

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LAWS**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF MAINE**

**AS PASSED BY THE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**  
**January 5, 2000 to May 12, 2000**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**AUGUST 11, 2000**

**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**  
**2000**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

**TOTAL** \$93,574

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 648**

**H.P. 1508 - L.D. 2153**

**An Act to Modify the Campaign Finance Laws with Regard to Running for Federal Office**

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

**Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §1015, sub-§3, ¶C**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 529, §1, is amended to read:

C. This subsection does not apply to:

- (1) Solicitations or contributions for bona fide social events hosted for nonpartisan, charitable purposes;
- (2) Solicitations or contributions relating to a special election to fill a vacancy from the time of announcement of the election until the election; ~~and~~
- (3) Solicitations or contributions after the deadline for filing as a candidate as provided in Title 21-A, section 335-; and
- (4) Solicitations or contributions accepted by a member of the Legislature supporting that member's campaign for federal office.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 649**

**S.P. 292 - L.D. 810**

**An Act to Encourage Responsible Employment Practices**

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

**Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §42, first ¶**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 377, §1, is further amended to read:

The bureau shall collect, assort and arrange statistical details relating to all departments of labor and industrial pursuits in the State; to trade unions and other labor organizations and their effect upon labor and capital; to the number and character of industrial accidents and their effect upon the injured, their

dependent relatives and upon the general public; to other matters relating to the commercial, industrial, social, educational, moral and sanitary conditions prevailing within the State, including the names of firms, companies or corporations, where located, the kind of goods produced or manufactured, the time operated each year, the number of employees classified according to age and sex and the daily and average wages paid each employee; and the exploitation of such other subjects as will tend to promote the permanent prosperity of the industries of the State. The director is authorized and empowered, subject to the approval of the Governor, to accept from any other agency of government, individual, group or corporation such funds as may be available in carrying out this section, and meet such requirements with respect to the administration of such funds, not inconsistent with this section, as are required as conditions precedent to receiving such funds. An accounting of such funds and a report of the use to which they were put must be included in the biennial report to the Governor. Each agency of government shall cooperate fully with the bureau's efforts to compile labor and industrial statistics. The director shall cause to be enforced all laws regulating the employment of minors; all laws established for the protection of health, lives and limbs of operators in workshops and factories, on railroads and in other places; all laws regulating the payment of wages; and all laws enacted for the protection of the working classes. During an investigation to enforce those laws, the director may request records and other information relating to an employer's compliance with unemployment compensation and workers' compensation laws, including information needed to determine whether the employer has properly classified a worker as an independent contractor, and shall report suspected violations of those laws to the state or federal agency responsible for enforcing them. The director may adopt, in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, rules regarding all such laws, except where this authority is granted to a board or commission. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A. The director shall, on or before the first day of July, biennially, report to the Governor, and may make such suggestions and recommendations as the director may deem necessary for the information of the Legislature. The director may from time to time cause to be printed and distributed bulletins upon any subject that ~~shall be~~ is of public interest and benefit to the State and may conduct a program of research, education and promotion to reduce industrial accidents. The director may review various data, such as workers' compensation records, as well as other information relating to any public or private employer's safety experience. When any individual public or private employer's safety experience causes the director to question seriously the safe working

environment of that employer, the director may offer any safety education and consultation programs to that employer that may be beneficial in providing a safer work environment. If the employer refuses this assistance or is in serious noncompliance which may lead to injuries, or if serious threats to worker safety continue, then the director shall communicate concerns to appropriate agencies, such as the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration. As used in this section, the term "noncompliance" means a lack of compliance with any applicable health and safety regulations of the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration or other federal agencies. The bureau is responsible for the enforcement of indoor air quality and ventilation standards with respect to state-owned buildings and buildings leased by the State. The bureau shall enforce air quality standards in a manner to ensure that corrections to problems found in buildings be made over a reasonable period of time, using consent agreements and other approaches as necessary and reasonable.

See title page for effective date.

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## CHAPTER 650

H.P. 1739 - L.D. 2445

### An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Municipal Tax Increment Financing to Encourage Downtown Investment

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

**Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §5252, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and as amended by PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

**2. Captured assessed value.** "~~Captured assessed value~~" means the ~~valuation amount by which the current assessed value of a tax increment financing district exceeds the original assessed value of the district. If the current assessed value is equal to or less than the original there is no captured assessed value amount, as a percentage or stated sum, of increased assessed value that is utilized from year to year to finance the project costs contained within the development program.~~

**Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §5252, sub-§§4-A and 4-B** are enacted to read:

**4-A. Downtown.** "Downtown" means the traditional central business district of a community that has served as the center of socioeconomic interaction in the community, characterized by a cohesive core of

commercial and mixed-use buildings, often interspersed with civic, religious and residential buildings and public spaces, typically arranged along a main street and intersecting side streets and served by public infrastructure.

**4-B. Downtown development district.**

"Downtown development district" means a tax increment financing district located in the municipality's downtown area, as defined in an approved downtown redevelopment plan consistent with the Department of Economic and Community Development's quality downtown criteria established pursuant to rules of the department.

**Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §5252, sub-§5, ¶B**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 and Pt. C, §106 and as amended by PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8 and 10, is further amended to read:

B. For a development program for a tax increment financing district, the statement must also include:

- (1) Estimates of ~~captured~~ increased assessed values of the district;
- (2) The portion of the ~~captured~~ increased assessed values to be applied to the development program as captured assessed values and resulting tax increments in each year of the program; and
- (3) A statement of the estimated impact of tax increments financing on all taxing jurisdictions in which the district is located.

**Sec. 4. 30-A MRSA §5252, sub-§5-B** is enacted to read:

**5-B. Increased assessed value.** "Increased assessed value" means the valuation amount by which the current assessed value of a tax increment financing district exceeds the original assessed value of the district. If the current assessed value is equal to or less than the original there is no increased assessed value.

**Sec. 5. 30-A MRSA §5252, sub-§8, ¶A**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 220, §2, is further amended to read:

A. The term "project costs" does not include the cost of facilities, buildings or portions of buildings used predominantly for the general conduct of government or for public recreational purposes. These facilities and buildings include, but are not limited to, city halls and other headquarters of government where the governing body meets regularly, courthouses, jails, police stations and other State Government and local government office buildings, recreation centers,