

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.

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

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

"Shall a bond issue be authorized in the amount of \$21,094,000 to provide for various state facilities' projects and to provide for municipal facility improvements including: Necessary capital improvements at corrections' facilities; stabilization restoration of the state's most unique historic structures which are in public or nonprofit ownerships, such as forts, mansions, theaters, ships and lighthouses; a broad range of projects for improving, constructing, renovating, equipping and furnishing state departments' physical plant facilities, ranging from new District Courts for the Bath-Brunswick and Skowhegan areas to the repair of roofs, masonry and boilers on a statewide priority basis; hazardous waste cleanup; water pollution control projects; and establishment of a public facilities' grants program to assist municipalities in meeting their capital needs?"

The legal voters of each city, town and plantation shall vote by ballot on this question, and shall designate their choice by a cross or check mark placed within a corresponding square below the word "Yes" or "No." The ballots shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings and returns made to the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for members of the Legislature. The Governor shall review the returns and, if it appears that a majority of the legal votes are in favor of the Act, the Governor shall proclaim that fact without delay, and the Act shall become effective 30 days after the date of the proclamation.

The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to each city, town and plantation all ballots, returns and copies of this Act necessary to carry out the purpose of this referendum.

Effective Pending Referendum.

CHAPTER 586

S.P. 641 - L.D. 1804

AN ACT to Ease Municipal Obligations under
the Forest Fire Suppression Tax.

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

Whereas, municipal assessors are required to review all land within their municipality and provide an estimate by October 15th of the number of parcels containing at least one acre of protected land and the numbers of acres in each parcel; and

Whereas, municipal assessors are having difficulty gathering the information necessary to provide these estimates; and

Whereas, requiring these estimates will cause undue burdens for some municipal officials; 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:

36 MRSA §2712, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 556, §21, is amended to read:

2. Municipal certification. By July 15th, the State Tax Assessor shall notify municipal assessors of the requirements of this chapter and require municipal assessors to make a determination of which landowners within their municipality are subject to taxation under this chapter.

By August 1st, municipal assessors shall notify all landowners who may be subject to taxation under this chapter, including landowners whose land borders on a municipal boundary, and require them to supply information to enable the local assessor to determine the number of acres in parcels containing 100 or more acres. If a landowner does not respond by September 1st, he waives his right to appeal the determination made by the municipal assessors.

By September 15th, municipal assessors shall review information received from landowners and notify all landowners of their decision concerning the number of acres of protected land in each parcel. Landowners shall have 15 days within which to request a reconsideration by the municipal assessors.

All reconsiderations shall be completed by October 15th and the final determination regarding all parcels of land subject to taxation under this chapter shall be certified to the State Tax Assessor. A landowner may appeal a municipality's decision to the Land Classification Appeals Board within 60 days of

the municipal assessors final determination. If the board makes a determination that the owner is not subject to taxation under this chapter, the municipality shall notify the State Tax Assessor who shall abate the tax assessed under this chapter. In regard to the unorganized territory, the State Tax Assessor has the same rights and obligations as municipal assessors under this section.

Any municipality which certifies to the State Tax Assessor by October 15th, the landowners subject to the tax assessed under this chapter shall be entitled to compensation for administrative costs as provided in section 2715.

By October 15, 1983, municipal assessors shall review all land within their municipality and provide to the Forest Fire Advisory Council an estimate of the number of parcels containing at least one acre of protected land and the numbers of acres in each parcel.

By September 15, 1984, municipal assessors shall review all land within their municipality and provide to the State Tax Assessor a listing of all persons owning at least one acre of protected land on April 1, 1984, and the numbers of acres in each parcel owned by each person listed.

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

Effective September 9, 1983.

CHAPTER 587

H.P. 1369 - L.D. 1803

AN ACT to Correct and Clarify the Workers' Compensation Laws.

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

Sec. 1. 39 MRSA §95, as amended by PL 1983, c. 46, is further amended to read:

§95. Time for filing petitions

Any employee's claim for compensation under this Act shall be barred unless an agreement or a petition s provided in section 94 shall be filed within 2