

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE
ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
November 28, 1995 to December 1, 1995

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
January 3, 1996 to April 4, 1996

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
JULY 4, 1996

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
1995

their costs determined and paid as provided in this Act.

The Early Retirement Incentives Review Panel shall review those other payments made in connection with retirement between July 1, 1993 and the effective date of this Act and issue an advisory determination on whether those payments would meet the criteria for early retirement incentives established in this Act if they were offered after the effective date of this Act.

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

Effective March 14, 1996.

CHAPTER 542

H.P. 609 - L.D. 819

An Act to Require Notification to the Landowner When Land Is Being Considered for Placement in a Resource Protection Zone

Mandate preamble. This measure requires one or more local units of government to expand or modify activities so as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues but does not provide funding for at least 90% of those expenditures. Pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 21, two thirds of all of the members elected to each House have determined it necessary to enact this measure.

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

Sec. 1. 38 MRSA §438-A, sub-§1-B is enacted to read:

1-B. Notification to landowners. This subsection governs notice to landowners whose property is being considered for placement in a resource protection zone.

A. In addition to the notice required by Title 30-A, section 4352, subsection 9, a municipality shall provide written notification to landowners whose property is being considered by the municipality for placement in a resource protection zone. Notification to landowners must be made by first-class mail to the last known addresses of the persons against whom property tax on each parcel is assessed. The municipal officers shall prepare and file with the municipal clerk a sworn, notarized certificate indicating those persons to whom notice was mailed and at what addresses, and when, by whom and from what

location notice was mailed. This certificate constitutes prima facie evidence that notice was sent to those persons named in the certificate. The municipality must send notice not later than 14 days before its planning board votes to establish a public hearing on adoption or amendment of a zoning ordinance or map that places the landowners' property in the resource protection zone. Once a landowner's property has been placed in a resource protection zone, individual notice is not required to be sent to the landowner when the zoning ordinance or map is later amended in a way that does not affect the inclusion of the landowner's property in the resource protection zone.

B. In addition to the notice required by this Title or by rules adopted pursuant to this Title, the board shall provide written notification to landowners whose property is being considered by the board for placement in a resource protection zone. Notification to landowners must be made by first-class mail to the last known addresses of the persons against whom property tax on each parcel is assessed. The board shall prepare and file with the commissioner a sworn, notarized certificate indicating those persons to whom notice was mailed and at what addresses, and when, by whom and from what location notice was mailed. This certificate constitutes prima facie evidence that notice was sent to those persons named in the certificate. The board must send notice not later than 30 days before the close of the public comment period prior to formal consideration of placement of the property in a resource protection zone by the board. Upon request of the board, the municipality for which the ordinance is being adopted shall provide the board with the names and addresses of persons entitled to notice under this subsection. Notification and filing of a certificate by the department are deemed to be notification and filing by the board for purposes of this section.

C. Any action challenging the validity of an ordinance based on failure by the board or municipality to comply with this subsection must be brought in Superior Court within 30 days after adoption or amendment of the ordinance or map. The Superior Court may invalidate an amended ordinance or map if the appellant demonstrates that the appellant was entitled to receive notice under this subsection, that the municipality or board failed to send notice as required, that the appellant had no knowledge of the proposed adoption or amendment of the ordinance or map and that the appellant was materially prejudiced by that lack of knowledge. This paragraph does not alter the right of a person to challenge the validity of any ordinance or map based on the fail-

ure of a municipality to provide notice as required by Title 30-A, section 4352, subsection 9 or the failure of the board to provide notice as required by this Title.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 543

H.P. 1228 - L.D. 1681

An Act Pertaining to the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority

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

Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §8102, sub-§4, as amended by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. L, §44, is further amended to read:

4. State. "State" means the State of Maine or any office, department, agency, authority, commission, board, institution, hospital or other instrumentality of the State, including the Maine Turnpike Authority, the Maine Port Authority, the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority, the Maine Technical College System, the Maine Veterans' Homes, the Maine State Retirement System and all such other state entities.

Sec. 2. 23 MRSA §8005, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 374, §3, is amended to read:

2. Expenditure of funds. These funds must be spent first to reinstate, ~~on or before December 31, 1995, at the earliest practicable time,~~ regularly scheduled passenger rail service between Portland, Maine and Boston, Massachusetts, and points between. Any funds that exceed those necessary to reinstate service between those points must be spent by the authority to extend, to the extent practicable, regularly scheduled passenger rail service to other points within and outside of this State.

Sec. 3. 23 MRSA §8112, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 374, §3, is amended to read:

2. Meetings of directors; compensation. All the powers of the authority may be exercised by the board of directors in lawful meeting and a majority of the directors ~~are then in office~~ is necessary for a quorum. Regular meetings of the board of directors may be established by bylaw and notice need not be given to the directors of the regular meeting. Each

director is entitled to compensation according to the provisions of Title 5, chapter 379.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 544

H.P. 1231 - L.D. 1684

An Act to Consolidate Insurer Billing Procedures and to Streamline the Licensing Process for Reinsurance Intermediaries

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

Whereas, insurers and the Bureau of Insurance may assume considerable expenses that may otherwise be avoided under the provisions contemplated by this legislation; and

Whereas, current provisions of the law result in significant inefficiencies within the Bureau of Insurance that may otherwise be streamlined with this legislation; and

Whereas, to implement these provisions immediately requires that this legislation be enacted as emergency legislation; 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:

Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §237, sub-§§4 and 5, as amended by PL 1991, c. 334, §4, are further amended to read:

4. Notification of assessment. On or before July 1st of each year, the superintendent shall ~~notify forward to each insurer an itemized bill of the amount due for the annual assessment due,~~ the amount due for filing of the annual statement pursuant to sections 423 and 601 and the amount due for the certificate of authority annual continuation fee pursuant to section 601. When an extension of the time of filing an annual statement is granted for good cause by the superintendent pursuant to section 423, subsection 1, the insurer must be assessed a provisional amount of \$100. Upon receipt of the insurer's annual statement, the provisional assessment must be adjusted to effect a final assessment for the fiscal year at the same rate