

# 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 44**

**S.P. 187 - L.D. 605**

**An Act to Provide for an Additional Staff Member for the Business Enterprise Program**

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

**Sec. 1. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

**1997-98**

**LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF  
Rehabilitation Services**

Positions-Legislative Count	(1,000)
Personal Services	\$22,975
All Other	3,000

Appropriates funds for one Business Enterprise Program Assistant position and necessary operating costs in the Division of Blind and Visually Impaired. This position will be transferred to Other Special Revenue in fiscal year 1998-99.

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
TOTAL** \$25,975

**Sec. 2. Allocation.** The following funds are allocated from Other Special Revenue funds to carry out the purposes of this Act.

**1998-99**

**LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF  
Rehabilitation Services**

Positions-Legislative Count	(1,000)
Personal Services	\$31,857
All Other	3,000

Allocates funds for one Business Enterprise Program Assistant position and necessary operating costs in the Division of Blind and Visually Impaired.

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
TOTAL**

\$34,857

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 45**

**S.P. 50 - L.D. 160**

**An Act to Fund Research Regarding the Reinstatement of a Meat Inspection Program**

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

**Sec. 1. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

**1997-98**

**AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND  
RURAL RESOURCES,  
DEPARTMENT OF**

**Marketing Services**

All Other	\$20,000
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Appropriates funds to research the reinstatement of a state-operated meat inspection program and to initiate a meat inspection pilot project.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 46**

**S.P. 307 - L.D. 1015**

**An Act to Authorize the Extension of Needed Positions at the Augusta Mental Health Institute**

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

**Whereas,** the 90-day period may not terminate until after the beginning of the next fiscal year; and

**Whereas,** certain positions at the Augusta Mental Health Institute and the Bangor Mental Health Institute are only authorized until January 31, 1997; 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. Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services authorized to extend position end dates and transfer funds.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 1585 or any other provision of law, the Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services may extend the May 31, 1997 end date for 37.5 positions at the Augusta Mental Health Institute in order to meet staff-to-patient ratio requirements as outlined in the final consolidated plan response in the matter of *Bates v. Peet* cv-89-88 (Me. Super. Ct., Kenn Cty., Mar. 8, 1996)(Mills, N.) to May 31, 1998. A listing of the positions to be extended is on file in the Bureau of the Budget.

The commissioner also may transfer funds as needed for this purpose by financial order from the Consent Decree Reinvestment Fund-Mental Health or the Mental Health Services - Community Medicaid account to the Disproportionate Share - Augusta Mental Health Institute account and to make corresponding allocation increases in the Augusta Mental Health Institute Other Special Revenue account. This financial order takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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

Effective June 11, 1997.

**CHAPTER 47**

**H.P. 1095 - L.D. 1538**

**An Act to Promote Adult Education**

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

**Sec. 1. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

**1998-99**

**EDUCATION,  
DEPARTMENT OF**

**Learning Systems**

All Other \$72,210

Provides funds to increase the state subsidy for adult education by 2% in fiscal year 1998-99.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 48**

**S.P. 328 - L.D. 1106**

**An Act to Increase Access to Education, Training and Employment for Displaced Homemakers**

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

**Sec. 1. Appropriation.** The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

**1997-98                      1998-99**

**LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community**

All Other \$175,000 \$175,000

Provides funds statewide to increase placement and transitional support services for displaced homemakers entering education, training, employment and self-employment leading to economic self-sufficiency and to build program capacity to deliver these services and to measure outcomes. Included in this appropriation are funds for resource centers in the Katahdin area and the St. John Valley.

**Sec. 2. Department of Labor; rename program.** The following program in the Department of Labor is renamed as follows: "Displaced Home-