, c. 267, are repealed and the following enacted in their place:

These salaries shall be in full for all services of the commissioners, including the management of the jails. These salaries shall also be the full compensation for any expenses or travel to and from the county seat for any commissioner, except as provided in this paragraph and section 55. The county commissioners may, by majority vote, allow the payment of all necessary expenses and travel allowances to and from the county seat by commissioners who live more than 5 miles from the county seat.

Effective October 24, 1977

CHAPTER 122

AN ACT to Standardize the Provision of Copies of Medical Records to Patients of Hospitals.

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

22 MRSA § 1711 is enacted to read:

§ 1711. Patient access to hospital medical records

If a patient of an institution licensed as a hospital by the State, after discharge from such institution, makes written request for copies of his or her medical records, the copies shall, if available, be made available within a reasonable time unless, in the opinion of the hospital, it would be detrimental to the health of the patient to obtain the records. If the hospital is of the opinion that release of the records to the patient would be detrimental to the health of the patient, the hospital shall advise the patient that copies of the records shall be made available to the patient's authorized representative upon presentation of a proper authorization signed by the patient.

If an authorized representative for a patient requests, in writing, that a hospital provide the authorized representative with a copy of the patient's medical records and presents a proper authorization from the patient for the release of the information, copies shall be provided to the authorized representative within a reasonable time.

Reasonable costs incurred by the hospital in making and providing copies of medical records, shall be borne by the requesting person and the hospital may require payment prior to responding to the request.

Effective October 24, 1977

CHAPTER 123

AN ACT Amending the Great Ponds Alteration Statute.

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §§ 380-385, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 608, § 1, are repealed.

Sec. 2. 38 MRSA §§ 386-397 are enacted to read:

§ 386. Findings; purpose

The Legislature finds, declares and recognizes that great ponds have great scenic beauty and unique characteristics, unsurpassed recreational, cultural, historical and environmental value of present and future benefit to the citizens of the State, and that uses are causing the rapid acceleration of the eutrophication of these great ponds and threatening the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of Maine.

The Legislature further finds and declares that the protection and enhancement of the environment of great ponds is a matter of high urgency and priority and that this environment is being endangered by unwise uses.

The Legislature further finds and declares that the cumulative effect and impact of frequent minor alterations and occasional major alterations requires evaluation and scrutiny consistent with that potential impact.

The Legislature further finds and declares that although there are a number of existing state agencies, commissions, boards or similar entities administering various statutes and programs relating to great ponds, all of which are worthwhile and worthy of continuing support, the critical nature of the problem attending great ponds requires coordination and leadership.

The Legislature further recognizes that existing water related environmental statutes and programs were basically developed for free-flowing bodies of waters, such as rivers and streams, and as such are not adequate for application in protecting and reclaiming the water quality of great ponds, and