

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE
ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

December 7, 1988 to July 1, 1989

Chapters 1 - 502

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 30, 1989

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

J.S. McCarthy Company
Augusta, Maine
1989

PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED AT THE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

of the
ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE

1989

CHAPTER 378

H.P. 1007 - L.D. 1405

**An Act to Amend the Laws Relating to
Small Claims**

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

Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §7484, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1981, c. 667, §2, is amended to read:

4. Removal. There shall be no removal of a small claims action to Superior Court; and

Sec. 2. 14 MRSA §7484, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Judgment; entry; notice. Upon completion of the hearing, the court shall promptly enter judgment for the prevailing party for the relief to which that party is entitled. The clerk shall provide to the parties a copy of the notice of judgment which shall require satisfaction of the judgment within 30 days. Upon the request of either party, the clerk shall schedule a disclosure hearing on a date certain, to be held if the judgment is not satisfied, and shall notify the judgment debtor that failure to appear at the scheduled disclosure hearing may result in the issue of summary process if requested by the judgment creditor; and

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 379

H.P. 961 - L.D. 1339

**An Act to Require Municipalities to Leave
the Names of Women Who Marry on Voting
Registration Records**

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

21-A MRSA §128, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Marriage; notice of inquiry. If the registrar determines that a voter has married, the registrar shall not for that reason alone remove the voter's name from the voting list. The registrar may send a notice inquiring whether, as a result of marriage, that voter's name or address has been changed. Nothing in this subsection relieves a voter of the duty to give the registrar written notice of a change of name or address in accordance with section 129.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 380

H.P. 948 - L.D. 1316

**An Act for the Preservation of
Affordable Rental Housing in Maine**

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

Whereas, current law preserving rental housing for low-income households will expire on August 1, 1989; and

Whereas, 2,000 rental units will be at risk in 1990 and 18,000 units will be at risk over the next decade; and

Whereas, no new federally subsidized low-income rental units have been constructed since 1984 while, at the same time, the number of low-income households has increased significantly; and

Whereas, it is necessary to preserve as many of these low-income rental units as possible for low-income households; 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:

30-A MRSA §4979, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 48, §12, is repealed.

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

Effective June 20, 1989.

CHAPTER 381

H.P. 927 - L.D. 1293

**An Act to Amend the Municipal Limit for
School Debt**

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

Whereas, the definition of the state reimbursable portion of school debt under the municipal debt limit law has not been updated to reflect the current provisions for state subsidy for school construction under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A; and

Whereas, this situation may preclude school construction projects in low valuation communities which are

eligible for high percentages of state subsidy and are most in need of new school facilities; 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:

30-A MRSA §5703, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and amended by PL 1989, cc. 6, 9, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§5703. Exclusion

1. Limitations on municipal debt. The limitations on municipal debt in section 5702 shall not be construed as applying to any funds received in trust by any municipality, any loan which has been funded or refunded, notes issued in anticipation of federal or state aid or revenue sharing money, tax anticipation loans, notes maturing in the current municipal year, indebtedness of entities other than municipalities, indebtedness of any municipality to the Maine School Building Authority, debt issued under chapter 235 and Title 10, chapter 110, subchapter IV, obligations payable from revenues of the current municipal year or from other revenues previously appropriated by or committed to the municipality, and the state reimbursable portion of school debt. The limitations on municipal debt set forth in section 5702 do not apply to obligations incurred by one or more municipalities pursuant to Title 38, section 1304-B, with respect to solid waste facilities, which obligations are regulated in the manner set forth in Title 38, section 1304-B.

2. State reimbursement. For the purpose of this section, the state reimbursable portion of school debt with respect to any municipality shall be the amount determined by:

A. Multiplying the outstanding amount of each issue of debt incurred for school purposes by the municipality in connection with a project which qualifies for state school construction aid and the percentage of the capital outlay costs of such project which was applicable to determine the amount of state school construction aid.

(1) The certificate of the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services that a project qualifies for state school construction aid and as to the percentage of that aid to which a municipality was entitled shall be conclusive evidence of the facts stated therein; or

B. For school construction projects approved by the State Board of Education after July 1, 1985, by multiplying the outstanding amount of each issue of debt incurred for school purposes by the municipality in connection with a project which qualifies for

state school construction subsidy under Title 20-A and the state share percentage of operating costs for that municipality as defined in Title 20-A, section 15609, subsection 1, paragraph A, subparagraph (1), for the year in which the project received concept approval from the State Board of Education.

(1) The certificate of the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services that a project qualifies for state school construction aid and as to the state share percentage of operating costs for that municipality as defined in Title 20-A, section 15609, subsection 1, paragraph A, subparagraph (1), for the year in which the project received concept approval shall be conclusive evidence of the facts stated therein.

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

Effective June 20, 1989.

CHAPTER 382

H.P. 820 - L.D. 1148

An Act to Provide for the Forfeiture of Firearms Used to Commit Crimes

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

17-A MRSA §1158 is enacted to read:

§1158. Forfeiture of firearms

As part of every judgment of conviction and sentence imposed, every firearm used by the defendant or any accomplice during the commission of any murder or Class A, Class B or Class C crime shall be forfeited to the State and the court shall so order, unless another person can satisfy the court prior to the judgment and by a preponderance of the evidence that such other person had a right to possess the firearm, to the exclusion of the defendant, at the time of the offense. The Attorney General shall adopt rules in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, governing the disposition to state, county and municipal agencies of firearms forfeited under this section.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 383

H.P. 816 - L.D. 1144

An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Unlawful Drugs in or near Schools