

# 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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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

responsibility

The Legislature finds there has been a dramatic increase of interest in rural living and small and part-time farming; that a high proportion of the population in rural areas are poor, elderly and underemployed; agriculture is significant to the state's economy and that a prospering, stable rural community contributes to the rural quality of life, the preservation of productive farm, farmlands and open space.

The Legislature finds that programs which improve the employment opportunity, rural skills, food supply, health and nutrition of the rural people of Maine will improve the economy of Maine, improve the rural quality of life and the health of people and is therefore in the public interest.

The Legislature further finds the preservation of rural life and values in the State to be the joint responsibility of all public agencies, local, state and federal, whose policies and programs substantially impact the economy and general welfare of people who reside in rural Maine, such as the development and implementation of programs which assist in the maintenance of family farms, provide specialized opportunities for education and technical training and improve health and nutrition. The state agencies in addition to the department include, but are not limited to, the Department of Educational and Cultural Services, Department of Human Services, Department of Labor, the Department of Conservation and the Division of Community Services of the Executive Department.

Sec. 2. 7 MRSA c. 9 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 9

LOCAL FOOD CENTERS

§301. Legislative intent

The Legislature finds that malnutrition, obesity and other dietary deficiencies pose serious threats to the health of Maine people, particularly for low-income and elderly residents. It further finds that local production and home processing of food is increasing in Maine and provides families greater access to nutritionally well-balanced products for consumption.

§302. Community cooperative food centers

There shall be established within the State community cooperative food centers to provide rural con-

sumers with low-cost nutritious local food, facilitate production and marketing of local food, provide opportunities for cost-effective local food processing facilities and to deliver nutritional education leading to improved health of rural citizens.

This chapter shall be administered by the Division of Community Services in cooperation with appropriate local, state and federal agencies. The division shall make challenge grants available for pilot community food center projects.

Sec. 3. 20-A MRSa §4605 is enacted to read:

§4605. Agricultural and natural resource education; curricula and resource materials

Curricula and resource materials in agricultural and natural resource education shall be developed by the department and made available to students in public elementary and secondary schools.

In kindergarten and grades 1 to 6, educational curriculum elements may be included for the purpose of career orientation, consumer knowledge and environmental awareness. In grades 7 and 8, educational elements may include exploratory programs in agricultural arts and agencies. In grades 9 to 12, basic courses may be offered to provide consumer awareness and skills, a vocational exploration and skills and general agricultural education. Programs may include animal sciences, plant sciences, agricultural mechanics, energy utilization and conservation and community development.

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSa §10101, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 693, §§5 and 8, is amended to read:

A. Provide vocational, technical and occupational education for those who demonstrate aptitude and need and who require training designed for service in a agriculture, trade, industry or commerce;

Effective September 23, 1983.

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## CHAPTER 533

H.P. 427 - L.D. 509

AN ACT to Remove the Requirement that  
Farm Vehicles have a Fuel Use Decal.