

# 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.

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Kennebec Journal  
Augusta, Maine  
1979

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**PUBLIC LAWS**  
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**STATE OF MAINE**  
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Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

35 MRSA c. 266 is enacted to read:

## CHAPTER 266

### RESERVE FUND FOR MUNICIPAL WATER DEPARTMENTS

#### AND QUASI-MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICTS

##### § 3311. Reserve fund

Notwithstanding any other provision of law or of any charter to the contrary and in addition to any charter or private and special acts creating or affecting any municipal water department or quasi-municipal water district, the commission, in setting rates, may provide for a contingency reserve fund for any public operated water supply utility that shows evidence, satisfactory to the commission, that a contingency fund is just and reasonable. This fund, if approved, shall be accrued by providing rates to reflect up to a 5% addition to yearly revenues over what is required to operate each utility.

Any funds collected which exceed the limitation set out in this section shall be transferred to the utilities sinking fund at the end of the operation year and shall be used for the retirement of existing bonded indebtedness of the utility or payment of outstanding debts of the utility. If the utility has no sinking fund, bonded indebtedness or outstanding debts, the excess shall be returned to the customers of the utility in the form of rate adjustments on the customers' future utility bills.

Effective September 14, 1979

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## CHAPTER 456

H. P. 69 — L. D. 75

**AN ACT to Allow Dealers to Restrict the Hours during which they will Accept Returnable Beverage Containers.**

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

Whereas, the current law requiring dealers to accept returnable beverage containers at any time during their business day creates severe problems for many store owners with respect to cash flow, storage space and personnel; and

Whereas, the current law imposes an especially unfair burden on smaller dealers who are, in the aforementioned respects, even less able to handle returnables throughout their entire business day; and

Whereas, this burden may pose an immediate threat to the livelihood of some smaller dealers; 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:**

32 MRSA § 1866, sub-§ 2-B is enacted to read:

**2-B. Limitation on hours for returning containers.** A dealer may refuse to accept beverage containers during no more than 3 hours in any one business day. If a dealer refuses to accept containers under this subsection, the hours during which he will not accept containers shall be conspicuously posted.

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

Effective June 15, 1979

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## CHAPTER 457

H. P. 523 — L. D. 665

**AN ACT to Establish a Marijuana Therapeutic Research Program.**

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

22 MRSA c. 558-A is enacted to read:

### CHAPTER 558-A

#### MARIJUANA THERAPEUTIC RESEARCH PROGRAM

§ 2401. Short title

This chapter shall be known and cited as the "Marijuana Therapeutic Research Act."