

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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FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
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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

or other legislative body. An article authorizing an appropriation or transfer to the fuel cost stabilization fund must be accompanied by a statement that includes the balance in the fuel cost stabilization fund before and after the proposed appropriation or transfer, the amounts expended from the fund in each of the 2 prior fiscal years and, in the case of a transfer, the amount expended from the fund in the current fiscal year.

2. Fund limit. An appropriation or transfer may not cause the aggregate amount in the fuel cost stabilization fund to exceed the school administrative unit's highest annual total cost for heating and transportation fuel in the 3 completed fiscal years prior to the authorization of that proposed funding amount. During the first 3 years of operation of a new or reorganized school administrative unit, the fuel costs of the original school administrative units may be aggregated for purposes of determining the total amount that may not be exceeded due to an appropriation or transfer.

3. Expenditures. In addition to its approved operating budget, a school board may expend funds in the fuel cost stabilization fund to offset fuel costs for heating and transportation that exceed budgeted amounts. A school board may transfer funds from the fuel cost stabilization fund for another purpose only when authorized to do so at a budget meeting or other meeting of the voters or other legislative body.

4. Investment. The money in the fuel cost stabilization fund may be invested as provided by law for school reserve funds with the earnings to be credited to that fund.

5. Fund not to lapse. A balance in the fuel cost stabilization fund at the end of a fiscal year does not lapse.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 105

H.P. 530 - L.D. 779

An Act To Require Closed-captioning for Certain Political Advertisements

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1125, sub-§6, as amended by PL 2007, c. 443, Pt. B, §6, is further amended to read:

6. Restrictions on contributions and expenditures for certified candidates. After certification, a candidate must limit the candidate's campaign expenditures and obligations, including outstanding obligations, to the revenues distributed to the candidate from

the fund and may not accept any contributions unless specifically authorized by the commission. Candidates may also accept and spend interest earned on fund revenues in campaign bank accounts. All revenues distributed to a certified candidate from the fund must be used for campaign-related purposes. The candidate, the treasurer, the candidate's committee authorized pursuant to section 1013-A, subsection 1 or any agent of the candidate and committee may not use these revenues for any but campaign-related purposes. A television advertisement purchased with these revenues must be closed-captioned when closed-captioning is available from the broadcasting station who will broadcast the advertisement. The commission shall publish guidelines outlining permissible campaign-related expenditures.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 106

H.P. 297 - L.D. 401

An Act Creating a Probationary Period for County Corrections Officials

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

Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA §501, sub-§2-A is enacted to read:

2-A. Probationary period for corrections officials. Beginning October 1, 2009, a person who is hired as jailer, master, keeper or a subordinate assistant or employee under section 1501 must complete an employment probationary period that lasts for one year.

Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §501, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2001, c. 349, §5, is further amended to read:

3. Dismissal, suspension, discipline. Following a reasonable probationary period consistent with the provisions of subsection 2-A and section 2701, a county officer or department head may dismiss, suspend or otherwise discipline a department employee only for cause, except as provided in paragraph A. Cause for dismissal, suspension or disciplinary action must be a just, reasonable, appropriate and substantial reason for the action taken that relates to or affects the ability, performance of duties, authority or actions of the employee or the public's rights or interests.

A. An employee may be dismissed by a county officer or department head only for cause and only with the prior approval of the county commissioners or personnel board, except that county employees may be laid off or dismissed, with the approval of the county commissioners or personnel