

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

January 3, 1979 to June 15, 1979

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

Kennebec Journal
Augusta, Maine
1979

PUBLIC LAWS
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CHAPTER 177

S. P. 121 — L. D. 230

AN ACT Pertaining to Absentee Voting.

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

21 MRSA § 1, sub-§ 1, as amended by PL 1973, c. 782, § 1, is further amended to read:

1. **Absentee voter.** "Absentee voter" means a person who is unable to cast his ballot in the municipality in which he is registered to vote, for one of the following reasons: absence from the municipality during the time the polls are open on election day; physical incapacity not adversely affecting his soundness of mind; religious belief which prohibits his doing so; **confinement in a jail or penal institution**; and unreasonable distance from the polls, if he is a resident of a township or a coastal island ward or district.

Effective September 14, 1979

CHAPTER 178

H. P. 279 — L. D. 353

AN ACT to Amend the Safe Drinking Water Act.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA § 2624, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 751, § 4, is amended by adding at the end a new paragraph to read:

The commissioner, with the advice of the board, may establish classes of public water supply systems which do not require certified individuals as operators.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA § 2629, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 751, § 4, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 2629. Fees

Upon payment of a fee not to exceed \$25 and completion of an application for

examination, the applicant shall be scheduled for an examination. The application fees shall be established by the board by rule and shall be based upon different classifications of water treatment systems and the levels of competence to operate various water systems. The revenues derived from the fees shall be deposited by the board in a special account to be used to defray the expenses incurred by the board. Revenues derived from applicants failing the examination shall be retained by the board.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA § 2630, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 751, § 4, is amended to read:

§ 2630. Certification; temporary conditional waiver

On and after October 1, 1971, it shall be unlawful for any supplier of water to operate a public water system unless the competency of the operator or operators is duly certified by the board under this subchapter. ~~The commissioner may issue a temporary waiver for a period of time not exceeding 60 days in the event of extenuating circumstances. The commissioner may further grant a waiver for a period not exceeding one year to a public water system serving not more than 500 service connections in the event that the certification requirements cannot be met.~~ It shall be unlawful for any person to perform the duties of an operator, as defined, without being duly certified under this subchapter.

If a supplier of water loses its certified operator, it shall secure a new certified operator or enter into a contractual agreement with a certified operator of proper classification until a new operator has been employed for the supplier of water.

The commissioner may, in the event of extenuating circumstances, issue a waiver of the certification requirements for a period not exceeding 13 months. In granting the waiver, the commissioner may impose such terms, conditions or requirements as, in his judgment, are necessary to protect the public health and interest.

Sec. 4. 22 MRSA § 2631, as enacted by PL 1975, c. 751, § 4, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§ 2631. Violations

1. **Violation.** Any person violating any provision of this subchapter or the rules and regulations adopted under this subchapter, commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not more than \$500 may be adjudged. Each day of operation in violation of this subchapter or any rules and regulations adopted under this subchapter shall constitute a separate violation.

2. **Injunctive relief.** The commissioner may commence or cause to be instituted a civil action in the Superior Court under subsection 1, to seek injunctive relief to prevent the violation of this subchapter, to prevent the violation of any rule or regulation issued pursuant to this subchapter or to require a public water system or supplier of water to take other action necessary to comply with this

subchapter, with or without a prior order from the commissioner or department.

In addition to the county in which the principal place of business of the supplier of water is located, the action may be instituted in the Superior Court of Kennebec County.

Effective September 14, 1979

CHAPTER 179

H. P. 159 — L. D. 187

AN ACT to Allow Registrars of Deeds to use Facsimile Signature Stamps in Lieu of Original Signatures.

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

33 MRSA § 670 is enacted to read:

§ 670. Facsimile signature of the register and deputy register of deeds

A facsimile of the signature of the register or deputy register of deeds imprinted at his direction upon any deed or other instrument that is customarily recorded at the registry of deeds, including plans and the like, shall have the same validity as his signature.

Effective September 14, 1979

CHAPTER 180

H. P. 394 — L. D. 502

AN ACT Providing for Rent Receipts and Requiring Disclosure of a Landlord's Identity.

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

14 MRSA §§ 6022 and 6023 are enacted to read:

§ 6022. Receipts for rent payments and security deposits

1. Rent receipts required. A landlord or his agent shall provide a written