

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LAWS**  
OF THE  
**STATE OF MAINE**

AS PASSED BY THE  
ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
December 1, 1982 to June 24, 1983  
Chapters 453-End

AND AT THE  
**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
September 6, 1983 to September 7, 1983  
Chapters 583-588

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

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J.S. McCarthy Co., Inc.  
Augusta, Maine  
1983

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**PUBLIC LAWS**  
OF THE  
**STATE OF MAINE**

AS PASSED AT THE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

CONTINUED

and

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

of the

ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

1983

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ers without prior  
legislative  
approval.

Sec. 14. PL 1983, c. 479, Emergency clause is amended to read:

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, sections 3, 5, 6, 9 to 14, 23, 25, 32 and 33 of this Act shall take effect when approved. Sections 1, 2, 4 and 15 to 17 shall take effect on July 1, 1983. The remaining sections shall take effect on January 1, 1984, but shall only apply as to injuries occurring on and after that day.

Sec. 15. PL 1983, c. 370, is amended by inserting at the end a new section to read:

Sec. 16. Effective date. The provisions of this Act shall take effect on January 1, 1984.

Sec. 16. Effective date. Section 15 of this Act shall take effect 90 days after adjournment of the Legislature.

Sec. 17. PL 1983, c. 479, §33 is amended to read:

Sec 33. Data system funds. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, all unexpended moneys previously appropriated to the Workers' Compensation Commission for the study, acquisition and implementation of a data system shall be retained for that use by the commission. These funds shall not lapse to the General Fund.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved, except as otherwise indicated.

Effective June 30, 1983, unless otherwise indicated.

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## CHAPTER 531

H.P. 913 - L.D. 1166

AN ACT Concerning Special  
Telecommunications Equipment for the  
Deaf, Hearing Impaired and Speech  
Impaired.

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

Sec. 1. 35 MRSA §2361, as amended by PL 1981, c. 416, is further amended to read:

§2361. Telecommunication services for the deaf, hearing impaired and speech impaired

1. Toll call rates. The commission shall establish, within 30 days after the effective date of this Act, a 70% rate reduction for intrastate toll calls from deaf and hearing impaired and speech impaired persons who must rely on teletypewriters for residential telephone communications. To qualify for the reduction, a customer must file an affidavit, on a form approved by the Public Utilities Commission, with the telephone company, stating that, due to deafness or hearing impairment or speech impairment, he or a member of the household must rely on a teletypewriter for telephone communications, and that such equipment is connected or acoustically coupled to his telephone.

2. Moneys for telecommunication typewriters. The Bureau of Rehabilitation within the Department of Human Services, pursuant to any appropriation of moneys to the bureau for telecommunication typewriters for the deaf, hearing impaired and speech impaired, shall, upon request, provide up to 50% of the cost of telecommunication typewriters to any organization or municipality that makes available the remaining funds for this equipment in a manner satisfactory to the Director of the Bureau of Rehabilitation.

Sec. 2. 35 MRSA §2361, sub-§§3 and 4 are enacted to read:

3. Telecommunications Equipment Fund. A Telecommunications Equipment Fund is established. The Office of Deafness in the Bureau of Rehabilitation may accept any gifts or grants for the purposes of this section. These, and any authorized appropriations shall be deposited in the fund, and disbursed in accordance with this section. The fund may be used for purchase, lease, upgrading, installation, maintenance and repair of special telecommunications equipment for the deaf, hearing impaired or speech impaired. The Office of Deafness under the Bureau of Rehabilitation may draw on the fund in accordance with the Telecommunications Equipment Plan required under subsection 4. The commission shall include a progress report on this program in its annual report under section 17, subsection 2.

4. Telecommunications equipment plan. The Office of Deafness shall develop a plan to make special telecommunications equipment available to deaf, hearing impaired and speech impaired persons, and to

distribute moneys from the Telecommunications Equipment Fund. The plan shall be developed by the Office of Deafness and approved by the commission annually, not later than January 1st, after appropriate notice and hearing. The plan shall provide for the expenditure of moneys from the fund for the benefit of deaf, hearing impaired and speech impaired persons for the purchase, lease, upgrading, installation, maintenance and repair of special telecommunications equipment capable of serving their needs. Persons who are profoundly deaf or speech impaired so that they cannot use the telephone for expressive or receptive communications, as verified by a written report from an otologist, audiologist or physician are eligible for the assistance from the fund. The plan shall include specific criteria that will govern the priorities assigned to various persons who need this equipment. The criteria shall take into account household income, degree of impairment, need for emergency communications, living arrangements and other factors deemed relevant by the Office of Deafness.

Sec. 3. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

	<u>1983-84</u>	<u>1984-85</u>
BUREAU OF REHABILITATION		
Office of Deafness		
Telecommunications Equipment Fund		
All Other	\$40,000	\$40,000

Effective September 23, 1983.

## CHAPTER 532

S.P. 441 - L.D. 1348

AN ACT to Promote the Development of  
 Human Resources in Rural Areas of Maine.

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §1-B is enacted to read:

§1-B. Preservation of rural life and values; joint