

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

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
January 2, 2008 to March 31, 2008

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
April 1, 2008 to April 18, 2008

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
JUNE 30, 2008

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
JULY 18, 2008

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

Penmor Lithographers
Lewiston, Maine
2008

State to the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk of the House and the Revisor of Statutes.

See title page for effective date, unless otherwise indicated.

CHAPTER 698

H.P. 1607 - L.D. 2246

An Act To Extend the ConnectME Authority

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

Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA §9215, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 665, §3, is repealed.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 699

H.P. 1619 - L.D. 2257

An Act To Establish a Uniform Building and Energy Code

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-G, sub-§5-A is enacted to read:

5-A.

<u>Building Codes and Standards</u>	<u>Technical Building Codes and Standards Board</u>	<u>Expenses Only</u>	<u>10 MRSA c. 1103</u>
-------------------------------------	---	----------------------	------------------------

Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §1415-C, sub-§7 is enacted to read:

7. Repeal. This section is repealed July 1, 2010.

Sec. 3. 10 MRSA §1415-D, sub-§2 is enacted to read:

2. Repeal. This section is repealed July 1, 2010.

Sec. 4. 10 MRSA §1420, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Repeal. This section is repealed July 1, 2010.

Sec. 5. 10 MRSA §9707 is enacted to read:

§9707. Repeal

This chapter is repealed July 1, 2010.

Sec. 6. 10 MRSA c. 1103 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 1103

MAINE UNIFORM BUILDING AND ENERGY CODE

§9721. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Board. "Board" means the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board established in Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 5-A.

2. Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. "Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code" means the uniform statewide building and energy code adopted by the board pursuant to this chapter.

§9722. Technical Building Codes and Standards Board

1. Establishment. The Technical Building Codes and Standards Board, established in Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 5-A and located within the Department of Public Safety, is established to adopt, amend and maintain the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, to resolve conflicts between the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code and the fire and life safety codes in Title 25, sections 2452 and 2465 and to provide for training for municipal building officials, local code enforcement officers and 3rd-party inspectors.

2. Membership. The board consists of 11 voting members, appointed by the Governor:

A. The State Fire Marshal or a designee or a fire chief, recommended by the Maine Fire Chiefs' Association or its successor organization;

B. A municipal code enforcement officer employed by a municipality that is not a service center community under Title 30-A, chapter 187, recommended by the Maine Municipal Association or its successor organization;

C. A municipal code enforcement officer employed by a service center community under Title 30-A, chapter 187, recommended by the Maine Service Centers Coalition or its successor organization;

D. A residential builder recommended by a statewide or regional association of home builders and remodelers;

E. A commercial builder recommended by a statewide association of general contractors;

F. An architect licensed in the State who is accredited by a nationally recognized organization that administers credentialing programs related to environmentally sound building practices and

standards, recommended by a statewide chapter of a national institute of architects;

G. A structural engineer licensed in the State, recommended by a statewide association of structural engineers;

H. A historic preservation representative, recommended by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, with experience implementing the standards for the treatment of historic properties set forth in 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 68 (2007), who is:

- (1) An architect licensed in the State;
- (2) A structural engineer licensed in the State; or
- (3) A builder;

I. An energy efficiency representative, recommended by the director of the Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security within the Executive Department, who has experience or expertise in the design or implementation of energy codes or in the application of energy efficiency measures in residential or commercial construction;

J. A mechanical engineer licensed in the State, recommended by a statewide association of mechanical engineers; and

K. A lumber material dealer or supplier, recommended by a statewide association of lumber dealers in the State.

A member appointed under this subsection must have at least 5 years' experience in the field that member is nominated to represent and must be employed in that field.

3. Ex officio member; chair. The Commissioner of Public Safety, or the commissioner's designee, serves as an ex officio member and as the chair of the board. The chair is a nonvoting member, except in the case of a tie of the board. The chair is responsible for ensuring that the board maintains the purpose of its charge when executing its assigned duties, that any adoption and amendment requirements for the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code are met and that training and technical assistance is provided to municipal building officials.

4. Terms; removal. Appointments to the board are made for a 4-year term, and members are eligible for reappointment. If there is a vacancy for any cause, the Governor shall make an appointment immediately effective for the unexpired term. A member of the board may be removed from the board for cause by the Governor.

