

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.

J.S. McCarthy Company
Augusta, Maine
2002

(1) Any poisonous substance or biological product of biotechnology produced by a living organism; or

(2) Any poisonous isomer or biological product, homolog or derivative of such a substance.

E. "Vector" means a living organism or molecule, including a recombinant molecule or any biological product of biotechnology, capable of carrying a biological agent or toxin to a host.

4. Causing a catastrophe is a Class A crime.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 635

H.P. 1661 - L.D. 2166

An Act to Provide Flexibility in the Rate of Interest Charged on Delinquent Taxes

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

Whereas, the current rate of interest charged on delinquent property taxes is so low that it does not serve as a deterrent to paying property taxes late; and

Whereas, the failure to pay property taxes on time causes municipalities hardship through the loss of expected revenue; and

Whereas, the tax year for many municipalities begins in April or May; action after that date would not be in time for the upcoming tax 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. 36 MRSA §505, sub-§4, as amended by PL 1983, c. 480, Pt. A, §40, is further amended to read:

4. When interest collected. The date or dates from and after which interest ~~shall~~ must accrue, which ~~shall~~ must also be the date or dates on which taxes ~~shall~~ must become delinquent. The rate of interest ~~shall~~ must be specified in the vote and ~~shall~~ must apply to delinquent taxes committed during the taxable year

until those taxes are paid in full. ~~The~~ Except as provided in subsection 4-A, the rate of interest ~~shall~~ may not exceed the highest conventional rate of interest charged for commercial unsecured loans by Maine banking institutions on the first business day of the calendar year the vote is taken. The highest conventional rate of interest charged for commercial unsecured loans by Maine banking institutions on the first business day of each calendar year ~~shall~~ must be determined ~~in his best judgment~~ by the Treasurer of State, who shall send a written notice of ~~such~~ that rate of interest on or before January 20th of each year to the chief municipal officer of each municipality. The interest ~~shall~~ must be added to and become part of the taxes.

Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §505, sub-§4-A is enacted to read:

4-A. Alternate calculation of interest. For any tax year for which the maximum interest rate established by the Treasurer of State under subsection 4 is 2 percentage points or more lower than the maximum rate established by the Treasurer of State for the previous tax year, the municipality may adopt an interest rate that is up to 2 percentage points over the rate established by the Treasurer of State for the tax year under subsection 4.

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

Effective April 8, 2002.

CHAPTER 636

S.P. 817 - L.D. 2198

An Act to Provide Maine State Retirement System Representation on the State Employee Health Commission

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §285-A, sub-§2, as amended by PL 1997, c. 77, §1, is further amended to read:

2. Membership. The State Employee Health Commission consists of ~~20~~ 22 labor and management members as follows:

A. One labor member from each bargaining unit recognized under Title 26, chapter 9-B, appointed by the employee organization certified to represent the unit;

B. One labor member from the largest bargaining unit recognized under Title 26, chapter 14, appointed by the employee organization authorized to represent the unit;

C. One labor member appointed by the retiree chapters of the Maine State Employees Association;

C-1. One labor member from Maine Turnpike Authority employees appointed by the employee organization authorized to represent the employees;

C-2. One labor member from Maine State Retirement System employees, appointed by the employee organization authorized to represent the employees;

D. Four management members appointed by the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services;

E. One management member appointed by the Court Administrators;

F. The Executive Director of Health Insurance, ex officio;

G. One member representing retirees appointed by the Maine Association of Retirees;

H. One labor member from the Maine Technical College System faculty or administrative unit, appointed by the employee organization authorized to represent the units;

I. One management member from the Maine Technical College System appointed by the President of the Maine Technical College System; ~~and~~

J. One management member appointed by the Executive Director of the Maine Turnpike Authority; ~~and~~

K. One management member appointed by the Executive Director of the Maine State Retirement System.

All appointed or elected members serve at the pleasure of their appointing or electing authorities.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 637

H.P. 1683 - L.D. 2182

An Act to Establish a Centralized Voter Registration System for the State

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1, sub-§6-A is enacted to read:

6-A. Centralized voter registration system. "Centralized voter registration system" means a single electronic information system and database for voter registration information maintained by the Secretary of State and used by all municipal jurisdictions in the State.

Sec. 2. 21-A MRSA c. 3, sub-c. VII is enacted to read:

SUBCHAPTER VII

CENTRALIZED VOTER REGISTRATION

§191. Centralized voter registration system implemented

The Secretary of State shall develop and implement a centralized voter registration system. The Secretary of State shall:

1. Pilot program. Develop a centralized voter registration system pilot to include the 10 municipalities with the highest number of registered voters as of the 2000 general election in order to test the information system and data conversion procedures. Additional municipal jurisdictions may be included in the pilot on a voluntary basis and at the discretion of the Secretary of State;

2. Implementation by stages. Develop a plan to implement the centralized voter registration system in stages; and

3. System implemented. Fully implement the centralized voter registration system and database no later than December 31, 2007.

The Secretary of State shall develop informational materials for municipalities and may require municipalities to report on the implementation of the centralized voter registration system and related processes at the local level.