

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.

J.S. McCarthy Company
Augusta, Maine
1997

request assistance with the preparation of any recommended legislation from the Legislative Council.

4. Purpose of task force. The task force shall study issues relating to the design and production of license plates and make recommendations to the Legislature for the new general plate issue beginning July 1, 1999. In conducting the study the task force shall examine the following.

A. The task force shall evaluate the existing equipment at the Warren prison facility, its adequacy for meeting plate production demand and the costs of overhauling that equipment prior to a new general issue. The task force shall examine state-of-the-art technology for in-house graphics creation and production of specialty plates. The task force shall consider costs of new equipment and the impact of various types of equipment on production capabilities and on jobs at the prison facility.

B. The task force shall consider methods of assigning unique identifiers to license plates. The task force shall consider use of a stacked letter system to allow duplication of numbers among different types of plates. The task force shall make recommendations as to the use of a single numbering system or a system that allows duplication.

C. ~~The~~ Until November 1, 1996, the task force shall consider designs for a new general issue plate to replace the lobster plate design. The task force shall use the plate design standards of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators in developing or evaluating designs. The task force shall present design alternatives to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation before making a recommendation, on or by November 1, 1996, on plate design.

D. The task force may consider any other issues related to the production of license plates.

5. Reimbursement for travel expenses. Members of the task force who are Legislators or were Legislators at the time of appointment are entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses for meetings of the task force. Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation who participated in meetings initiated by the Secretary of State to study license plate production issues during the period of September 1, 1995 to December 31, 1995 are entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses upon submitting the appropriate expense forms to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council.

6. Initial recommendation. The task force shall submit a an initial report including findings,

recommendations and proposed legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation and to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council no later than November 1, 1996. The task force shall submit legislation to implement its recommendations to the Revisor of Statutes no later than January 1, 1997. The report must include a proposed plate design for the new general issue, recommendations for the registration classes required to display the new general issue plates and for the specialty plates to remain in use concurrent with the new general issue.

7. Final recommendations. The task force shall submit its final recommendations regarding the use of a single numbering system or a system that allows duplication to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation and to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council during the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.

Sec. 3. Transition; retroactivity. Those members of the task force to study the production and issuance of license plates who were appointed pursuant to Public Law 1995, chapter 645, Part C, section 15 continue to serve as members of the task force, except that the 2 legislative members of the task force whose legislative terms have expired must be replaced with new appointees who are members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

This section and those sections of this Act that amend Public Law 1995, chapter 645, Part C, section 15 apply retroactively to November 1, 1996.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 312

H.P. 1204 - L.D. 1704

An Act to Require the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to File Monthly Revenue Reports

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7017, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

7. Monthly report. By the 15th day of each month, the department shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters. When the Legislature is in session, the department shall submit its report at a meeting of the committee. When the Legislature is not in session, the department shall mail the report to each member of the committee with a copy to the Executive Director of the Legisla-

tive Council. The report must identify for the immediately preceding month:

- A. Revenues of the department;
- B. Expenditures of the department; and
- C. The difference between the projected revenues and expenditures of the department and the actual revenues and expenditures.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 313

H.P. 1301 - L.D. 1844

An Act to Amend the Professional Service Corporation Act As It Relates to Eye Care Providers

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

Sec. 1. 13 MRSA §705, as amended by PL 1989, c. 613, is further amended to read:

§705. Corporate organization

An individual or group of individuals duly licensed or otherwise legally authorized to render the same professional service within this State may organize and become a shareholder or shareholders of a professional corporation under the corporation laws for the sole and specific purpose of rendering the same and specific professional service. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, for the purposes of this chapter, osteopathic physicians licensed under Title 32, chapter 36; and physicians and surgeons licensed under Title 32, chapter 48; are considered to render the same professional service. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the purposes of this chapter, optometrists licensed under Title 32, chapter 34-A and ophthalmologists licensed under Title 32, chapter 36 or 48 may organize and become the sole shareholders of the same professional corporation under the corporation laws for the sole and specific purpose of rendering their respective professional services that are considered to be complementary to one another.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 314

S.P. 657 - L.D. 1879

An Act Authorizing the Bureau of Insurance to Release Aggregate Ratios of Consumer Complaints to the Public

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

Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §216, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1989, c. 269, §5, is further amended to read:

2. All records of the bureau ~~shall be~~ are subject to public inspection, except as otherwise expressly provided by law as to particular matters; and except that records, correspondence and reports of investigation in connection with actual or claimed violations of this Title or prosecution or disciplinary action ~~therefor shall be for those violations are~~ confidential. The confidential nature of any such record, correspondence or report ~~shall may~~ not limit or affect use of the same by the superintendent in any such prosecution or action. This subsection ~~shall does~~ not preclude participation by the superintendent in the establishment of an interstate complaint handling system ~~which that~~ may involve the sharing of information with insurance regulatory officials in other jurisdictions and with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, ~~provided that as long as~~ the names of the complainant and insured remain confidential. This subsection does not preclude the dissemination of aggregate ratios of substantiated consumer complaints to the public by the superintendent. Only complaints received in writing are included in the calculation of the complaint ratio. A complaint received by electronic means is considered a written complaint. A substantiated consumer complaint includes any matter in which the resolution results in a favorable outcome to the consumer, including, but not limited to, the recovery of premium refunds, additional amounts paid on claims or policy reinstatements. A matter in which the actions of an insurer are in violation of this Title is deemed a substantiated complaint. The superintendent shall adopt rules necessary to define the method for calculating complaint ratios. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

Sec. 2. Rule-making authority. The Superintendent of Insurance has authority to adopt rules in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375 to implement Title 24-A, section 216, subsection 2, as amended by this Act. Such rules must be provisionally adopted and submitted to the Legislature for review as major substantive rules