

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

**AS PASSED BY THE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**  
**January 2, 2002 to April 25, 2002**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**JULY 25, 2002**

**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**  
**2002**

with institute grants, except for information that would place a recipient of or an applicant for financial assistance at a competitive disadvantage;

F. Policies concerning institute governance, operations or procedures for review or funding of applications; and

G. Any information pursuant to waiver considered satisfactory by the institute.

**5. Construction.** This section must be strictly construed to protect the confidentiality of all documents designated as confidential, the confidentiality of which is essential to the technology development purpose of the institute and to the confidence of the private sector in the institute and its mission.

**Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §15321, sub-§3, ¶D** is enacted to read:

D. The records and proceedings of the applied technology development centers are not considered public for the purposes of Title 1, chapter 13.

See title page for effective date.

## CHAPTER 563

S.P. 740 - L.D. 2064

### An Act to Waive the Title Fee for Towed Abandoned Vehicles

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

**Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §603, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

**6. Abandoned vehicles declared total loss.** A towing company is exempt from a title fee if:

A. The towing company tows a vehicle at the request of a law enforcement officer;

B. The towing company declares a vehicle a total loss while claiming the vehicle pursuant to chapter 15, subchapter III;

C. The Secretary of State notifies the vehicle owner that the vehicle is claimed under the abandoned vehicle law as required in section 1854; and

D. The Secretary of State requests the title fee under subsection 1, paragraph E from the vehicle owner.

**Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §668, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 482, Pt. A, §15, is further amended to read:

**3. Certificate delivered.** When the Secretary of State suspends or revokes a certificate of title, certificate of salvage, certificate of lien or certificate of registration, the owner or person in possession of that document, immediately upon receiving notice of the suspension or revocation, shall deliver the document and registration plates to the Secretary of State. If the owner or person in possession of that document fails to deliver the document and registration plates to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State may suspend the person's privilege to title or register a vehicle.

**Sec. 3. 29-A MRSA §1854, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 137, §1, is further amended to read:

**3. Response.** On receipt of the notification, the Secretary of State shall inform the vehicle owner and lienholder, if any, by regular mail that the vehicle is being claimed under the abandoned vehicle law. The notice to the vehicle owner and lienholder, if any, must identify the vehicle by the year, make, model and vehicle identification number, give the name and address of the party claiming ownership, state the charges against the vehicle that the owner and lienholder, if any, must pay to retrieve the vehicle, and the date that the title or letter of ownership will pass to the new owner. If the party is claiming ownership of the vehicle pursuant to section 603, subsection 6, the notice must inform the vehicle owner and lienholder that the owner must pay \$23 to the Secretary of State to transfer the title. A copy of this letter must be provided to the person claiming ownership.

See title page for effective date.

## CHAPTER 564

H.P. 1594 - L.D. 2097

### An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Committee to Study Access to Private and Public Lands in Maine

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

**Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §6207, sub-§5** is enacted to read:

**5. Estimation of monitoring and management costs.** Prior to final approval of a project under this chapter, a person submitting a proposal to acquire property or an interest in property with funding from

the Land for Maine's Future Fund or the Public Access to Maine Waters Fund shall provide:

A. A description of the management envisioned for the property for the first 10 years following acquisition. When the application proposes acquiring an interest in property, the application must provide a description of the anticipated management responsibilities retained by the landowner and those to be assumed by the State or a cooperating entity;

B. Preliminary estimates of the costs to the State or a cooperating entity of managing the land for the uses proposed in the application; and

C. Preliminary estimates of the costs associated with monitoring compliance with an easement when an interest in land is acquired.

**Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §8879, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

**1-A. Report on changes in ownership of forest land.** Using information received under Title 36, section 581-E, the director shall monitor changes in ownership of parcels of forest land that are 1,000 acres or greater in area within the municipalities of the State and classified under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law. Using information received under Title 36, sections 581-E and 581-F, the director shall monitor the number of parcels classified under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law and the distribution of parcels by size. The biennial report must include information on the number of parcels, classified by size categories, for the organized and unorganized territories of the State. The information must be presented in a manner that facilitates comparison from year to year.

In assessing changes in forest land ownership, the director shall also consider information reported pursuant to Title 36, sections 305 and 2728. The director shall provide a summary of changes in ownership of forest land in the biennial report.

**Sec. 3. 36 MRSA §305, sub-§5,** as enacted by PL 1973, c. 620, §10, is amended to read:

**5. Rules and regulations.** Promulgate, after appropriate notice and hearing, all rules and regulations necessary to carry into effect any of its duties and responsibilities; and

**Sec. 4. 36 MRSA §305, sub-§6** is enacted to read:

**6. Report on changes in land ownership.** On or before September 1st of each year, report to the Commissioner of Conservation, the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Director of the State Planning Office within the Executive Department and

the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over public lands on the transfer in ownership of parcels of land 10,000 acres or greater within the unorganized territory of the State. Using information maintained by the State Tax Assessor under section 1602 and section 4641-D, the bureau shall provide information for each transfer that includes:

A. Name of the seller;

B. Name of the buyer;

C. Number of acres transferred;

D. Classification of land;

E. Location by township and county;

F. Sale price; and

G. A brief description of the property.

**Sec. 5. 36 MRSA §581-F** is enacted to read:

**§581-F. Report to the Bureau of Forestry on land in unorganized territory**

On or before September 1st of each year, the State Tax Assessor shall provide to the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Forestry information on land within the unorganized territory taxed according to this subchapter. The information must include the number of parcels enrolled, classified by parcel size categories. The State Tax Assessor shall consult with the Director of the Bureau of Forestry in determining the parcel size categories and shall provide the information in a consistent format to facilitate comparison from year to year.

**Sec. 6. 36 MRSA §2728** is enacted to read:

**§2728. Report on ownership of commercial forest land by size of ownership**

On or before September 1st of each year, the State Tax Assessor shall provide the Director of the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Conservation with information on the number of landowners filing tax returns in accordance with this chapter, including a breakdown of the number of landowners by acreage categories. The State Tax Assessor shall consult with the Director of the Bureau of Forestry in determining the acreage categories and shall provide the information in a consistent format to facilitate comparison from year to year.

See title page for effective date.

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