

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 6, 2006 to June 21, 2007

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

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

Penmor Lithographers
Lewiston, Maine
2007

(c). ~~No~~ An owner, proprietor, administrator, employee or other person with a substantial financial interest in a facility or institution licensed under Title 22, sections 1817 and 7801, may not act as guardian of an incapacitated person who is a resident, as defined in Title 22, section 7852, subsection 13, unless the person requesting to be appointed guardian is one of the following:

- (1). The spouse of the incapacitated person;
- (1-A). The domestic partner of the incapacitated person;
- (2). An adult child of the incapacitated person;
- (2-A). A person who served as guardian, permanency guardian or legal custodian of the incapacitated person when the incapacitated person was a child, if the person was actively serving in that capacity immediately before the incapacitated person's 18th birthday;
- (3). A parent of the incapacitated person or a person nominated by the will of a deceased parent; or
- (4). A relative of the incapacitated person with whom the incapacitated person has resided for more than 6 months prior to the filing of the petition for appointment.

Sec. 5. 19-A MRSA §2001, sub-§5, ¶A, as amended by PL 2003, c. 123, §1, is further amended to read:

A. Gross income includes income from an ongoing source, including, but not limited to, salaries, wages, commissions, royalties, bonuses, dividends, severance pay, pensions, interest, trust funds, annuities, capital gains, social security benefits, disability insurance benefits, prizes, workers' compensation benefits, spousal support actually received pursuant to a preexisting order from a spouse who is not the parent of the child for whom support is being determined; and educational grants, fellowships or subsidies that are available for personal living expenses. Gross income does not include child support or permanency guardianship subsidies received by either party for children other than the child for whom support is being determined.

Sec. 6. 22 MRSA §4038, sub-§1-A, as amended by PL 2003, c. 408, §§2 to 5, is further amended to read:

1-A. No mandated review. Notwithstanding subsection 1, no subsequent judicial review is required unless petitioned for by any party or unless specifically ordered by the court:

- A. When custody has been granted to a person other than a parent or the department; ~~or~~

B. When custody has been granted to a parent who did not have custody at the time the child protection petition was filed; ~~or~~

E. When a permanency guardianship has been established pursuant to section 4038-C.

Sec. 7. 22 MRSA §4038-C, sub-§12 is enacted to read:

12. Appointments terminate; later appointments. Unless the District Court has scheduled a judicial review or orders otherwise, the court's appointments of the guardian ad litem and attorneys for parents and guardians terminate, and the attorneys and guardian ad litem have no further responsibilities to their clients or the court upon appointment of a permanency guardian pursuant to this section. If a party files a motion for judicial review when no judicial review is required pursuant to section 4038, subsection 1-A, or if a party files a petition pursuant to subsection 6 to terminate a permanency guardianship or determine rights of contact, the court shall appoint a guardian ad litem and attorneys for indigent parents and custodians, including permanency guardians, as required by section 4005.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 285

S.P. 653 - L.D. 1835

An Act To Amend the Laws Relating to Notaries Public

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §82, as amended by PL 1997, c. 712, §3, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§82. Appointment of notaries public; term of appointment; additional requirements for resident of adjoining state; term renewal of commissions

1. Appointment and renewal. The Secretary of State may appoint and renew a commission of a notary public who:

- A. Is 18 years of age or older at the time of appointment;
- B. Is a resident of this State at the time of appointment or is a resident of an adjacent state, is regularly employed or carries on a trade or business in this State at the time of appointment and submits an affidavit as described in subsection 2;
- C. Demonstrates proficiency in the English language at the time of appointment;

D. Has not had a notary commission revoked or suspended for official misconduct in this State or any other jurisdiction during the 5-year period preceding the date of application;

E. Has not been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment for one year or more, or of a lesser offense incompatible with the duties of a notary public as defined by rule by the Secretary of State during the 10-year period preceding the date of application for a new or renewed commission; and

F. Has satisfactorily completed a written examination prescribed by the Secretary of State to determine the fitness of the person to exercise the functions of the office of notary public.

2. Affidavit. An applicant for appointment as a notary public who resides in an adjoining state must submit to the Secretary of State with the application an affidavit as follows:

A. If the applicant is not self-employed, an affidavit from the applicant's employer stating that:

(1) The employer is licensed, authorized or registered to do business in this State; and

(2) The employer regularly employs the applicant at an office, business or facility that is located in this State; or

B. If the applicant is self-employed, an affidavit from the applicant stating that:

(1) The applicant is licensed, authorized or registered to do business in this State; and

(2) The applicant has an office, business or facility that is located in this State.

The affidavit required by this subsection must be in a form and format as defined by rule by the Secretary of State.

3. Written examination. The Secretary of State shall:

A. Make the written examination required by subsection 1 a part of the application for a new commission or the renewal of a commission; and

B. Furnish study materials relating to the written examination to an applicant without charge upon request of the applicant.

4. Term. A person appointed as a notary public serves the following term of office:

A. For a resident of this State, a term of 7 years; or

B. For a resident of an adjacent state, a term of 4 years.

5. Power extends to all counties. A person appointed as a notary public may exercise that person's power and duties in any and all counties in this State.

