

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

**AS PASSED BY THE**  
**ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND SPECIAL SESSION**  
**September 5, 1996 to September 7, 1996**

**ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**December 4, 1996 to March 27, 1997**

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
**March 27, 1997 to June 20, 1997**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**JUNE 26, 1997**

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**SEPTEMBER 19, 1997**

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

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**J.S. McCarthy Company**  
**Augusta, Maine**  
**1997**

**CHAPTER 169**

**H.P. 307 - L.D. 371**

**An Act to Clarify the Definition of  
Qualified School for  
Telecommunications Network  
Purposes**

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

**Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §7104-A, sub-§3, ¶B,** as enacted by PL 1995, c. 631, §3 and affected by §5, is amended to read:

B. "Qualified school" means a public school as defined in Title 20-A, section 1, subsection 24; a private secondary school approved under Title 20-A, section 2951 or section 2901; or a school that provides free public access to all advanced telecommunications services available at that school, if the commission determines, in consultation with the Department of Education, that including that school as a qualified school is in the public interest.

See title page for effective date.

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**CHAPTER 170**

**H.P. 788 - L.D. 1076**

**An Act to Increase the Civil Penalty  
for Cruelty to Animals**

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

**Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §4016,** as amended by PL 1993, c. 81, §1, is further amended to read:

**§4016. Violation**

Any person who violates this chapter commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not less than ~~\$400~~ \$250 or more than \$1,000 for each offense must be adjudged and for which such other relief as may be necessary to restore the animal to good health or to ameliorate the effects of cruelty and to ensure that the animal is well cared for may be ordered.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 171**

**H.P. 515 - L.D. 706**

**An Act to Amend the Washington  
County Budget Advisory Committee**

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

**Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §900-B, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 1991, c. 777, §1, is amended to read:

**1. Municipal officers; election; term.** The municipal officers from each county commissioner district shall choose the budget advisory committee members by the following procedure.

A. Before September 15th of every year, the county commissioners shall notify all municipal officers in the county to caucus by county commissioner districts at a specified date, time and place for the purpose of electing at least one municipal officer from each district as a member of the budget advisory committee; except that, in 1992, at least 3 municipal officers must be selected from each district unless the municipal officers of a district decide that another person from that district would be better qualified. The county commissioner shall serve as nonvoting moderator for that district caucus. Nominations must be received from the floor. The nominee receiving the most votes is approved as a budget advisory committee member except that, in 1992, each caucus shall elect 3 members. The names of those elected by the caucus must be recorded and forwarded to the county commissioners.

B. Budget advisory committee members serve 3-year terms except that, in 1992, one member from each district must be elected for a one-year term, one member for a 2-year term and one member for a 3-year term. If a budget advisory committee member ceases to be a municipal officer during the term of membership, that committee member vacates membership and the next district caucus shall elect a qualified municipal officer to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

A municipal officer elected as a member of the budget advisory committee may name a designee to serve on the committee.

See title page for effective date.