

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LAWS**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF MAINE**

**AS PASSED BY THE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**  
**January 6, 2010 to April 12, 2010**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**JULY 12, 2010**

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

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**Augusta, Maine**  
**2010**

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

Effective March 22, 2010.

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**CHAPTER 167  
H.P. 1068 - L.D. 1518**

**Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Section 16 Activities in Coastal Sand Dunes, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection**

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

**Whereas,** the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A requires legislative authorization before major substantive agency rules may be finally adopted by the agency; and

**Whereas,** the above-named major substantive rule has been submitted to the Legislature for review; and

**Whereas,** immediate enactment of this resolve is necessary to record the Legislature's position on final adoption of the rule; 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

**Sec. 1. Adoption. Resolved:** That final adoption of Section 16 Activities in Coastal Sand Dunes, a provisionally adopted major substantive rule of the Department of Environmental Protection that has been submitted to the Legislature for review pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, is authorized.

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

Effective March 23, 2010.

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**CHAPTER 168  
H.P. 1196 - L.D. 1695**

**Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission To Address Public Safety Issues Relating to Disconnection of Certain Utilities**

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

**Whereas,** to promote the protection of life and safety, promote the protection of private property, ensure the privacy of customer information and ensure that both owners and tenants receive appropriate information about available utility payment assistance programs, standards or procedures relating to disconnection of service by electric, gas and water utilities should be developed as soon as possible; 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

**Sec. 1. Development of standards or procedures to address utility disconnection safety issues. Resolved:** That the Public Utilities Commission, in consultation with representatives of transmission and distribution utilities, gas utilities and water utilities as well as representatives of owners of rental units and representatives of tenants and other interested persons, shall seek to develop appropriate and reasonable procedures to allow owners of rental units to receive notice of disconnection of electric, gas or water service to a tenant. In establishing any procedures, the commission shall seek to promote the protection of life and safety and of private property, to ensure the privacy of customer information and to ensure that both owners and tenants receive appropriate information about available utility payment assistance programs. Any procedures established by the commission must apply to tenancies in which there is a written lease, and the commission shall examine how and whether to apply any procedures to tenancies at will. The commission may not modify procedures relating to utility liens for nonpayment of charges. The commission shall establish appropriate time frames for any required notices and shall make clear the penalties that will apply under existing law for violations of established procedures. In developing any procedures, the commission shall examine all existing relevant laws and rules, including the Maine