5. Meetings; quorum. The board shall meet quarterly and at such other times as the board deter-

mines necessary. Seven voting members of the board constitute a quorum for the transaction of business under this chapter.

6. Duties and powers. In addition to other duties set forth in this chapter, the board shall:

A. Adopt rules in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedure Act necessary to carry out its duties under this chapter. Rules adopted pursuant to this chapter are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A;

B. Adopt, amend and maintain the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code;

C. Adopt rules for the review and adoption of amendments to the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, including:

(1) A process for consideration of amendment proposals submitted by municipalities, county, regional or state governmental units, professional trade organizations and the public;

(2) A requirement that amendments that are more restrictive than the national minimum standard be accompanied by an economic impact statement that includes:

(a) An identification of the types and an estimate of the number of the small businesses subject to the proposed amendment;

(b) The projected reporting, record-keeping and other administrative costs required for compliance with the proposed amendment, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparation of the report or record;

(c) A brief statement of the probable impact on affected small businesses; and

(d) A description of any less intrusive or less costly, reasonable alternative methods of achieving the purposes of the proposed amendment;

(3) A process for reviewing and evaluating criteria to identify whether an amendment is needed to:

(a) Address a critical life or safety need, a specific state policy or statute or a unique character of the State;

(b) Ensure consistency with state rules or federal regulations; or

(c) Correct errors and omissions;

(4) Timelines governing the filing of amendments and a process to establish an annual adoption cycle; and

(5) A process for publication of adopted amendments within 30 days of adoption;

D. Identify and resolve conflicts between the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code and the fire safety codes and standards adopted pursuant to Title 25, section 2452. The board shall develop rules designed to resolve these conflicts, which must include:

(1) Notification to the authority or authorities having jurisdiction over the code or standard that is in conflict with the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code and a request for submission of proposed solutions for such conflicts;

(2) Procedures for consideration of proposed solutions submitted by the authority or authorities having jurisdiction over the code or standard that is in conflict with the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code and consideration of new approaches to resolving the conflict; and

(3) Publication of resolution of the conflict within 30 days of adoption;

E. On December 31st of each calendar year beginning in 2010, report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business, research and economic development matters any proposals for proposed conflict resolutions for codes and standards referenced in section 9725, subsections 2 to 7; proposals to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of those codes and standards; and alternative methods of funding for the board to create an equitable source of revenue;

F. Develop technical advisory groups of experts and interest group representatives as necessary to provide the board with detailed information and recommendations on amendments to the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, national model codes revisions and conflict resolution with other building-related codes and standards adopted in the State. The board may direct the technical advisory groups to identify economic impacts on small businesses, housing affordability, construction costs, life-cycle costs or code enforcement costs of proposed changes to the code;

G. In accordance with section 9723, ensure that training and certification regarding the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code is readily available, affordable and accessible to municipal building officials;

H. Make historic preservation a policy priority in the adoption and amendment of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.

(1) Provisions of model codes and standards intended to facilitate the continued use or adaptive reuse of historic buildings must be maintained in the adopted versions of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.

(2) The board shall proactively identify additional or alternative compliance means and methods for historic buildings in the adoption and amendment of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code;

I. Approve methods of energy performance rating for use in generating any consumer information labels that may be required in the marketing and sale of residential and commercial buildings or units within buildings;

J. In the adoption and amendment of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, ensure that nontraditional or experimental construction, including but not limited to straw bale and earth berm construction, is permissible under the code; and

K. In the adoption and amendment of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, ensure that building materials from local sawmills, including but not limited to nongraded lumber, are permissible under the code.

§9723. Training and certification program standards

1. Appoint committee; establish requirements.

The board shall appoint a 5-member training and certification committee, referred to in this section as "the committee," to establish the training and certification requirements for municipal building officials, local code enforcement officers and 3rd-party inspectors. For purposes of this section, "3rd-party inspector" has the same meaning as set forth in Title 25, section 2371, subsection 6.

2. Training program standards; implementation.

The committee shall direct the training coordinator of the Bureau of Building Codes and Standards, established in Title 25, section 2372, to develop a training program for municipal building officials, local code enforcement officers and 3rd-party inspectors. The Executive Department, State Planning Office, pursuant to Title 30-A, section 4451, subsection 3-A, shall implement the training and certification program established under this chapter.

