

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 2, 1998 to June 19, 1999

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 18, 1999

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
1999

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

Effective June 4, 1999.

CHAPTER 404

S.P. 269 - L.D. 762

An Act to Amend the Requirement that the Employment Rehabilitation Fund Reimburse Employers and Insurers for Benefits Paid pursuant to the Benefits Adjustments

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

Sec. 1. 39-A MRSA §213, sub-§4, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 885, Pt. A, §8 and affected by §§9 to 11, is amended to read:

4. Extension of 260-week limitation. Effective January 1, 1998 and every January 1st thereafter, the 260-week limitation contained in subsection 1 must be extended 52 weeks for every year the board finds that the frequency of such cases involving the payment of benefits under section 212 or 213 is no greater than the national average based on frequency from the latest unit statistical plan aggregate data for Maine and on a countrywide basis, adjusted to a unified industry mix. The 260-week limitation contained in subsection 1 may not be extended under this subsection to more than 520 weeks. ~~Reimbursement For payments relating to injuries occurring before January 1, 2000, reimbursement~~ to the employer, insurer or group self-insurer for the payment of all benefits for additional weeks payable pursuant to this subsection must be made from the Employment Rehabilitation Fund.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 405

H.P. 718 - L.D. 1008

An Act to Require Labeling of Fruits and Vegetables to Identify Country of Origin

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

Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §524-A is enacted to read:
§524-A. Produce packed in State

When produce that was grown or raised in a foreign country is packed in this State, the label must identify the country in which the produce was grown in letters as large or larger than the letters identifying the name and place of business of the packer.

Sec. 2. 7 MRSA §530, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 527, §1, is amended to read:

1. Label required. Fresh produce ~~imported from a foreign country~~ must be labeled in accordance with this section ~~in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of Maine citizens from the dangers of pesticides used or applied in a manner or at a rate disallowed in the United States.~~

A. Fresh produce sold or offered for retail sale in this State that was grown or raised in a foreign country ~~designated by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources by rule under subsection 2~~ must be identified by labeling with the country of origin as provided in paragraphs B to D.

B. Except as provided in paragraph D, each item of fresh produce offered for retail sale as an individual unit must be individually labeled in accordance with subsection 3.

C. Except as provided in paragraph D, fresh produce packaged in consumer units must be labeled in accordance with subsection 3 and section 524-A. For purposes of this section, banana and grape clusters are a consumer unit.

D. Fresh produce that is not labeled in accordance with paragraph B or C may be sold at retail if the labeling information required by subsection 3 appears on a bin label or placard contiguous to the produce being displayed for retail sale or on the original shipping container if it contains the produce offered for sale.

Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §530, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 527, §1, is repealed.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 406

S.P. 616 - L.D. 1781

An Act Relative to Freedom of Employment in the Broadcasting Industry

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §599 is enacted to read: