

# 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 172****H.P. 469 - L.D. 640****An Act Requiring Qualified Investigation of Certain Truck-related and Bus-related Fatalities****Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2251, sub-§4**, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

**4. Investigation.** A law enforcement officer who investigates a reportable accident shall:

A. Interview participants and witnesses; and

B. Within 5 days from the time of notification of the accident, transmit a written report containing all available information to the Chief of the State Police.

Every reported accident must be promptly investigated.

If the accident results in serious bodily injury or death of any person, the investigation must be conducted by an officer who has met the training standards of a full-time law enforcement officer. A law enforcement officer who investigates an accident involving a bus or truck with a gross vehicle weight rating or a registered weight in excess of 10,000 pounds that results in the death of any person shall request a certified accident reconstructionist and the Bureau of State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit to assist in the investigation of the accident. The Attorney General shall designate an assistant attorney general familiar with federal commercial vehicle laws and regulations to serve as a resource to any district attorney who initiates a prosecution arising from an accident involving a bus or truck with a gross vehicle weight rating or a registered weight in excess of 10,000 pounds that results in the death of any person.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 173****H.P. 739 - L.D. 1003****An Act to Amend the Maine Civil Legal Services Fund****Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec. 1. 4 MRSA §18-A, sub-§1, ¶B**, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 503, is amended to read:

B. Money Except as provided in paragraph C, money in the fund must be disbursed by the administrator in accordance with allocations approved by the Legislature to legal service providers to legal service providers to support the provision of free civil legal services to low-income people or the needy elderly in this State. Money disbursed from the fund may not be used by a recipient to support lobbying as defined in Title 3, section 312-A, subsection 9, unless the recipient is responding to a request by a Legislator or a member of the Executive Department. Only the following legal service providers may receive disbursement to provide free civil legal services:

(1) Nonprofit organizations whose missions are to provide free civil legal services and who have at least one year of experience providing free civil legal services;

(2) Legal aid clinics of accredited law schools operating exclusively in Maine; and

(3) Programs whose primary mission is to coordinate pro bono legal services for low-income people in this State.

**Sec. 2. 4 MRSA §18-A, sub-§1, ¶C** is enacted to read:

C. In the first year the Judicial Department may draw from the fund any programming, printing and distribution costs that are necessary to implement surcharges on fines, penalties or forfeitures as provided in subsection 3-A.

**Sec. 3. 4 MRSA §18-A, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 503, is amended to read:

**2. Administration.** The Supreme Judicial Court, or a person or organization designated by the court, is the administrator and shall administer the fund. The administrator shall disburse funds according to determinations made by the commission established in subsection 6. The administrator shall report at least annually to the Legislature on the previous year's income and expenditures.

**Sec. 4. 4 MRSA §18-A, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 503, is repealed.

**Sec. 5. 4 MRSA §18-A, sub-§3-A** is enacted to read:

**3-A. Funding.** Funding for the fund may be provided by the following methods.