3. Annual review. The committee shall annually review the training program developed pursuant to subsection 2 to confirm that training courses are regularly offered in geographically diverse locations and that training for municipal building officials is fully funded by the State.

§9724. Application

1. Limitations on home rule authority. This chapter provides express limitations on municipal home rule authority. Beginning July 1, 2010, the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code must be enforced in a municipality that has more than 2,000 residents and that has adopted any building code by August 1, 2008. Beginning July 1, 2012, the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code must be enforced in a municipality that has more than 2,000 residents and that has not adopted any building code by August 1, 2008. The Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code must be enforced through inspections that comply with Title 25, section 2373.

2. Prior statewide codes and standards. Effective July 1, 2010, the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code adopted pursuant to this chapter replaces, and is intended to be the successor to, the Model Energy Code established in Title 35-A, section 121 and the Maine model radon standard for new residential construction set forth in Title 25, section 2466.

3. Ordinances. Effective July 1, 2010, except as provided in subsection 4 and section 9725, any ordinance regarding a building code of any political subdivision of the State that is inconsistent with the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code is void.

4. Exception. This section does not prohibit the adoption or enforcement of an ordinance of any political subdivision that sets forth provisions for local enforcement of building codes. The requirements of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code do not apply to:

A. Log homes or manufactured housing as defined in chapter 951; or

B. Post and beam or timber frame construction.

§9725. Fire and building-related codes and standards remain

The codes and standards listed in this section remain in force in their entirety unless the board adopts and publishes a conflict resolution between the fire and safety codes and standards and the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. Conflict resolutions adopted pursuant to this chapter must also be incorporated into the fire and safety codes and standards by the appropriate authorities:

1. Fire safety codes and standards. Fire safety codes and standards adopted pursuant to Title 25, sections 2452 and 2465;

2. Electrical standards. Electrical standards adopted pursuant to Title 32, section 1153-A;

3. Plumbing code. The plumbing code adopted pursuant to Title 32, section 3403-B;

4. Oil and solid fuel burning equipment standards. Oil and solid fuel burning equipment standards adopted pursuant to Title 32, section 2353;

5. Propane and natural gas equipment standards. Propane and natural gas equipment standards adopted pursuant to Title 32, section 14804;

6. Boiler and pressure vessel standards. Boiler and pressure vessel standards adopted pursuant to Title 32, section 15104-A; and

7. Elevator standards. Elevator standards adopted pursuant to Title 32, section 15206.

Sec. 7. 25 MRSA §2351, as corrected by RR 1995, c. 2, §56, is amended to read:

§2351. Inspector of buildings; compensation; deputy

In every town and city of more than 2,000 inhabitants, and in every town of 2,000 inhabitants or less, if such a town so votes at a town meeting, and in each village corporation, if such a corporation so votes at the annual meeting thereof, the municipal officers shall annually in the month of April appoint an inspector of buildings, who must be a person skilled in the construction of buildings certified in building standards pursuant to Title 30-A, section 4451, subsection 2-A, paragraph E, and shall determine the inspector's compensation. ~~The municipal officers shall define the limits within which the inspector of buildings has jurisdiction, which includes the thickly settled portion of each such city or of each village in each such city or town.~~ Whenever the inspector of buildings becomes incapacitated, the municipal officers may appoint or authorize the inspector of buildings to appoint a deputy inspector of buildings, who shall serve until removed by the municipal officers, but in no event beyond the term for which the inspector of buildings was appointed. The deputy inspector shall perform such duties as may be required of the deputy inspector by the inspector. The compensation of the deputy inspector is determined by the municipal officers.

Sec. 8. 25 MRSA §2353 is amended to read:

§2353. Duty to inspect buildings under construction

The inspector of buildings shall inspect each new building during the process of construction; for compliance with the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code adopted pursuant to Title 10, chapter 1103 and so far as may be necessary; to see that all proper safeguards against the catching or spreading of fire are used, that the chimneys and flues are made safe and that proper cutoffs are placed between the timbers in the walls and floorings where fire would be likely to spread, and may give such directions in writing to the owner or contractor; as he deems the inspector considers necessary; concerning the construction of such the

building so as to render the ~~same~~ building safe from the catching and spreading of fire.

