

# 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 253**

H.P. 888 - L.D. 1205

**An Act to Amend Certain Provisions  
Regarding the Presumption of  
Negotiating a Worthless Instrument****Be it enacted by the People of the State of  
Maine as follows:****Sec. 1.** 17-A MRSA §708, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:**2-A.** The following evidentiary provisions apply.

A. It is presumed that the person who issued or negotiated the instrument had no account with the drawee at the time the instrument was issued or negotiated if there is a purported stamp or writing of the drawee, payor bank or presenting bank on or accompanying the instrument that states "no account," "account closed" or some other terminology indicating that the instrument was not honored because no account existed.

B. It is presumed that the person who issued or negotiated the instrument had insufficient funds with the drawee at the time the instrument was issued or negotiated if there is a purported stamp or writing of the drawee, payor bank or presenting bank on or accompanying the instrument that states "insufficient funds," "NSF" or some other terminology indicating that the instrument was not honored due to lack of funds.

C. The purported stamp or writing of the drawee, payor bank or presenting bank on or accompanying a negotiable instrument is admissible in evidence in any court of the State, unless the defendant requests in writing at least 10 days before trial that the prosecution provide a qualified witness to testify as to why the instrument was not honored.

See title page for effective date.

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**CHAPTER 254**

S.P. 538 - L.D. 1657

**An Act to Establish the Interstate  
Economic Development Commission  
for the Northern New England States****Be it enacted by the People of the State of  
Maine as follows:****Sec. 1.** 5 MRSA c. 557 is enacted to read:**CHAPTER 557****INTERSTATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION FOR THE NORTHERN NEW  
ENGLAND STATES****§21301. Commission**

**1. Establishment.** The Interstate Economic Development Commission for the Northern New England States, referred to in this chapter as the "commission," is created to examine and promote economic development throughout the member states set forth in subsection 2.

**2. Member states.** The member states are Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont to the extent that these states have enacted legislation substantially the same as this chapter.

**3. Members.** The commission consists of the following 15 members:

A. The governor of each member state, or the governor's designee;

B. The commissioner of the state department of each member state with jurisdiction over economic development, or the commissioner's designee;

C. Three public members, one appointed by each governor of each member state; and

D. Six legislative members, appointed by the presiding officer of each House of the Legislature of each member state.

**4. Terms.** Members of the commission who are governors, commissioners or legislative members serve during the term of office for which they were elected or appointed. Public members serve 4-year terms. A vacancy must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

**5. Chair.** The position of chair rotates among the governors of the member states, or their designees, on an annual basis. Before or at the first meeting of the commission, the governors shall establish the order of rotation.

**6. Compensation.** Members are not entitled to compensation.

**7. Meetings.** The commission shall meet at least 6 times each year.

**§21302. Duties of the commission**

**1. Economic development.** The commission shall gather and review information regarding economic development and methods of enhancing