

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

**AS PASSED BY THE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
**November 13, 2002 to November 14, 2002**

**ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**December 4, 2002 to June 14, 2003**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**FEBRUARY 13, 2003**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**SEPTEMBER 13, 2003**

**PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES**  
**IN ACCORDANCE WITH MAINE REVISED STATUTES ANNOTATED,**  
**TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.**

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**Penmor Lithographers**  
**Lewiston, Maine**  
**2003**

and the manner and any conditions for the taking of the appeal are as the Supreme Judicial Court provides by rule.

See title page for effective date.

## CHAPTER 18

H.P. 542 - L.D. 736

### An Act To Specify Information Required in a Divorce Decree

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

**Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §953, sub-§7**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 694, Pt. B, §2 and affected by Pt. E, §2, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**7. Decree or abstract as deed.** All rights acquired under former Title 19, section 721 or 723 on or before December 31, 1971 and all rights acquired under this section by a party in the real estate of the other party are effective against a person when the decree of divorce or an abstract of the decree is filed in the registry of deeds for the county or registry district where the real estate is situated. The decree or abstract, at a minimum, must contain:

A. The caption of the case, including the names of the parties, and any changes to the parties' names after the decree;

B. The date the judgment is final and the court that issued the decree;

C. An adequate description of the real estate, such as by reference to the volume and page number of an instrument recorded in the registry of deeds or the probate court record, or an adequate description by metes and bounds or by reference to the volume and page number of the registry of deeds' records of a survey plan of the property;

D. Any provision of the decree intended by the court to constitute an encumbrance against real estate, including any conditions pertaining to the encumbrance, in the verbatim language used by the court. If the abstract does not contain the provision required by this paragraph, an encumbrance may not be considered effective against a 3rd party unless the encumbrance has been memorialized in a separate, duly recorded instrument; and

E. A clear statement of the ownership interest of the parties in the real estate intended by the court to result from that decree.

An inconsequential failure to provide all the details required pursuant to paragraphs A to E does not create an invalid abstract for purposes of this section.

The failure of a party to record the decree or an abstract of the decree within a time period prescribed by former Title 19, section 725 does not affect the rights of that party as against the other party or the other party's heirs or devisees. The recording of the decree or abstract of the decree has the force and effect of a quitclaim deed releasing all interest in the real estate described in the decree or abstract of the decree, whether the interest is in fee or by statute.

See title page for effective date.

## CHAPTER 19

S.P. 74 - L.D. 151

### An Act Concerning Full-time Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers

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

**Sec. 1. 25 MRSA §2801-A, sub-§§3 and 4**, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 521, §§2 and 17, are amended to read:

**3. Full-time corrections officer.** "Full-time corrections officer" means a person who is employed as a corrections officer with a reasonable expectation of ~~earning at least \$10,000~~ working at least 1,040 hours in any one calendar or fiscal year for performing corrections officer duties.

**4. Full-time law enforcement officer.** "Full-time law enforcement officer" means a person who is employed as a law enforcement officer with a reasonable expectation of ~~earning at least \$10,000~~ working at least 1,040 hours in any one calendar or fiscal year for performing law enforcement officer duties.

See title page for effective date.