Sec. 9. 25 MRSA §2357, as amended by PL 1999, c. 725, §5, is further amended to read:

§2357. No occupancy without certificate; appeal

Subject to the provisions of Title 10, chapter 951, a ~~new~~ building may not be occupied until the inspector of buildings has given a certificate of occupancy for compliance with the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code adopted pursuant to Title 10, chapter 1103, pursuant to the required inspections in section 2373 that the ~~same~~ building has been built in accordance with section 2353, and so as to be safe from fire. If the owner permits it to be so occupied without such certificate, the owner must be penalized in accordance with Title 30-A, section 4452. In case the inspector of buildings for any cause declines to give that certificate and the builder has in the builder's own judgment complied with section 2353, an appeal may be taken to the municipal officers and, if on such appeal it is decided by them that the section has been complied with, the owner of the building is not liable to a fine for want of the certificate of the inspector.

Sec. 10. 25 MRSA §2361, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 101, is amended to read:

§2361. Proceedings by municipality

1. Municipal enforcement. Duly appointed fire chiefs or their designees, municipal building inspectors and code enforcement officers may bring a civil action in the name of the municipality to enforce any of the state laws, duly ~~promulgated~~ adopted state rules or local ordinances enacted pursuant to ~~chapters 313 to 321~~ this Part and Title 10, chapter 1103; and

2. Notice. In any proceeding brought by or against the State ~~which that~~ involves the validity of a municipal ordinance, the municipality ~~shall~~ must be given notice of the proceeding and ~~shall be~~ is entitled to be made a party to the proceeding and to be heard. In any proceeding brought by or against the municipality ~~which that~~ involves the validity of statute, ordinance or regulation, the Attorney General ~~shall~~ must be served and ~~shall be~~ is made a party to the proceeding and ~~be~~ is entitled to be heard. This section ~~shall apply~~ applies to enforcement of statutes, rules or ordinances enacted pursuant to ~~chapters 313 to 321~~ this Part and Title 10, chapter 1103.

Sec. 11. 25 MRSA c. 314 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 314

BUILDING CODES AND STANDARDS

§2371. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

1. Board. "Board" means the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board established in Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 5-A.

2. Building official. "Building official" means a building official appointed pursuant to section 2351.

3. Bureau. "Bureau" means the Bureau of Building Codes and Standards established in section 2372.

4. Code. "Code" means the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code adopted pursuant to Title 10, chapter 1103.

5. Commissioner. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Safety.

6. Third-party inspector. "Third-party inspector" means a person certified by the State to conduct inspections under Title 30-A, section 4451 for compliance with the code. A 3rd-party inspector may not hold a pecuniary interest, directly or indirectly, in any building for which the 3rd-party inspector issues an inspection report pursuant to section 2373 and may not be appointed as a building official.

§2372. Bureau of Building Codes and Standards

1. Established. The Bureau of Building Codes and Standards is established within the Department of Public Safety to provide administrative support and technical assistance to the board in executing its duties pursuant to Title 10, section 9722, subsection 6.

2. Staff. The commissioner may appoint or remove for cause staff of the bureau, including:

A. A technical codes coordinator certified in building standards pursuant to Title 30-A, section 4451, subsection 2-A, paragraph E, who serves as the bureau director and principal administrative and supervisory employee of the board. The technical codes coordinator shall attend meetings of the board, keep records of the proceedings of the board and direct and supervise the personnel employed to carry out the duties of the board, including but not limited to providing technical support and public outreach for the adoption of the code, amendments, conflict resolutions and interpretations. Technical support and public outreach must include, but may not be limited to:

(1) Providing nonbinding interpretation of the code for professionals and the general public; and

(2) Establishing and maintaining a publicly accessible website to publish general technical assistance, code updates and interpretations and post-training course schedules; and

B. An office specialist to provide administrative support to the bureau and the board.

§2373. Municipal inspection options

Beginning July 1, 2010, the code must be enforced in a municipality that has more than 2,000 residents and that has adopted any building code by August 1, 2008. Beginning July 1, 2012, the code must be enforced in a municipality that has more than 2,000 residents and that has not adopted any building code by August 1, 2008. The code must be enforced through inspections that comply with the code through any of the following means:

