

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

before ~~November~~ May 15th. The county commissioners shall act on the budget in a timely fashion and, in any event, not later than ~~December~~ June 15th prior to the beginning of the budget year.

Sec. 3. Transition. The Sagadahoc County commissioners, in order to facilitate the change in fiscal year made by this Act, shall submit a budget for the period of January 1, 2002 to June 30, 2002 and for the period of July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003.

Sec. 4. Effective date. Those sections of this Act that amend the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 883, subsection 2, paragraph A and section 884 take effect January 1, 2002.

See title page for effective date, unless otherwise indicated.

CHAPTER 144

S.P. 293 - L.D. 1004

An Act to Amend the Covered Load Laws

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

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §2358, sub-§11 is enacted to read:

11. Unsecured load. If a state police officer requires a vehicle to stop and submit to weighing pursuant to this section and that vehicle is carrying a load, the officer shall check to ensure that the load is secure pursuant to section 2396, subsection 2.

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §2396, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

2. Unsecured load. A person may not operate on a public way a vehicle with a load that is not fastened, secured, confined or loaded to reasonably prevent a portion from falling off.

For the purposes of this section, "load" includes, but is not limited to, firewood, pulpwood, logs, bolts or other material, but does not include loose hay, pea vines, straw, grain or cornstalks.

When the load consists of sawdust, shavings or wood chips, and a reasonable effort has been made to completely cover the load, minor amounts blown from the vehicle while in transit do not constitute a violation.

A violation of this section is a traffic infraction subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$150 nor more than \$500.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 145

H.P. 643 - L.D. 843

An Act to Clarify when Reduced Speed Limits are in Effect in School Zones

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

Whereas, in order to assist motor vehicle operators in determining when school zone speed limits are in effect and thereby ensure the safety of children around school, it is necessary that this bill take effect prior to the beginning of the school year; 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. 29-A MRSA §101, sub-§28-B is enacted to read:

28-B. Improved school property. "Improved school property" means the developed portion of school property including driveways, parking lots, playgrounds, athletic fields or school buildings.

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §101, sub-§§64-A and 64-B are enacted to read:

64-A. School. "School" has the same meaning as in Title 20-A, section 6353, subsection 7.

64-B. School zone. "School zone" means the portion of the public highway abutting improved school property or 300 feet on either side of a school entrance, whichever is greater.

Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §2074, sub-§1, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 683, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. B, §5, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

A. Fifteen miles per hour when traveling in a school zone: