

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

**AS PASSED BY THE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
**September 27, 2011**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**  
**January 4, 2012 to May 31, 2012**

**THE EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**  
**LAWS IS**  
**SEPTEMBER 28, 2011**

**THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR**  
**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**  
**NON-EMERGENCY LAWS IS**  
**AUGUST 30, 2012**

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

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**Augusta, Maine**  
**2012**

**Sec. 7. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the Legislative Council shall provide necessary staffing services to the task force; and be it further

**Sec. 8. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than November 7, 2012, the task force shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters. That joint standing committee is authorized to introduce a bill to the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature related to the subject matter of the report.

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

Effective May 21, 2012.

**CHAPTER 163**

**H.P. 1385 - L.D. 1871**

**Resolve, Creating an Honorable Service Plaque To Honor Maine Veterans**

**Sec. 1. Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to develop Maine Honorable Service Plaque. Resolved:** That the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management shall create a plaque to be displayed in the Hall of Flags in the State House to honor veterans of the State who have participated in military campaigns and operations and who are not honored by existing plaques. The design of the plaque must be based upon the design of the State of Maine Gold Star Honorable Service Medal; and be it further

**Sec. 2. Funding. Resolved:** That the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services may accept outside sources of funding to contract for the design and construction of the plaque pursuant to section 1. The director shall provide prompt notice of solicitation and acceptance of funds to the Legislative Council. All funds accepted must be forwarded to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council along with an accounting record that includes the amount of funds, the date the funds were received, from whom the funds were received and the purpose of and any limitation on the use of the funds. The Executive Director of the Legislative Council shall administer any funds received; and be it further

**Sec. 3. Report; final authorization. Resolved:** That the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services shall submit a report regarding the

proposed design and location of the plaque pursuant to section 1 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over legal and veterans affairs and the Legislative Council through the office of the Executive Director of the Legislative Council when all necessary funds are raised. The final authorization for the placement of the plaque in the State House Hall of Flags must be made by the Legislative Council; and be it further

**Sec. 4. Transfer of funds; Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, on or before August 15, 2012 the State Controller shall transfer \$13,000 from the Veterans Services program, General Fund account within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to the State House and Capitol Park Commission program, Other Special Revenue Funds account within the Legislature for the design and construction of a plaque pursuant to section 1; and be it further

**Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

**LEGISLATURE**

**State House and Capitol Park Commission 0615**

Initiative: Provides an allocation to contract for the design and construction of a plaque to honor veterans of the State.

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
All Other	\$0	\$13,000
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>

See title page for effective date.

**CHAPTER 164**

**S.P. 659 - L.D. 1882**

**Resolve, Directing the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs To Develop Legislation Establishing a Presidential Primary**

**Sec. 1. Committee to meet. Resolved:** That, by October 15, 2012 but no sooner than July 1, 2012, the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs shall hold a meeting to consider options for legislation to establish a presidential primary in the State. The committee may work with the Secretary of

State to develop the timeline for a presidential primary and to ensure compliance with existing state and federal law governing the conduct of elections and consult with representatives of political parties regarding party rules; and be it further

**Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 1, 2012, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over elections matters shall complete its report detailing the options considered at its meeting held in accordance with section 1 and develop necessary implementing legislation. The joint standing committee may report out a bill to establish a presidential primary to the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature.

See title page for effective date.

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**CHAPTER 165**

**H.P. 578 - L.D. 771**

**Resolve, To Support the Development of a Model Charter for the St. John Valley Regional Planning Commission**

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

**Whereas,** in order to provide more time for the development of a charter, this legislation needs to take effect 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,

**Sec. 1. Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to support the process to develop the St. John Valley Regional Planning Commission charter. Resolved:** That the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall invite representatives from the unorganized townships and following municipalities within Aroostook County to at least 2 meetings to facilitate the development of a model charter that would establish the St. John Valley Regional Planning Commission: Caswell Plantation, Cyr Plantation, Fort Kent, Frenchville, Grand Isle, Hamlin, Limestone, Madawaska, New Canada, New Sweden, St. Agatha, Stockholm, Van Buren, Wallagrass Plantation and Woodland. The commissioner shall provide assistance at the meetings to facilitate the development of a model charter for the St. John Valley Regional Planning Commission and provide assistance with identifying

any regulatory obstacles or impediments to establishing such a charter; and be it further

**Sec. 2. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than December 5, 2012, the Department of Economic and Community Development shall provide a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor, commerce, research and economic development matters on any meetings held under section 1. The department shall include with the report recommendations regarding the proposal to establish in law a charter for the St. John Valley Regional Planning Commission. The joint standing committee is authorized to submit a bill related to section 1 to the First Regular Session of the 126th Legislature; and be it further

**Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**

**Administration - Economic and Community Development 0069**

Initiative: Provides one-time funds for the cost associated with staff from the Department of Economic and Community Development traveling to Aroostook County to provide assistance at a minimum of 2 meetings to facilitate the development of a model charter for the St. John Valley Regional Planning Commission.

GENERAL FUND	2011-12	2012-13
All Other	\$1,700	\$0
<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,700</b>	<b>\$0</b>

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

Effective May 29, 2012.

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**CHAPTER 166**

**H.P. 702 - L.D. 958**

**Resolve, To Authorize the Legislature To Contract for an Independent Review To Evaluate the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act**

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