

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 6, 2000 to June 22, 2001

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 21, 2001

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
2001

allow the fund to be used to cover certain costs of the Lobster Advisory Council.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 94

H.P. 266 - L.D. 344

An Act to Extend the Repeal of the Lobster Trap Tag Freeze

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6431-F, sub-§5, as enacted by PL 1999, c. 397, §6, is amended to read:

5. Repeal. This section is repealed December 31, ~~2001~~ 2005.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 95

H.P. 1094 - L.D. 1463

An Act to Revise the Maine Science and Technology Foundation's Charter and Revise the Charter of the Centers for Innovation

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13121, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 816, Pt. DD, §3, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §13123-A, sub-§16-A is enacted to read:

16-A. Maine Technology Capacity Fund. Administer the Maine Technology Capacity Fund established in section 13131 to strengthen employment levels in the State by increasing science and technology investment, to support best practice studies and to develop or increase industry clusters of targeted technology sectors;

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §13124, as amended by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. E, §14, is repealed.

Sec. 4. 5 MRSA §13126, as amended by PL 1993, c. 410, Pt. E, §17, is further amended to read:

§13126. Powers and duties of president

The president shall implement the policies and procedures of the foundation and is responsible for the

administration of its programs. The president may enter into contracts with individuals or firms with the approval of the foundation for services necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of this chapter. The president ~~shall administer the centers for innovation program and~~ may develop, administer and evaluate other programs and initiatives as required by the foundation. The president shall appoint and remove the staff of the office and prescribe their duties as may be necessary to implement the purposes of this chapter.

Sec. 5. 5 MRSA c. 387 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 387

CENTERS FOR INNOVATION PROGRAM

§13141. Centers for Innovation Program

The Centers for Innovation Program, referred to in this chapter as the "program," is established. The program shall administer and establish centers throughout the State to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

1. Centers for innovation. A center for innovation, referred to in this chapter as "center," represents a specific industry sector identified as offering significant potential for economic growth, employment and business development for the State. A center shall consult with state development agencies to carry out the purposes of this chapter. The centers established include:

A. The Center for Innovation in Biotechnology, which promotes the development of the biotechnology sector; and

B. The Aquaculture Innovations Center, which promotes the development of the aquaculture sector.

2. Purposes. A center has the following purposes:

A. To bring together a cluster of related experience, business activity and technology in order to promote economic growth and target assistance from government development agencies and resources;

B. To advise the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, the Maine International Trade Center, the Maine Technology Institute and other state agencies of the needs of a targeted industry;

C. To serve as a facilitator of state, local and federal efforts directed at developing an industry sector;

D. To assist in the recruitment of businesses and personnel within an industry sector seeking to relocate to the State; and

E. To educate, inform and facilitate funding for emerging technologies that are the basis of an industry sector.

Sec. 6. 36 MRSA §1760, sub-§84 is enacted to read:

84. Centers for innovation. Sales to centers for innovation as described in Title 5, section 13141.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 96

S.P. 279 - L.D. 990

An Act to Establish the Maine Regulatory Fairness Board

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §56 is enacted to read:

§56. Maine Regulatory Fairness Board established

The Maine Regulatory Fairness Board, referred to in this section as the "board," is established to hear testimony and to report to the Legislature and the Governor at least annually on regulatory and statutory changes necessary to enhance the State's business climate.

1. Membership. The board consists of 5 members who are owners, operators or officers of businesses operating in the State. The members, at least 3 of whom must represent businesses with fewer than 50 employees, are appointed by the Governor. In selecting the members of the board, the Governor shall make every effort to ensure that different regions of the State are represented. No member of the board may be an officer or employee of State Government.

2. Terms of appointment. Of the initial appointees, the first 2 members appointed by the Governor will serve 3-year terms; the next 2 members appointed by the Governor will serve 2-year terms; the last member appointed by the Governor will serve a one-year term. Upon completion of the initial terms of office pursuant to this subsection, each member appointed to the board must be appointed to serve a 3-year term. No member may serve more than 3 consecutive terms.

3. Chair; election of board officers; quorum. The members of the board shall annually elect a chair and a vice-chair from among the board members. A

majority of members of the board constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting the board's business, except a lesser number may hold public hearings.

4. Duties of board. The board shall:

A. Meet at least twice annually in a different region of the State to hear testimony from businesses regarding their concerns about enforcement activities of State departments and agencies; and

B. Report to the Governor and the Legislature at least annually on complaints of excessive enforcement actions against businesses by departments and agencies of State Government. The report also must include recommendations for regulatory and statutory changes, if any, that will enhance the State's business climate.

5. Annual report. The board shall report by February 1st of each year to the Governor and to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business and economic development matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters on its findings and recommendations.

6. Technical assistance. The State Planning Office shall provide technical support to the board.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§2-F is enacted to read:

2-F.	<u>Maine</u>	<u>Not</u>	<u>5 MRSA</u>
<u>Business</u>	<u>Regulatory</u>	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>§56</u>
	<u>Fairness Board</u>		

Sec. 3. Initial meeting; acting chair. The Governor shall establish the date of the organizational meeting of the board no later than 30 days after completing initial appointments. The Governor shall designate an acting chair from among the appointees. The acting chair shall preside at the organizational meeting until a permanent chair and a vice-chair are elected from among the board's membership.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 97

S.P. 150 - L.D. 494

An Act to Authorize a Major Medical Insurance Program for Prisoners Incarcerated in County Jails

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