

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
December 1, 2010 to June 29, 2011

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS
SEPTEMBER 28, 2011

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

Augusta, Maine
2011

§505. Audit of accounts

The commission shall provide for the examination and audit of all accounts and all items ~~shall~~ must be allocated to the accounts in the manner prescribed by the commission.

1. Consumer-owned water utilities. Except as provided in this subsection, the commission may not require under this section that a qualified small water utility cause to be conducted an annual audit of its accounts. For purposes of this subsection, "qualified small water utility" means a consumer-owned water utility with gross annual revenues that do not exceed \$250,000.

A. A qualified small water utility with gross annual revenues of \$50,000 or less shall for any year used as a test year for rate-making purposes cause to be conducted, in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, an audit of its accounts by an independent certified public accountant licensed to practice in the State.

B. A qualified small water utility with gross annual revenues greater than \$50,000:

(1) Shall cause to be conducted, in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, an annual review of its accounts by an independent certified public accountant licensed to practice in the State; and

(2) Not less than once every 5 years and for any year used as a test year for rate-making purposes, shall cause to be conducted, in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, an audit of its accounts by an independent certified public accountant licensed to practice in the State.

Nothing in this subsection limits or affects any other reporting, review, auditing or other requirement imposed by a creditor of the qualified small water utility or by any other applicable law or government authority.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 78

H.P. 410 - L.D. 527

**An Act To Bring Maine's
Minimum Financial
Responsibility Laws Pertaining
to Rental Vehicles into
Conformity with Privately
Owned Vehicles**

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

Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §1611, sub-§2, ¶A, as affected by PL 1995, c. 65, Pt. A, §153 and amended by Pt. B, §18 and affected by Pt. C, §15, is further amended to read:

A. Except as provided in paragraph E, there is a \$350,000 combined single limit for ~~rental vehicles~~, emergency vehicles and for-hire transportation vehicles for transporting freight or merchandise but not passengers in intrastate-exempt service or service exempted by the ~~Interstate Commerce Commission~~ federal Department of Transportation, Surface Transportation Board.

Sec. 2. 29-A MRSA §1611, sub-§2, ¶F is enacted to read:

F. For rental vehicles, the requirements are the same as under section 1605, subsection 1, paragraph C.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 79

S.P. 133 - L.D. 429

**An Act To Clarify the Role of
the Public Advocate**

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

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§92, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 657, §1, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA §1702, sub-§§9 and 10 are enacted to read:

9. Other advocacy forums. The Public Advocate, consistent with the priorities established in section 1702-A and the requirements of this chapter, may represent and promote the interests of the using and consuming public:

A. In appropriate proceedings of the Legislature; and

B. In regional or national forums, including but not limited to any proceeding of an independent system operator or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

10. Independent representation of the interests of the using and consuming public. The Public Advocate, when taking a position on any matter in any proceeding or forum pursuant to the Public Advocate's authority under this chapter, shall exercise independent judgment to ensure the position:

A. Is consistent with the priorities established in section 1702-A and the requirements of this chapter; and