

# 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.**

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**J.S. McCarthy Company**  
**Augusta, Maine**  
**2001**

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

Effective June 13, 2001.

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**CHAPTER 397**

**H.P. 1249 - L.D. 1697**

**An Act to Enhance the Safety and Health of Students in Public School Facilities**

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

**Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §565-B** is enacted to read:

**§565-B. Safety and health of students in public educational facilities**

The board shall formulate and adopt reasonable rules to ensure safe and healthful conditions for students in public educational facilities. The rules must address safety and health hazards created by the use of or exposure to equipment or material or the exposure to other conditions within the educational facility that minors would be prohibited from using or being exposed to in a work environment. The rules may include, but are not limited to, regulations of equipment, material and conditions found in vocational or technical education, scientific laboratories and shop class.

The bureau shall enforce rules adopted under this section. The bureau may provide the same technical assistance to the governing boards of public educational facilities as it provides to employers pursuant to section 42-A and any other provision of this Title. Public educational facilities are subject to the same rights of access and the governing boards of such facilities are subject to the same penalties as employers pursuant to chapter 3.

Rules adopted pursuant to this section are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

See title page for effective date.

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**CHAPTER 398**

**S.P. 550 - L.D. 1708**

**An Act to Streamline the Administration and Enforcement of the Work Permit Provisions of Child Labor Laws and to Enhance the Use of the Occupational Safety Loan Fund**

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

**PART A**

**Sec. A-1. 26 MRSA §775**, as amended by PL 1993, c. 527, §1, is further amended to read:

**§775. Work permits**

**1. Work permit authority.** A minor under 16 years of age may not be employed without a work permit ~~issued to the minor~~ signed by the superintendent of schools of the school administrative unit in which the minor resides ~~and issued to the minor by the bureau~~. The superintendent may designate a school official to ~~issue~~ sign a work permit and that official is directly responsible to the superintendent for this activity.

**2. Conditions for signature.** The superintendent shall ~~issue~~ sign a permit in the following circumstances:

A. If the school is in session or the minor is attending summer school, the minor must be enrolled in school, not habitually truant, not under suspension and passing a majority of courses during the current grading period. Upon request of the minor, the superintendent may waive the requirements for one grading period if, in the opinion of the superintendent, there are extenuating circumstances or if imposing the requirements would create an undue hardship for the minor;

B. If school is not in session, the minor must furnish to the superintendent a certificate signed by the principal of the school last attended showing that the minor has satisfactorily completed kindergarten to grade 8 in the public schools or their equivalent. If the certificate can not be obtained, the superintendent shall examine the minor to determine whether the minor meets these educational standards;

C. If the minor has been granted an exception to compulsory education under Title 20-A, section 5001-A, subsection 2, the minor must only submit proof of age as provided in subsection 3; or