

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

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

Augusta, Maine
2009

§3028. Abandonment of public ways; determination of status of any town way or public easement

1. Presumption of abandonment. It is prima facie evidence that a town or county way not kept passable for the use of motor vehicles at the expense of the municipality or county for a period of 30 or more consecutive years has been discontinued by abandonment. A presumption of abandonment may be rebutted by evidence that manifests a clear intent by the municipality or county and the public to consider or use the way as if it were a public way. A proceeding to discontinue a town or county way may not prevent or estop a municipality from asserting a presumption of abandonment. A municipality or its officials are not liable for nonperformance of a legal duty with respect to such ways if there has been a good faith reliance on a presumption of abandonment. Any person affected by a presumption of abandonment, including the State or a municipality, may seek declaratory relief to finally resolve the status of such ways. A way that has been abandoned under this section is relegated to the same status as it would have had after a discontinuance pursuant to section 3026, except that this status is at all times subject to an affirmative vote of the legislative body of the municipality within which the way lies making that way an easement for recreational use. A presumption of abandonment is not rebutted by evidence that shows isolated acts of maintenance, unless other evidence exists that shows a clear intent by the municipality or county to consider or use the way as if it were a public way.

2. Status of town way or public easement. The determination of the municipal officers regarding the status of a town way or public easement is binding on all persons until a final determination of that status has been made by a court, unless otherwise ordered by a court during the pendency of litigation to determine the status.

3. Removal of obstructions. If the municipal officers have determined under subsection 2 that the way is a town way or public easement and a court has not ordered otherwise, the municipality or an abutter on the way, acting with the written permission of the municipal officers, may remove any gates, bars or other obstructions in the way.

4. Quasi-judicial act. The determination of the municipal officers regarding the status of a town way or public easement pursuant to subsection 2 is a quasi-judicial act under Title 14, section 8104-B, subsection 2.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 60
S.P. 25 - L.D. 66**

**An Act To Amend Maine's
Endangered and Threatened
Species List by Removing the
Bald Eagle**

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12803, sub-§3, ¶U, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 573, §6 and affected by §8 and c. 655, Pt. C, §§3 and 6, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §12810 is enacted to read:

§12810. Delisted species

1. Definition. For purposes of this section, "delisted species" means a species that was listed as a state endangered or threatened species under section 12803 and after 2007 was removed from that list by the Legislature. The following is a delisted species:

A. Bald eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*.

2. Prohibited acts regarding delisted species. Except as otherwise authorized by the commissioner pursuant to this Part, a person may not intentionally:

A. Import into the State or export out of the State a delisted species. A person who violates this paragraph commits a Class D crime;

B. Hunt, trap or possess a delisted species within the State. A person who violates this paragraph commits a Class D crime;

C. Process, sell, offer for sale, deliver, carry, transport or ship, by any means whatsoever, a delisted species or any part of a delisted species. A person who violates this paragraph commits a Class D crime; or

D. Feed, set bait for or harass a delisted species. A law enforcement officer, as defined in Title 25, section 2801-A, subsection 5, must issue a warning to a person who violates this paragraph for the first time. A person who violates this paragraph after having previously been given a warning under this paragraph commits a Class D crime.

See title page for effective date.