

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LAWS**  
OF THE  
**STATE OF MAINE**  
AS PASSED BY THE

**ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
December 3, 1980 to June 19, 1981

**AND AT THE**

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
August 3, 1981

**PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH IN  
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**K.J. Printing Co.**  
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**PUBLIC LAWS**  
OF THE  
**STATE OF MAINE**

AS PASSED AT THE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

of the  
ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

1981

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§ 703. Annual statement of financial standing

Each treasurer shall, at the end of each year in connection with the commissioners, make a statement of the financial condition of the county showing in detail all moneys received into and paid out of its treasury, including a statement in detail of all sums received under ~~Title 18, section 2351~~ **Title 18-A, section 3-914, of the division of moneys among general, special and capital reserve accounts and the amounts remaining in each account, of all federal funds received** and other facts and statistics necessary to exhibit the true state of its finances, including the number of weeks' board and expense of clothing furnished prisoners, and shall publish in pamphlet form a reasonable number of copies for distribution among its citizens.

Sec. 11. 30 MRSA § 801, first ¶, last sentence, as amended by PL 1973, c. 302, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**The county commissioners may establish reasonable office hours for offices in the county buildings and provide for a county pay scale, for vacations and for sick leave for clerical help.**

Sec. 12. 30 MRSA § 801, 2nd ¶ is repealed.

Effective September 18, 1981

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**CHAPTER 404**

**H. P. 1272 — L. D. 1487**

**AN ACT to Establish an Arson Reporting Immunity Act.**

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

Sec. 1. 25 MRSA § 2402, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 275, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 25 MRSA c. 316 is enacted to read:

**CHAPTER 316**

**ARSON REPORTING IMMUNITY ACT**

§ 2411. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Action. "Action" includes nonaction or the failure to take action.

**2. Authorized agencies. "Authorized agencies" means:**

- A. Attorney General;**
- B. District attorney responsible for prosecution in the municipality where the fire occurred;**
- C. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, or any other federal agency, only for the purposes of section 2412;**
- D. State Fire Marshal;**
- E. Superintendent of Insurance;**
- F. United States Attorney's office when authorized or charged with investigation or prosecution of the fire in question, only for the purposes of section 2412.**

**3. Immune. "Immune" means that in the absence of fraud or malice, no insurance company or person who furnished information on its behalf to an authorized agency is liable for damages in a civil action or subject to criminal prosecution for furnishing information pursuant to this chapter.**

**§ 2412. Disclosure of information**

**1. Information disclosed. Any authorized agency investigating a fire loss may, in writing, require the insurance company at interest to release to the requesting agency any or all relevant information or evidence deemed important to the authorized agency, which the company may have in its possession relating to the fire loss in question. This information includes, but is not limited to:**

- A. History of previous claims made by the insured;**
- B. Insurance policy information relevant to a fire loss under investigation and any application for that policy;**
- C. Material relating to the investigation of the fire loss including statements and proof of loss; and**
- D. Policy premium payment records.**

**2. Notification. When an insurance company has reason to believe that a fire loss in which it has an interest was not accidentally caused, it shall, in writing, notify an authorized agency and provide it with information developed from the company's inquiry into the fire loss.**

**3. Exchange of information. The authorized agency provided with information pursuant to this section may release or provide that information to any other authorized agency.**

4. **Right to receive upon request.** Any insurance company providing information to an authorized agency pursuant to this section shall have the right, upon request, to receive other information relevant to the fire loss, from such authorized agency, within 30 days.

5. **Immunity.** Any insurance company, or person acting on its behalf, or authorized agency which releases information pursuant to this section, is immune from civil or criminal liability.

§ 2413. Evidence

1. **Confidentiality.** Any authorized agency or insurance company which receives any information pursuant to this chapter shall hold it in confidence and not release the information, except to another authorized agency, until its release is required for a criminal or civil proceeding.

2. **Testimony.** Personnel of any authorized agency may be required to testify by subpoena in any litigation in which the insurance company at interest is named as a party.

Effective September 18, 1981

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## CHAPTER 405

H. P. 1360 — L. D. 1545

### AN ACT to Encourage Motorists to Protect Children in Motor Vehicles by Use of Approved Child Safety Seats.

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

29 MRSA § 1368-B is enacted to read:

§ 1368-B. Use of approved child safety seats

1. **Use of seats.** The Legislature finds and declares that in Maine each year motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death and a major cause of disability among children under 4 years of age.

A multiplicity of field studies confirm that a majority of serious injuries and deaths would be avoided if child passengers were properly restrained by using child safety seats. Notwithstanding this fact, current seat restraint utilization rates among children are typically less than 10%, making this a promising area for the reduction of deaths and serious injuries among children.

In futherance of reasonable protective public policies, the Commissioner of Public