

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

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  
**STATE OF MAINE**  
AS PASSED AT THE  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
of the  
ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
1977

---

---

## CHAPTER 411

AN ACT Granting Implied Powers to the Public Utilities Commission.

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

35 MRSA § 313 is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

### § 313. Implied powers

The provisions of chapters 1 to 17 shall be interpreted and construed liberally in order to accomplish the purposes therein. The commission shall have all implied and inherent powers pursuant to chapters 1 to 17 which are necessary and proper to faithfully execute its express powers and functions specified in chapters 1 to 17. A substantial compliance with the requirements of chapters 1 to 17 shall be sufficient to give effect to all the rules, orders, acts and regulations of the commission, and they shall not be declared inoperative, illegal or void for any omission of a technical and immaterial nature in respect thereto. Each section of chapters 1 to 17, and every part of each section, are hereby declared to be independent sections and the holding of any section or sections or part or parts thereof to be void, ineffective or unconstitutional for any cause shall not be deemed to affect any other section or part thereof.

Effective October 24, 1977

---

---

## CHAPTER 412

AN ACT to Allow Public Inspection of Absentee Ballot Applications and Envelopes.

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

Sec. 1. 21 MRSA § 1263 is enacted to read:

### § 1263. Applications and envelopes as public records

Absentee ballot applications and absentee ballot return envelopes are public records until the close of voting on election day. After that time, such applications and envelopes are not public records and may be inspected only in accordance with this Title.

Sec. 2. 21 MRSA § 1577, sub-§ 1, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 761, § 56, is repealed and the following enacted in its place: