

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

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

Sec. 1. Report on job creation. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, the Commissioner of Human Services and the Commissioner of Labor shall study the creation of jobs for welfare recipients and shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters by February 1, 1998. The Commissioner of Human Services shall chair the study. The report must include recommendations on the role of private industry and private sector employers in job creation for welfare recipients, an action plan to create jobs for welfare recipients and any legislation required to implement the plan.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 7

H.P. 46 - L.D. 71

An Act to Return a Certain Parcel of Land to Hartland from Pittsfield

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.

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

Whereas, this legislation returns to the Town of Hartland from the Town of Pittsfield a parcel of land that was originally part of the Town of Hartland; and

Whereas, the residents of that parcel have received municipal services from the Town of Hartland and wish to continue to receive those services and to pay taxes to that town; and

Whereas, the Town of Hartland and the Town of Pittsfield support the transfer; 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. P&SL 1852, c. 509 is repealed.

Sec. 2. Lands set off from Pittsfield to Hartland. That parcel of land in the Town of Pittsfield that was annexed to Pittsfield pursuant to Private and Special Law 1852, chapter 509 is annexed to and made a part of the Town of Hartland.

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

Effective March 28, 1997.

CHAPTER 8

H.P. 166 - L.D. 221

An Act to Amend the Charter of the Madison Water District

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

Sec. 1. P&SL 1913, c. 121, §7, 3rd ¶, as repealed and replaced by P&SL 1993, c. 69, §1, is amended to read:

Whenever the term of office of a trustee expires, the trustee's successor must be elected by a plurality vote by the legal voters of the ~~district~~ Town of Madison for a term of 3 years. If a vacancy arises, it must be filled for the remainder of the year by appointment by the remaining trustees, and at the next ~~regular meeting of the district~~ municipal election of the Town of Madison the vacancy must be filled for the unexpired term by a special election to be called by the trustees of the district.

Sec. 2. Retroactivity. This Act applies retroactively to July 14, 1994.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 9

H.P. 61 - L.D. 86

An Act to Clarify Eligibility for State Employee Health Insurance Program Benefits

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

Whereas, current law does not serve to protect state employees from the loss of retiree health insurance benefits if the employee is laid off within one year of the employee's retirement eligibility date; and

Whereas, it is necessary to immediately rectify this situation because there are employees in danger of losing their benefits; 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. Eligibility for state group health plan coverage if terminated before retirement.

State employees eligible to participate in the state group health plan under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 285, subsection 1, paragraph A who are not eligible for continued health plan coverage after retirement under Title 5, section 285, subsection 1, paragraph G and subsection 1-A, paragraph B because they were laid off prior to retirement are eligible for continued health plan coverage under the following conditions:

1. The effective date of the layoff was between July 1, 1995 and December 31, 1996;
2. The effective date of the layoff was within 12 months of the employee's normal retirement age;
3. The employee retires on the date normal retirement age is reached; and
4. The employee pays the premium costs for coverage under this section between the effective date of the layoff and the attainment of normal retirement age.

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

Effective March 28, 1997.