6. Rules. The Secretary of State shall adopt rules relating to the appointment and renewal of commissions of notaries public. The rules must include criteria and a procedure to be applied by the Secretary of State in appointment and renewal. The Secretary of State may not refuse to appoint or renew solely because the applicant lives or works in a specific geographic area or because of political party affiliation. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

7. Notice of expiration of commission. The Secretary of State shall provide notice of the expiration of a commission to a notary public 30 days prior to the expiration date. The notice must be in a form or format as determined by rule by the Secretary of State. Failure to receive a notice does not affect the expiration date of a commission.

8. Investigation of complaints. The Secretary of State shall investigate or cause to be investigated all complaints concerning improper or illegal notarial acts performed by notaries public made on the Secretary of State's own motion or on written complaint filed with the Secretary of State.

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §82-B is enacted to read:

§82-B. Notary Public Review Board

1. Board created. The Notary Public Review Board, as established by section 12004-G, subsection 31-C and referred to in this section as "the board," is created to review violations of law by notaries public and complaints concerning notaries public made pursuant to section 82, subsection 8.

2. Membership. The board consists of 5 members as follows:

A. Two members selected from a list of members provided by the board of directors of a statewide group dedicated to the education of notaries in this State appointed by the Governor;

B. One member who has been a notary public for less than 7 years, appointed by the Governor;

C. One member who has been a notary public for more than 7 years, appointed by the Governor; and

D. One member who has knowledge of notarial law and practices who is employed by the Secretary of State, appointed by the Secretary of State.

3. Chair. The member of the board appointed by the Secretary of State is the chair of the board. The chair shall:

A. Act as the presiding officer in all matters that come before the board;

B. Make preliminary rulings on discovery and other questions;

C. Participate fully in board deliberations; and

D. Vote on the merits of complaints that come before the board.

4. Terms. Except for the member appointed by the Secretary of State, members of the board serve 3-year terms. The member appointed by the Secretary of State serves at the pleasure of the Secretary of State.

5. Vacancy. Any vacancy on the board must be filled pursuant to subsection 2.

6. Reimbursement for expenses. Members of the board may be reimbursed by the Secretary of State for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in carrying out their duties.

7. Review of complaints. The board shall review complaints against notaries public pursuant to section 82, subsection 8. The board may hold a hearing as part of its review to determine whether grounds exist for denial of commission, suspension of commission, revocation of commission or renewal of commission or other action necessary to the fulfillment of the Secretary of State's responsibility under the laws of this State. The board may recommend to the Secretary of State that a notary public's commission be denied, suspended, revoked or not renewed or any other action that the board determines to be appropriate.

8. Rules. The board has the power reasonably necessary to perform the duties required of the Secretary of State by this section, including the power to make rules not inconsistent with this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §12004-G, sub-§31-C is enacted to read:

31-C.

<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Notary</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>5 MRSA</u>
<u>of State</u>	<u>Public</u>	<u>Only</u>	<u>§82-B</u>
	<u>Review</u>		
	<u>Board</u>		

Sec. 4. Initial appointments to Notary Public Review Board; staggered terms. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 82-B, subsection 4, for the initial appointments made by the Governor to the Notary Public Review Board, the Governor shall appoint 2 members for 3-year terms, one member for a 2-year term and one member for a 1-year term.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 286
S.P. 612 - L.D. 1745

**An Act To Improve Continuity
of Care within Maine's
Community-based Mental
Health Services**

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

Sec. 1. 34-B MRSA §1204, sub-§2, ¶C, as amended by PL 2001, c. 493, §3 and PL 2005, c. 236, §§3 and 4, is further amended to read:

C. The commissioner shall appoint the following officials to serve at the commissioner's pleasure:

- (1) Associate Commissioners;
- (2) Superintendent, Riverview Psychiatric Center;
- (3) Superintendent, Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Center;
- (6) Director, Elizabeth Levinson Center;
- (8) Assistant to the Commissioner;
- ~~(10) Regional Directors, who shall report to the Associate Commissioner of Systems Operations;~~
- (11) Director, Office of Substance Abuse, who shall report directly to the commissioner; and
- (12) Deputy Commissioner.

Sec. 2. 34-B MRSA §1207, sub-§1, ¶B, as corrected by RR 2005, c. 2, §22, is amended to read:

B. Information may be disclosed if necessary to carry out ~~any of~~ the statutory functions of the department, the hospitalization provisions of chapter 3, subchapter 4, the purposes of sections ~~3607~~ 3607-A and 3608, the purposes of Title 5, section 19506 or the purposes of United States Public Law 99-319, dealing with the investigatory function of the independent agency designated with advocacy and investigatory functions under United States Public Law 88-164, Title I, Part C or United States Public Law 99-319;

Sec. 3. 34-B MRSA §1220, first ¶, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 422, §3, is amended to read:

The department shall designate at least one individual within each of the 7 areas described in section ~~3607~~ 3608, subsection ~~3~~ 1-A to act as liaison to the District Courts and Superior Courts of the State and to the Department of Corrections in its administration of probation and parole services and the Intensive Super-