

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

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
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IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,
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J.S. McCarthy Company
Augusta, Maine
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review the process and evaluate the potential for alternative dispute resolution processes by encouraging 2-member districts to resolve disputes to reconsider the method of sharing costs as provided in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 1301, subsection 3. The State Board of Education shall report its findings and any recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by April 15, 2002. The committee may report out legislation regarding the alternative dispute resolution process to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 56

S.P. 636 - L.D. 1816

Resolve, Regarding Pharmacists and Pharmaceutical Benefits

Sec. 1. Study regarding pharmacists. Resolved: That the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance shall undertake a study of the implications of including pharmacists as health care practitioners under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 24, chapter 21. In conducting the study, the bureau shall solicit information from the Maine Pharmacy Association and the Maine Board of Pharmacy. The bureau shall report the results of the study to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 1, 2002 and shall include any recommendations from the bureau; and be it further

Sec. 2. Study regarding pharmaceutical benefits. Resolved: That the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance shall undertake a study of the feasibility, costs and implications of establishing by rule a standardized pharmaceutical benefits identification card for issuance by health coverage providers that provide pharmaceutical benefits, including insurers, health maintenance organizations and other providers of health coverage. The bureau shall solicit information from the Maine Pharmacy Association and the Maine Board of Pharmacy. The bureau shall report the results of the study to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 1, 2002 and shall include any recommendations from the bureau.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 57

S.P. 385 - L.D. 1282

Resolve, to Change Route Designations of Certain Interstates and to Change the Interstate Exit Numbering System

Sec. 1. Interstate designations. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation shall work with the Federal Highway Administration, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and the Maine Turnpike Authority to redesignate the Maine Turnpike I-495 from Falmouth to West Gardiner as I-95; the Falmouth spur of the Maine Turnpike to I-495; and I-95 from Falmouth to West Gardiner as I-495; and be it further

Sec. 2. Interstate exit numbering system. Resolved: That the Department of Transportation shall work with the Federal Highway Administration, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and the Maine Turnpike Authority to change Maine's interstate exit numbering system to one in which mile markers determine exit numbers.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 58

H.P. 182 - L.D. 193

Resolve, to Establish a Centralized Voter Registration List for the State

Preamble. Whereas, there currently exists no statewide voter registration list for the State; and

Whereas, voter registration lists for the State are currently maintained by 520 separate municipal jurisdictions in varying forms, including a variety of databases, typed lists and handwritten lists; and

Whereas, the Federal Election Commission in its 1997 Report to Congress on the impact of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 highly recommends that states that have not yet done so voluntarily develop and implement a statewide computerized voter registration database; ensure that all local registration offices are computerized; and link their statewide computerized systems, where feasible, with the computerized systems of the collateral public agencies relevant to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993; and

Whereas, the majority of states have implemented or are currently developing centralized voter registration lists, and Maine is currently one of only 11 states that does not have a centralized voter registration list; and

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

Whereas, this resolve establishes a task force to report on the development and implementation of a centralized voter registration list; and

Whereas, in order for the task force to convene and complete its work in a timely fashion, it is necessary that this resolve take effect as soon as possible; 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

Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved: That the Task Force to Establish a Centralized Voter Registration List, referred to in this resolve as the "task force," is established; and be it further

Sec. 2. Membership. Resolved: That the task force consists of 13 members appointed as follows:

1. Two municipal officials, one from a small town appointed by the Speaker of the House and one from a medium or large municipality, appointed jointly by the President and President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

2. One representative from the League of Women Voters of Maine, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

3. Four members of the public, 2 from each of the 2 political parties with the most members in the Legislature; of these 2 are appointed by the Speaker of the House and 2 are appointed jointly by the President and President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

4. Two representatives of the political parties with the most members in the Legislature, one from each of the 2 political parties with the most members in the Legislature; one is appointed by the Speaker of the House and one is appointed jointly by the President and President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

5. The State Information Officer, or the State Information Officer's designee, who serves ex officio;

6. Two election officials from the Secretary of State's office, who are designated by the Secretary of State and who serve as nonvoting ex officio members; and

7. The Secretary of State, or the secretary's designee, who serves as a nonvoting ex officio member and who serves as the chair of the task force; and be it further

Sec. 3. Appointments. Resolved: That all appointments must be made by August 1, 2001; and be it further

Sec. 4. Duties. Resolved: That the task force shall study the requirements necessary to develop and implement a centralized voter registration list in order to:

1. Eliminate duplicate registrations on a statewide basis;

2. Administer automatic changes of address;

3. Provide for systematic list maintenance activities; and

4. Produce current voter registration statistics and lists on a statewide basis, as well as by municipality, county and electoral district.

The task force shall investigate the use of the Internet as an infrastructure linking all municipal jurisdictions to a centralized voter registration list, providing for real-time registration updates and ensuring against the possibility of certain types of voter fraud. The task force shall further investigate the use of this same network for electronically filing timely election results with the Secretary of State. The task force may apply for and accept federal or other funds for the purpose of implementing a centralized voter registration list; and be it further

Sec. 5. Compensation. Resolved: That members of the task force not otherwise compensated by their employers or other entities whom they represent are entitled to receive reimbursement of necessary expenses for their attendance at authorized meetings of the task force; and be it further

Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved: That the office of the Secretary of State shall provide necessary staffing services to the task force; and be it further

Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: That the task force shall report its findings by January 15, 2002 to the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs. The committee may report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature.

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

Effective June 19, 2001.

CHAPTER 59

H.P. 1370 - L.D. 1827

Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and Community Development to Study the Designation of Tourism Regions

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

Whereas, the 8 tourism regions that have been designated by the tourism industry to promote tourism in the State may not adequately reflect the unique economic and cultural differences of certain areas of the State; and

Whereas, these unique areas of the State, such as the St. John Valley, the Downeast region and the so-called "River Valley," may benefit economically from an industry designation as a tourism region; and

Whereas, the establishment of a dedicated source of revenue to fund the Office of Tourism within the Department of Economic and Community Development would provide substantial additional funds to the office to distribute annually to organizations within the tourism regions to assist with the tourism promotion efforts of their respective regions; 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

Sec. 1. Department of Economic and Community Development directed to study the designation of tourism regions. Resolved: That the Department of Economic and Community Development shall study expanding the number of industry-designated tourism regions in the State to reflect the unique cultural attributes and economic needs of various areas of the State. In studying the current tourism region designations, the department shall consult with representatives of the tourism industry. The department shall report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on

Business and Economic Development before December 31, 2001.

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

Effective June 19, 2001.

CHAPTER 60

S.P. 338 - L.D. 1145

Resolve, Authorizing the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to Sell or Lease the Interests of the State in the Jacob Abbott House Property Located at the Stevens School Campus in Hallowell

Sec. 1. Definitions. Resolved: That, as used in this resolve, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services.
2. "State property" means the real and personal property described in section 3 of this resolve; and be it further

Sec. 2. Authority to convey property. Resolved: That the State, by and through the commissioner, may:

1. Lease, sell or transfer the interests of the State in the state property;
2. Negotiate, draft, execute and deliver any documents necessary to settle any boundary line discrepancies;
3. Exercise the power of eminent domain to quiet for all time any possible challenges to ownership of the state property;
4. Negotiate, draft, execute and deliver any easements, including historic preservation easements, or other rights that, in the commissioner's discretion, may contribute to the value of a proposed sale or lease of the State's interest; and
5. Release any interests in the state property that, in the commissioner's discretion, do not contribute to the value of the remaining state property; and be it further

Sec. 3. Property interests that may be conveyed. Resolved: That the state property authorized to be sold, leased or transferred is the Jacob