1. Building officials. Building officials and local code enforcement officers;

2. Interlocal agreements. Interlocal agreements with other municipalities that share the use of building officials certified in building standards pursuant to Title 10, section 9723;

3. Contractual agreements. Contractual agreements with county or regional authorities that share the use of building officials certified in building standards pursuant to Title 10, section 9723; and

4. Third-party inspectors. Reports from 3rd-party inspectors certified pursuant to Title 10, section 9723 submitted to the building official prior to obtaining a certificate of occupancy in section 2357 that are obtained pursuant to independent contractual arrangements between the building owner and 3rd-party inspector or the municipality and 3rd-party inspector.

§2374. Uniform Building Codes and Standards Fund

The Uniform Building Codes and Standards Fund is established within the Department of Public Safety to fund the activities of the bureau under this chapter and the activities of the board under Title 10, chapter 1103 and the Executive Department, State Planning Office under Title 30-A, section 4451, subsection 3-A. Revenue for this fund is provided by the surcharge established by section 2450-A. Any balance of the fund may not lapse, but must be carried forward as a continuing account to be expended for the same purpose in the following fiscal year.

Sec. 12. 25 MRSA §2450, as amended by PL 2003, c. 358, §1, is further amended to read:

§2450. Examinations by Department of Public Safety

The Commissioner of Public Safety shall adopt, in accordance with requirements of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, a schedule of fees for the examination of all plans for construction, reconstruction or repairs submitted to the Department of Public Safety. The fee schedule for new construction or new use is 5¢ per square foot for occupied spaces and 2¢ per square foot for bulk storage occupancies, except that a fee for review of a plan for new construction by a public school may not exceed \$450. The fee sched-

ule for reconstruction, repairs or renovations is based on the cost of the project and may not exceed \$450, except as provided in section 2450-A. The fees must be credited to a special revenue account to defray expenses in carrying out this section. Any balance of the fees may not lapse, but must be carried forward as a continuing account to be expended for the same purpose in the following fiscal years.

Sec. 13. 25 MRSA §2450-A is enacted to read:

§2450-A. Surcharge on plan review fee for Uniform Building Codes and Standards Fund

In addition to the fees established in section 2450, a surcharge of 4¢ per square foot of occupied space must be levied on the existing fee schedule for new construction, reconstruction, repairs, renovations or new use for the sole purpose of funding the activities of the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board with respect to the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, established pursuant to the Title 10, chapter 1103, the activities of the Bureau of Building Codes and Standards under chapter 314 and the activities of the Executive Department, State Planning Office under Title 30-A, section 4451, subsection 3-A, except that the fee for review of a plan for the renovation of a public school, including the fee established under section 2450, may not exceed \$450. Revenue collected from this surcharge must be deposited into the Uniform Building Codes and Standards Fund established by section 2374.

Sec. 14. 25 MRSA §2466, sub-§5 is enacted to read:

5. Repeal. This section is repealed July 1, 2010.

Sec. 15. 30-A MRSA §4451, sub-§2-A, ¶E, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 163, is amended to read:

E. Building standards under chapter 141; chapter 185, subchapter 1; beginning January 1, 2010, Title 10, chapter 1103; and Title 25, chapters 313 and 331.

Sec. 16. 30-A MRSA §4451, sub-§3, as amended by PL 1997, c. 296, §7 and PL 2003, c. 20, Pt. OO, §2 and affected by §4 and amended by c. 689, Pt. B, §6, is further amended to read:

3. Training and certification of code enforcement officers. In cooperation with the Maine Community College System, the Department of Environmental Protection ~~and~~ the Department of Health and Human Services ~~and~~ the Department of Public Safety, the office shall establish a continuing education program for individuals engaged in code enforcement. This program must provide basic and advanced training in the technical and legal aspects of code enforcement necessary for certification.

Sec. 17. 30-A MRSA §4451, sub-§3-A is enacted to read:

3-A. Training and certification of inspectors in the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. In accordance with the training and certification requirements developed pursuant to Title 10, section 9723, the office shall provide the training necessary to certify municipal building officials, local code enforcement officers and 3rd-party inspectors.

