

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 3, 2008 to June 13, 2009

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

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

Augusta, Maine
2009

| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
|---|---------|---------|----------|
| All Other | \$2,500 | \$7,500 | \$10,000 |
| OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL | \$2,500 | \$7,500 | \$10,000 |

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

Effective April 16, 2009.

CHAPTER 28 S.P. 38 - L.D. 89

An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning Informal Conferences as Part of the Board of Licensure in Medicine's Disciplinary Proceedings

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

Sec. 1. 32 MRSA §3282-A, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1999, c. 547, Pt. B, §67 and affected by §80, is further amended to read:

1. Disciplinary proceedings and sanctions. The board shall investigate a complaint, on its own motion or upon receipt of a written complaint filed with the board, regarding noncompliance with or violation of this chapter or any rules adopted by the board.

The board shall notify the licensee of the content of a complaint filed against the licensee as soon as possible, but not later than 60 days after receipt of this information. The licensee shall respond within 30 days. The board shall share the licensee's response with the complainant, unless the board determines that it would be detrimental to the health of the complainant to obtain the response. If the licensee's response to the complaint satisfies the board that the complaint does not merit further investigation or action, the matter may be dismissed, with notice of the dismissal to the complainant, if any.

If, in the opinion of the board, the factual basis of the complaint is or may be true and the complaint is of sufficient gravity to warrant further action, the board or a subcommittee of the board may request and conduct an informal conference with the licensee. The board shall provide the licensee with adequate notice of the conference and the issues to be discussed. The complainant may attend and may be accompanied by up to 2 individuals, including legal counsel. The conference must be conducted in executive session of the

board or a subcommittee of the board, pursuant to Title 1, section 405, unless otherwise requested by the licensee. Before the board decides what action to take at the conference or as a result of the conference, the board or a subcommittee of the board shall give the complainant a reasonable opportunity to speak. Statements made at the conference may not be introduced at a subsequent formal hearing unless all parties consent. The complainant, the licensee or either of their representatives shall maintain the confidentiality of the conference.

When a complaint has been filed against a licensee and the licensee moves or has moved to another state, the board may report to the appropriate licensing board in that state the complaint that has been filed, other complaints in the physician's record on which action was taken and disciplinary actions of the board with respect to that physician.

When an individual applies for a license under this chapter, the board may investigate the professional record of that individual, including professional records that the individual may have as a licensee in other states. The board may deny a license or authorize a restricted license based on the record of the applicant in other states.

If the board finds that the factual basis of the complaint is true and is of sufficient gravity to warrant further action, it may take any of the following actions it determines appropriate.

A. With the consent of the licensee, the board may enter into a consent agreement that fixes the period and terms of probation best adapted to protect the public health and safety and rehabilitate or educate the licensee. A consent agreement may be used to terminate a complaint investigation, if entered into by the board, the licensee and the Attorney General's office.

B. In consideration for acceptance of a voluntary surrender of the license, the board may negotiate stipulations, including terms and conditions for reinstatement, that ensure protection of the public health and safety and serve to rehabilitate or educate the licensee. These stipulations may be set forth only in a consent agreement signed by the board, the licensee and the Attorney General's office.

C. If the board concludes that modification or nonrenewal of the license is in order, the board shall hold an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter ~~IV~~ 4.

D. If the board concludes that suspension or revocation of the license is in order, the board shall file a complaint in the District Court in accordance with Title 4, chapter 5.

The board shall require a licensee to notify all patients of the licensee of a probation or stipulation under which the licensee is practicing as a result of board disciplinary action. This requirement does not apply to a physician participating in an alcohol or drug treatment program pursuant to Title 24, section 2505, a physician who retires following charges made or complaints investigated by the board or a physician under the care of a professional and whose medical practices and services are not reduced, restricted or prohibited by the disciplinary action.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 29

S.P. 33 - L.D. 84

An Act To Ensure Fair Pay

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

Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §628, first ¶, as amended by PL 2001, c. 304, §2, is further amended to read:

An employer may not discriminate between employees in the same establishment on the basis of sex by paying wages to any employee in any occupation in this State at a rate less than the rate at which the employer pays any employee of the opposite sex for comparable work on jobs that have comparable requirements relating to skill, effort and responsibility. Differentials that are paid pursuant to established seniority systems or merit increase systems or difference in the shift or time of the day worked that do not discriminate on the basis of sex are not within this prohibition. An employer may not discharge or discriminate against any employee by reason of any action taken by such employee to invoke or assist in any manner the enforcement of this section. An employer may not prohibit an employee from disclosing the employee's own wages or from inquiring about another employee's wages if the purpose of the disclosure or inquiry is to enforce the rights granted by this section. Nothing in this section creates an obligation to disclose wages.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 30

H.P. 174 - L.D. 209

An Act To Abolish the Intergovernmental Advisory Commission

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§75-C, as amended by PL 2005, c. 222, §1, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §2181, as amended by PL 2005, c. 222, §2, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 30-A MRSA §6210, as amended by PL 2005, c. 222, §4 and enacted by c. 266, §2, is repealed.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 31

H.P. 258 - L.D. 322

An Act To Clarify the Prohibition on Payment for Health Care Facility Mistakes or Preventable Adverse Events

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1721, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 605, §1, is amended to read:

2. Prohibition. A health care facility is prohibited from knowingly charging a patient or the patient's insurer or the patient's employer as defined in Title 39-A, section 102, subsection 12 for health care services it provided as a result of or to correct a mistake or preventable adverse event caused by that health care facility.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 32

S.P. 221 - L.D. 606

An Act To Enable the Maine Employers' Mutual Insurance Company To Better Serve the Needs of All Employers

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

Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §3703, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2007, c. 125, §1, is further amended to read:

1. Workers' compensation. The company shall provide workers' compensation insurance and employers' liability insurance incidental to and written in connection with workers' compensation coverage to employers in this State. The company may provide employment practices liability insurance incidental to and written in connection with workers' compensation coverage for employers ~~with an average of 100 or fewer employees~~ if the employment practices liability insurance is provided as an endorsement to workers'