

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

Augusta, Maine
2011

~~9. Rules. Rules With the exception of minor clerical corrections and technical clarifications that do not alter the substance of requirements applying to projects, rules adopted pursuant to this section after January 1, 2010 and before January 1, 2012 are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. Any rules adopted by the department pursuant to this section on or after January 1, 2012 are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, except that those rules that qualify as state mandates pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 21 are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.~~

Sec. 3. 38 MRSA §484, sub-§3, ¶H is enacted to read:

H. In making a determination under this subsection regarding a development's effects on significant vernal pool habitat, the department shall apply the same standards applied to significant vernal pool habitat under rules adopted pursuant to the Natural Resources Protection Act. The department may not require a buffer strip adjacent to significant vernal pool habitat unless the buffer strip is established for another protected natural resource as defined in section 480-B, subsection 8.

Sec. 4. 38 MRSA §489-E, as enacted by PL 2009, c. 602, §3, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§489-E. Rulemaking

Rules adopted by the department pursuant to this article are routine technical rules except that rules adopted by the department after January 1, 2010 pursuant to section 484, subsections 1, 3, 4, 4-A, 5, 6 and 7 are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 5. High and moderate value waterfowl and wading bird habitat; rulemaking. The Department of Environmental Protection shall amend its rules concerning permit by rule under the Natural Resources Protection Act to allow an activity occurring in, on or over high and moderate value waterfowl and wading bird habitat to be eligible for permit by rule. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are major substantive rules as defined in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 6. High and moderate value waterfowl and wading bird habitat. The Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources may report out a bill relating to high and moderate value waterfowl and wading bird habitat to the Second Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 360
S.P. 333 - L.D. 1100**

**An Act To Increase
Transparency in Funding of
Campaign Advertisements**

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

Sec. 1. 21-A MRSA §1014, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2003, c. 510, Pt. F, §1 and affected by c. 599, §15, is further amended to read:

2. Not authorized by candidate. If the communication described in subsection 1 is not authorized by a candidate, a candidate's authorized political committee or their agents, the communication must clearly and conspicuously state that the communication is not authorized by any candidate and state the name and address of the person who made or financed the expenditure for the communication. If the communication is in written form, the communication must contain at the bottom of the communication in print that is no smaller in size than ~~40-point~~ 12-point bold print, Times New Roman font, the words "NOT PAID FOR OR AUTHORIZED BY ANY CANDIDATE."

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 361
S.P. 389 - L.D. 1268**

**An Act To Allow the
Repayment of Improperly
Awarded Workers'
Compensation Benefits**

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

Sec. 1. 39-A MRSA §324, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2009, c. 129, §9 and affected by §13, is further amended to read:

1. Order or decision. The employer or insurance carrier shall make compensation payments within 10 days after the receipt of notice of an approved agreement for payment of compensation or within 10 days after any order or decision of the board awarding compensation. If the board enters a decision awarding compensation, and a motion for findings of fact and conclusions of law is filed with the hearing officer or an appeal is filed with the Law Court pursuant to section 322, payments may not be suspended while the motion for findings of fact and conclusions of law or appeal is pending. The employer or insurer may recover from an employee payments made pending a motion for findings of fact and conclusions of law or appeal to the Law Court if and to the extent that the