Sec. 18. 30-A MRSA §4452, sub-§5, as amended by PL 2007, c. 112, §§4 to 6, is further amended to read:

5. Application. This section applies to the enforcement of land use laws and ordinances or rules ~~which~~ that are administered and enforced primarily at the local level, including:

A. The plumbing and subsurface waste water disposal rules adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services under Title 22, section 42, including the land area of the State ~~which~~ that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission;

B. Laws pertaining to public water supplies, Title 22, sections 2642, 2647 and 2648;

C. Local ordinances adopted pursuant to Title 22, section 2642;

D. Laws administered by local health officers pursuant to Title 22, chapters 153 and 263;

E. Laws pertaining to fire prevention and protection, which require enforcement by local officers pursuant to Title 25, chapter 313;

F. Laws pertaining to the construction of public buildings for the physically disabled pursuant to Title 25, chapter 331;

G. Local land use ordinances adopted pursuant to section 3001;

~~H. Local building codes adopted pursuant to sections 3001 and 3007;~~

~~I. Local housing codes adopted pursuant to sections 3001 and 3007;~~

J. Laws pertaining to junkyards, automobile graveyards and automobile recycling businesses and local ordinances regarding junkyards, automobile graveyards and automobile recycling businesses, pursuant to chapter 183, subchapter 1 and Title 38, section 1665-A, subsection 3;

K. Local ordinances regarding electrical installations pursuant to chapter 185, subchapter ~~H~~ 2;

L. Local ordinances regarding regulation and inspection of plumbing pursuant to chapter 185, subchapter ~~H~~ 3;

M. Local ordinances regarding malfunctioning subsurface waste water disposal systems pursuant to section 3428;

N. The subdivision law and local subdivision ordinances adopted pursuant to section 3001 and subdivision regulations adopted pursuant to section 4403;

O. Local zoning ordinances adopted pursuant to section 3001 and in accordance with section 4352;

P. Wastewater discharge licenses issued pursuant to Title 38, section 353-B;

Q. Shoreland zoning ordinances adopted pursuant to Title 38, sections 435 to 447, including those that were state-imposed;

R. The laws pertaining to harbors in Title 38, chapter 1, subchapter 1, local harbor ordinances adopted in accordance with Title 38, section 7 and regulations adopted by municipal officers pursuant to Title 38, section 2;

S. Local ordinances and ordinance provisions regarding storm water, including, but not limited to, ordinances and ordinance provisions regulating nonstorm water discharges, construction site runoff and postconstruction storm water management, enacted as required by the federal Clean Water Act and federal regulations and by state permits and rules; ~~and~~

T. Laws pertaining to limitations on construction and excavation near burial sites and established cemeteries in Title 13, section 1371-A and local ordinances and regulations adopted by municipalities in accordance with this section and section 3001 regarding those limitations; and

U. The Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, adopted pursuant to Title 10, chapter 1103.

Sec. 19. 35-A MRSA §121, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Repeal. This section is repealed January 1, 2010.

Sec. 20. Staggered terms. Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 9722, subsection 4, initial appointments made to the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board are as set out in this section.

1. The appointments made under Title 10, section 9722, subsection 2, paragraphs B, E, H and K are for a term of 2 years.

2. The appointments made under Title 10, section 9722, subsection 2, paragraphs C, F and I are for a term of 3 years.

Sec. 21. Adoption of Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. The Technical Build-

ing Codes and Standards Board established by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 5-A, referred to in this section as "the board," shall adopt the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code pursuant to Title 10, section 9722 in accordance with this section.

1. The Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code adopted in accordance with Title 10, section 9722, subsection 6 must be composed of the substance of the following, with administrative and other minor changes to customize the codes for Maine:

- A. The 2009 edition of the International Building Code;
- B. The 2009 edition of the International Existing Building Code;
- C. The 2009 edition of the International Residential Code;
- D. The 2009 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code;
- E. The ASHRAE Standards 62.1, 62.2 and 90.1; and
- F. The Maine model radon standard for new residential construction set forth in Title 25, section 2466 and associated rules.

2. Existing state codes and standards, where applicable, must be referenced in chapter one of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code.

3. The board shall adopt the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code no later than January 1, 2010.

A. Between January 1, 2010 and July 1, 2010, building construction and renovation projects may utilize either the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code or existing building and energy codes adopted by any political subdivision of the State.

