

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

PREFACE

The 1997 edition of the Laws of Maine is the official publication of the Session Laws of the State of Maine enacted by the 118th Legislature and is compiled and published under the authority of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 163-A. The Laws of Maine has been in continuous publication since 1820, when the Acts and Resolves adopted by the First Legislature were published by the Secretary of State under the authority of Resolve 1820, chapter 25.

Volumes 1 and 2 contain the public laws, private and special laws, resolves and constitutional resolutions enacted at the Second Special Session of the 117th Legislature and at the First Regular Session and First Special Session of the 118th Legislature, followed by a selection of proclamations, significant addresses, joint resolutions and memorials. An index to the materials in both volumes is located at the end of volume 2.

Additional volumes of the 1997 Laws of Maine will contain those measures adopted in the Second Regular Session and any subsequent special session of the 118th Legislature.

The following conventions are used throughout the series.

1. At the top of each page is a heading that indicates the individual classification of each law, the year and session of passage and its chapter number.
2. A table of contents that locates major divisions and contents by page reference is located at the beginning of each volume.
3. An individual subject index of the documents contained in this volume, arranged alphabetically by subject headings with corresponding chapter numbers, is located at the end of the volume.
4. A session cross-reference table is also provided at the end of this volume to show how unallocated public laws, laws exempted in previous revisions, and Titles and sections of the Maine Revised Statutes of 1964 have been affected by the laws included in this publication.
5. When a word or phrase is deleted from the statutes, it is shown stricken through. When an entire section or larger segment is repealed, the text that is repealed is not shown stricken but its repeal is indicated by express language.
6. When new words or sections are added to the statutes, they are underlined.
7. Citations to a Legislative Document are printed beneath the chapter number heading to assist in locating the original source of each chapter.
8. The effective date for Maine laws is provided in the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 16, which specifies that, except for certain emergency legislation, an act or resolve enacted into law takes effect 90 days after the adjournment of the session in which it passed. The general effective date of nonemergency laws passed at the First Regular Session of the 118th Legislature is June 26, 1997 and at the First Special Session of the 118th Legislature is September 19, 1997. The effective dates of emergency legislation vary and are provided at the end of the chapters that were enacted as emergencies.

Copies of a specific chaptered law may be obtained by contacting the Engrossing Division of this office. Copies of the original Legislative Document and any amendments may be obtained from the Legislative Document Room administered by the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

This edition of the Laws of Maine and its predecessors have been prepared for the convenience of the people of the State of Maine and any comments or suggestions for improvements in subsequent editions would be appreciated.

Margaret E. Matheson
Revisor of Statutes
July 1997