B. The board shall maintain an adoption cycle for future versions of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code that is coordinated with the State Fire Marshal's adoption cycle and that does not lapse more than 5 years or one national model code version cycle.

Sec. 22. Appointments; convening of Technical Building Codes and Standards Board. The Governor shall make the appointments pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 9722 subsection 2 in sufficient time for the Governor to convene the first meeting of the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board by November 1, 2008.

Sec. 23. Report from the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board. The Technical Building Codes and Standards Board, established pursuant to Title 10, section 9722, shall provide by March

1, 2009 a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business, research and economic development matters regarding the criteria that will be used to develop rules to resolve the conflicts between the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code and the fire and life safety codes in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, sections 2452 and 2465, pursuant to its authority under Title 10, section 9722, subsection 6, paragraph D. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business, research and economic development matters is authorized to submit legislation relating to this criteria to the Second Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.

Sec. 24. Maine Revised Statutes amended; revision clause. Wherever in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, sections 2351, 2353, 2357 and 2361 the words "inspector of buildings" appear, they are amended to read "building official" and wherever in the Maine Revised Statutes the words "building inspector" appear, they are amended to read "building official," and the Revisor of Statutes shall implement these revisions when updating, publishing or republishing the statutes.

Sec. 25. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF
Bureau of Building Codes and Standards Z068**

Initiative: Provides an allocation for 2 new positions and related costs within the newly created Bureau of Building Codes and Standards.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2007-08	2008-09
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	2.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$162,979
All Other	\$0	\$130,639
	<hr/>	<hr/>
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$293,618

PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2007-08	2008-09
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$293,618
	<hr/>	<hr/>
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$293,618

STATE PLANNING OFFICE

Planning Office 0082

Initiative: Allocates funds for one Planner II position and general operating expenses beginning April 9, 2009 to carry out the purposes of this Act.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2007-08	2008-09
POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1.000
Personal Services	\$0	\$18,175
All Other	\$0	\$254
	<hr/>	<hr/>
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$18,429
STATE PLANNING OFFICE		
DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2007-08	2008-09
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$18,429
	<hr/>	<hr/>
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$18,429
SECTION TOTALS	2007-08	2008-09
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$0	\$312,047
	<hr/>	<hr/>
SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$0	\$312,047

Sec. 26. Effective date. Those sections of this Act that amend the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 25, sections 2351, 2353, 2357 and 2361 take effect July 1, 2010.

Sec. 27. Staggered effective date for enforcement of Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code. A municipality that has more than 2,000 residents that has adopted any building code by August 1, 2008 shall begin enforcement of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code adopted pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, chapter 1103 by June 1, 2010. Any municipality with more than 2,000 residents that has not adopted any building code by August 1, 2008 shall begin enforcement of the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code by January 1, 2012.

See title page for effective date, unless otherwise indicated.

**CHAPTER 700
S.P. 921 - L.D. 2305**

An Act To Restore Benefits under the Circuitbreaker Program

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

Whereas, a transfer from unappropriated surplus must be made in order to increase General Fund reserves at the close of fiscal year 2007-08 to reduce the risk of an adverse effect on the General Fund budget of a deteriorating national economy and high oil prices; 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:

PART A

Sec. A-1. 36 MRSA §6201, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2007, c. 539, Pt. BBBB, §1, is further amended to read:

1. Benefit base. "Benefit base" means property taxes accrued or rent constituting property taxes accrued. In the case of a claimant paying both rent and property taxes for a homestead, benefit base means both property taxes accrued and rent constituting property taxes accrued. ~~For application periods beginning on or after August 1, 2008, the~~ The benefit base may not exceed ~~\$3,000~~ \$3,350 for single-member households and ~~\$4,000~~ \$4,400 for households with 2 or more members.

Sec. A-2. 36 MRSA §6207, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Income eligibility. For application periods beginning on or after August 1, 2008, a single-member household with a household income in excess of \$60,000 and a household with 2 or more members with a household income in excess of \$80,000 are not eligible for a benefit.

Sec. A-3. 36 MRSA §6209, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Benefit base maximum adjustment. Beginning March 1, 2009, the State Tax Assessor shall annually multiply the household income eligibility adjustment factor by the maximum benefit base amounts specified in section 6201, subsection 1, as previously